Statement by the Delegation of Viet Nam

Agenda item 3: Regional Cooperation for Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development in Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Chairman,

1. Urbanization has been a powerful driver of economic growth across Asia and the Pacific, leading to significant improvements in urban infrastructure and the living standards of our population. However, the challenges associated with urbanization are equally well-documented.

2. Viet Nam is currently experiencing rapid urbanization, with the urbanization rate reaching 43.1%. The urban economy contributes approximately 70% of our GDP. While the urbanization and its contribution to the economy is positive, it has also placed considerable pressure on our development policies. These pressures are particularly evident in the areas of urban infrastructure, public services, and urban environment.

In response to these challenges, we have prioritized the integration of SDGs into our urban development and management policies. Currently, 76% of provinces are implementing Smart City Development Plans, with the goal of ensuring urban growth that is sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

2. We strongly believe that sustainable urban development must adopt an inclusive and forward-looking approach. To this end, we propose focusing on the following areas:

First, we should strengthen partnerships and cooperation for green, smart, low-carbon, and sustainable cities in Asia and the Pacific. It is essential that we create more opportunities for mutual learning, sharing best practices on how to promote urban development while simultaneously addressing social gaps and urban pollution.

Second, it is important to mobilize resources for the development of urban infrastructures, particularly green public transportation systems, access to affordable housing, and development of green space in cities. Enhancing these key services not only helps improve the quality of life but also support inclusive and sustainable urban development.

Third, we support regional, inter-regional initiatives on sustainable and smart urban planning and management, particularly those focusing on leveraging technology and innovation for urban planning and management. We would also like to learn innovative approaches to urban financing.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that our collective efforts can help us respond more efficiently the rapid urbanization, and build sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities.

I thank you.