Statement by Delegation of Viet Nam

Agenda item 5(b) Social development

Mr. Chairman,

Madam Executive Secretary

Asia and the Pacific has long been a key driver of global economic growth. However, the region continues to face significant challenges in achieving inclusive social development. These include a rising poverty rate, growing income inequality, persistent gender disparities, uneven regional development, and the accelerating pace of population aging.

Mr. Chairman,

The implementation of MDGs, SDGs and now the Pact for the Future has been always integrated into our national development policies. This demonstrates our strong and enduring commitment to sustainable development, in which social progress and equality are essential and indispensable components.

After four decades of reform and renovation, Viet Nam has made considerable progress in advancing social development. Nevertheless, we recognize that there remains much to be done. We have initiated many targeted programs supporting vulnerable populations, particularly those in remote areas. We have recently introduced tuition-free education for all students at public elementary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. We are expanding social housing for low-income pululation and increasing social and health insurance coverage. We are also proactively preparing for the challenges associated with an increasingly aging population.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are moving forward the Second World Summit for Social Development this November, ESCAP Member States should engage in deeper discussions to identify and implement effective solutions for overcoming both persistent and emerging barriers to social development. Allow me to share a few reflections:

First, we should fully leverage our regional platforms to exchange best practices and experiences in designing effective social policies, particularly in the face of new and evolving challenges. We also have much to learn from one another in terms of mobilizing resources for social development, while maintaining a balance with economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Second, it is essential to promote the development of inclusive and responsive social protection systems that adapt to the region's changing demographic landscape, particularly in relation to population aging and rapid urbanization.

We stand ready to join our shared effort to build a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient Asia-Pacific, where no one is left behind.

Thank you!