Respected Chairman of the Committee and distinguished delegates,

I would take this opportunity to place our appreciation on record for the hard work and exemplary dedication shown by the UNESCAP Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive technical notes.

India’s development agenda has for long been based on the principles that are closely related to those that have been propounded in the 2030 Development agenda. India is following a holistic approach for achieving SDGs by mainstreaming them in its development plans in the form of comprehensive array of schemes across sectors. A host of flagship policies of the present Government spanning from Swachh Bharat Mission, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Aawas Yojana, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana, have substantially contributed to India’s progress in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

We endorse the view point advocated in the note circulated regarding the need for whole-of-government approach for achieving SDGs, which makes it imperative for Central Government to work closely with the subnational governments. In the federal context of India, schemes are implemented at subnational level. In order to integrate the efforts and track the performance of SDG targets by subnational Governments, India has come up with a composite index to track progress across states and Union territories for 13 out of 17 SDGs.

Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge that implementing 2030 Development Agenda requires investment of scale and size unprecedented, giving way to the need for mobilizing resources from a variety of sources. Notwithstanding its scarce financial resources due to relatively low per capita income, large population and vast geographical expanse, India is committed to achieving ambitious
goals within a short period by adopting innovative initiatives such as green bonds, gender budgeting, and introducing municipal bonds for attracting investment in urban infrastructure. Thus local and innovative initiatives are the basis for an inclusive and sustainable growth for India and the entire Asia & Pacific region. It is noteworthy that regional connectivity is an important aspect of India’s international economic initiatives. However, such connectivity must be based on universally recognized international norms, good governance, rule of law, openness, transparency and equality. They must follow principles of financial responsibility and must be pursued in a manner that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity.

To conclude, we reaffirm India’s commitment towards Sustainable Development Goals to this august gathering.