

Statement by the 10th APFSD Chair

Reporting on the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development at the
79th Commission Session of ESCAP

18 May 2023

Agenda item 4.a

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held from 27 to 30 March 2023 under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific”.

Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies, international organizations and major groups and other stakeholders shared their perspectives on the progress, implementation, and challenges confronting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

The Forum highlighted the need to shape policies with the rights and welfare of the marginalized and the most vulnerable at its heart. It underscored the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships and importance of regional cooperation, including through high impact initiatives and transformative actions that enhance health and wellbeing, provide social protection, tackle climate change and support more sustainable urban development and the region’s energy transition for accelerating a more inclusive and sustainable recovery.

The Forum hosted five parallel roundtables on Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17. These reviewed achievements towards each Goal and identified priority areas of engagement. Sixty-six side events and related events were organized with the contributions of Member States, UN agencies, and other stakeholders.

The Forum highlighted the importance of further strengthening collaboration and coordination with the United Nations development system at the regional and national levels to generate fresh momentum around implementation of the goals in the lead up to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, which will be held in September.

Delegations also examined how South-South cooperation and the ESCAP twinning programme could leverage the impact of voluntary national reviews to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Having met the midpoint of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and with the pandemic, climate change, and the food and energy crises having reversed years of development progress, we must collectively resolve to usher in a future of transformative growth and development. Let us seize this opportunity to galvanize a robust and resilient regional response to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.