

Talking Points for Chair of the seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development at the ministerial level

[Agenda item 4, 79th Commission Session]

- The seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development was organized at the ministerial level from 29 November to 1 December 2022, and guided by the theme of **“Protecting our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific”**
- The Committee consisted of **a senior official’s segment and a ministerial segment**. The fifth Asia Pacific Day for the Ocean, as well as three partnership events and four side events were also organized.
- The Committee expressed **concern for the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on human health, well-being, and socioeconomic development**.
- In addressing air pollution and climate change, the Committee pointed out **key actions including phasing out coal, transitioning to renewables, promoting sustainable mobility, enhancing mitigation measures, and strengthening regional collaboration on air quality monitoring** as well as on open data and information sharing.
- The Committee expressed **strong support for multilateral actions, and the need for a united position** to solve emerging and existing environmental problems.
- The Committee on Environment and Development adopted the **Ministerial Declaration on “Protecting our planet through regional cooperation and solidarity in Asia and the Pacific”**, reaffirming that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights, and resolving to

strengthen regional cooperation on low carbon transition, nature-based solutions, air quality, ocean and marine ecosystems, sustainable urban development and participatory approaches to environmental protection.

- The Declaration includes the **Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution** for stronger science-based and policy-oriented cooperation to improve air quality through better air quality standards, open data sharing, best practice exchange, capacity building, and multilateral cooperation.
- The Committee also adopted **the terms of reference of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development**, which I expect to be formed soon upon the expert nomination by member States and associate members. I also express my satisfaction and gratitude regarding the follow-up to the Committee, including the convening of the High-Level Forum on Clean Air in May 2023, hosted by Mongolia.
- Thank you.