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.