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Statement by
H. E. Ambassador Vahram Kazhoyan,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia
to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
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“A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”

Madame Executive Secretary,
Dear Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

It is an honour to participate in the 78th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The Sustainable Development agenda is of particular importance to my country, a landlocked developing country that aspires to build a modern, democratic and human-centred state where people enjoy their rights, freedoms and livelihood opportunities in full. Armenia believes that the 2030 Agenda is setting an effective equation for meeting these goals, at the same time addressing the global challenges of poverty, hunger, inequality and climate change, among others.

Effective multilateralism, based on the UN Charter and international law, is at the core of our joint efforts aimed at building better, more inclusive and stronger societies around the globe.

We in Armenia, aspire to develop an inclusive society benefitting from the highest level of technological, industrial, and environmental standards. Quality education is key in this respect. Only days ago, the Government has initiated discussions on a State Program for Development of Education by 2030. Science and innovation are at the heart of this program, envisaging the development of the economy and the public life of the country anchored on the human capital.

The issues of gender equality remain at the forefront of our reform agenda. The equal and meaningful participation of women in all the aspects of public life is a key priority. As an active member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Armenia during its Chairmanship, has contributed to the adoption of key documents aimed at strengthening the capacities of women in the areas of peace and security, full and effective engagement in

political and economic areas, as well as meeting the needs of women and girls in terms of effective recovery from COVID-19.

The Government of Armenia is seized of many challenges related to the environment and takes active measures, including devising legislation and strategies, which will support in safeguarding the threatened ecosystems and in meeting our international commitments.

The key message of the Sustainable Development Agenda is the pledge to leave no one behind. I regret to underline that the efforts are failing in this area. International community has been continuously unable to support the plight of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. UN has been unable to provide even basic humanitarian aid to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh on the ground, essentially leaving them behind.

The fact that Azerbaijan who started the war in 2020, continues to insinuate that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been resolved, is also due to the international community's silence to the continuing humanitarian catastrophe of the Armenian population on the ground.

Dear colleagues,

Armenia supports the efforts of the United Nations aimed at promoting and advancing the sustainable development agenda, including the key targets identified by the Secretary-General in his report "Our Common Agenda".

We remain committed to effective multilateralism and stand ready to work jointly towards advancing our common goals and aspiration in the UN ESCAP region.

Thank you.