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**DRAFT BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S STATEMENT**

*Theme: 'A common agenda to advance sustainable  
development in Asia and the Pacific'*

Mr./Madam Chair,

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

- It is a great pleasure to be a part of this year's session in honouring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ESCAP. ESCAP has a long history of success in shaping regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, and today, we will take another leap forward by advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- For the past two years, we have had to make tough decisions that inevitably hindered our progress toward the 2030 goal. Along the way, we held to each other because we always believed that to build back better, no one should be left behind. So, this year's theme of having a common agenda is crucial as it is time to mobilize collective efforts to get us back on track with the 2030 Agenda.
- With this in mind, I would like to share two points.
- **First, progress toward Universal Health Coverage by 2030 must be accelerated.** Such a health policy has been the cornerstone of Brunei Darussalam's healthcare system as it has proven to guarantee the quality of life of our people. No doubt, maintaining Universal Health Coverage is challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A swift fiscal reallocation and strategic whole-of-nation efforts were critical to provide free access to vaccines and treatment.
- The value-add we need to strengthen resilience in the healthcare system is from international cooperation. The leverage from bilateral and multilateral ties, particularly in sustaining the supply chain of medical supplies, has evidently sustained our health policy. On this note, the existing collaboration under ESCAP that contributes to Universal Health Coverage is valued and further progress in the relevant action plan is welcomed.

- **Second, responsive regional action to the threat of climate change is imperative.** Noting that the 2030 Agenda demands a swift and just transition to inclusive, low-carbon, and resilient economies, Brunei Darussalam is fully committed to contributing to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Upon implementing various strategies under the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy, regional collaboration continues to be instrumental in fulfilling our national commitment. ESCAP has generated commendable momentum so far through environmental protection efforts. On this note, Brunei Darussalam believes we can do more in keeping the 1.5 degrees target alive by building an effective pathway for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which we have committed to lower it down by 20 percent by 2030.

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

- ESCAP continues to play a vital role, not only in fostering collaboration but also in guiding the region's progress toward sustainable development through various means. Brunei Darussalam is pleased to be the recipient of such guidance in the form of capacity building and technical assistance, particularly in enhancing transparency and monitoring capacity. We are certain that as we embark on a common agenda for the region, the valuable and continued support from ESCAP will be needed, fitting with the region's needs. On this note, we look forward to the endorsement of draft resolution at this session.
- To conclude, let me take this opportunity again to congratulate ESCAP on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I look forward to hear more thoughts from Honourable Ministers and Excellencies on how we can shape our common agenda further.

Thank you.

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