

SPECIAL REMARKS

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA
H.E. JOKO WIDODO**

**ON THE OPENING OF
THE 78TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
UN ESCAP**

BANGKOK, 23 MAY 2022

[TRANSLATION]

Excellencies,
Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP,
Honorable delegates,

1. First of all, congratulations to UNESCAP for its **75th anniversary**.
2. It is a crucial moment... amidst our efforts at the region to break free from **major challenges** of pandemic, climate change, and war.
3. **First**, the economies of some Asia Pacific countries have not fully recovered... and still below pre-pandemic level...
 - ➔ **70% of the total of new unemployment** takes place in our region... and **85 million of population** are falling back into extreme poverty.
4. **Second**, the region's economic growth this year, as predicted by IMF, falls by 0.5%... to **4.9%**

→ **Inflation** is also expected to reach **8.7%**, up 2.8% from initial estimate.

5. **Third... SDGs achievements are getting delayed.**

→ Our region is now expected to **achieve SDGs target by 2065 at the earliest...**

→ And, according to Global Climate Risk Index... **6 out of 10 countries** most affected by climate change in the long term is in Asia Pacific.

6. Responding to these challenges... I fully support the effort of UNESCAP to deliver “**a common agenda to advance sustainable development**”...

7. Allow me to raise several perspectives.

8. **Firstly... addressing the pandemic must continue to progress... and vaccination gap in the region needs to be closed.**

9. This region has both **the countries with the highest** as well as **the lowest vaccination rates** in the world.

10. The success of vaccination determines **national economy reactivation...** and **connectivity with the world economy.**
11. UNESCAP can support the establishment of **regional network of vaccine production and distribution facilities ...** to overcome the **challenges of logistic...** and **shorten global supply chain.**
12. **Secondly, financing for SDGs acceleration must be strengthened.**
13. ADB estimates that **1.5 trillion USD is required annually...** to ensure full SDGs attainment in Asia Pacific by 2030.
14. While the current available funding **globally** is only 1.4 trillion USD.
15. **This massive gap** must be closed.
16. **Private sector investment** must be encouraged.

17. Even though Asia Pacific is the largest region for both inbound and outbound foreign investment ... **investment in its own region is still insignificant.**

18. UNESCAP needs to encourage **strengthening of intra-region investment...**

→ support ease of doing business, ...

→ promotion and business matching among its members.

19. **Innovative financing** needs to be enhanced...

→ collaboration between UNESCAP and ADB as well as other financial institutions is truly expected.

20. **Indonesia** itself has promoted various innovative financing schemes, including...

→ **SDG Indonesia One...**

→ **Green sharia bonds... and**

→ **Carbon Economy.**

21. **Thirdly, new sources of growth must be strengthened.**
22. **Digitalization... SMEs empowerment... and green growth...** are our shared future.
23. The optimization of digital trade... will **cut the cost of regional trade** by at least 13%.
24. **SMEs access to financial inclusion and regional supply chain** must be promoted...
25. **Support for green growth** is very much needed ... including in energy transition.
26. **And tax capacity** needs to be strengthened... including **carbon tax**.

Excellency,

27. We will use **Indonesia's G20 Presidency** to advocate for developing countries' interests... particularly in the sectors of health... digital transformation... and energy transition.
28. We thank UNESCAP for its support and contribution to this effort.

29. By working together, we can accelerate the recovery of the region and the world... towards a sustainable future...

30. *Recover Together, Recover Stronger*

31. Thank you.

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