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MS. AMINA J. MOHAMMED
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Deputy Secretary-General's

Message on the occasion of the eighty-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Date: 21 April 2025

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you today for the eighty-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

As we gather, we face a moment of profound global change—geopolitical tensions, protectionism, climate challenges, demographic shifts, and the rapid rise of artificial intelligence.

In this complex landscape, Asia and the Pacific have an opportunity to lead with innovation and bold action. To move forward, we need governance models and sustainable

development strategies that enable innovation, integration, and a just transition, all in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.
Despite the challenges, your region has made remarkable strides in advancing the sustainable development agenda.

Your region is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, and is leading the way with new models of green and blue prosperity, placing sustainability and people at the centre of progress.

From clean energy to economic growth, your region is creating opportunities to enhance service delivery, generate jobs, and harness technology. As a leader in clean energy, Asia-Pacific is scaling electric public transport systems, reducing emissions, and improving urban mobility and health.

With over 2.2 billion urban residents and seven of the world's largest megacities, your region stands at the forefront of global urban solutions. By working together, we can close inequalities, mitigate climate impacts, and empower women while driving investments that propel multiple SDGs forward.

Asia-Pacific cities have pioneered digital innovations, transforming public institutions, from tax collection to targeted subsidies.
These efforts are paving the way for adaptive policies that can inspire collaboration across regions.

While there is still much to be done, with strong governance, clear regulatory frameworks, and innovative financing, we can create a future of long-term progress. Shared experiences and private sector engagement will help us test and scale up successful solutions.

Cities will continue to play an essential role in climate action—prioritizing resilient infrastructure and renewable energy. As we approach COP30, we must ensure that our climate plans support workers and communities while aligning with national development goals.

Excellencies,

To deliver on the SDGs, we must strengthen the means of implementation. That means increasing access to finance, advancing technology transfer, and investing in institutions that work for people.

We must also tackle the trade barriers and tariffs that limit opportunity. A fairer, more inclusive global trading system will help drive sustainable development, ensuring that all countries, especially in this region, can unlock their full potential.

As we enter the final five years of the SDGs, now is the time to accelerate our actions.

Together, we can turn our shared ambitions into meaningful progress. I look forward to hearing your ideas and to the leadership you will bring in the next phase of our journey.

Thank you.