

24 May.

MONGOLIA COUNTRY STATEMENT AT THE UNESCAP 78TH COMMISSION SESSION

Dear Chair,
Executive Secretary Armida Salsia Alisjabana,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, let me extend our congratulation to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its 75th Anniversary. I'm sure that under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, the Commission will continue to expand its activities, provide valuable and wise advice to member countries, especially in the face of post-epidemic recovery challenges, and strengthen regional cooperation.

The Asian region is home to the fast-growing economies that account for 60 percent of the world's population with 40 percent of the world's wealth. Hence, my country highly values UNESCAP's vital role in addressing the crucial socio-economic challenges facing the region, identifying common priority issues, and setting the regional agenda for action by providing valuable guidance for the countries in the region.

My delegation believes that throughout these 75 years, the UNESCAP's activities in the region have brought concrete achievements in the development of transport infrastructure and connectivity through the development of the "Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network" and the "Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network." Also, we commend the Commission's activities to promote the economic development of its members through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures, the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement.

Mr. Chair,

As a result of the COVID-19, the landlocked developing countries face increased challenges, especially in the transport sector, by providing additional documents for traders. These cross-border transport challenges are applied to all products regardless of size, trade route, and mode of transportation, affecting all supply chains. Therefore, all member states need to further ensure the continuity of cross-border transport throughout the lockdown measures by electronically exchanging specific documents. Also, my delegation requests UNESCAP to engage with the relevant Government and other stakeholders on the digitalization and development of artificial intelligence in the cross-border transportation network to adjust routes in real-time and prepare grounds for the transition from human-driven to autonomous vehicles. This will offer lower cost transport alternatives that will result in a permanent boost in GDP, increase mobility of goods and bring dramatic reductions or elimination of air pollution,

Finally, Mongolia wishes to highlight UNESCAP's leading role in facilitating, simplifying, and harmonizing intra-regional trade processes in the region, particularly in enhancing trade connectivity of the landlocked developing countries. In this regard, it gives me great pleasure to announce that my country has officially ratified the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific to become seventh member State.

I wish you a very productive 78th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and I hope you all succeed in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals!