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**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**Government of Armenia**

**HLPF 2024: Messages from the Regions**

**How can we mobilize innovative regional pathways and leverage regional frameworks to support countries in overcoming crises to ensure full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow up to the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit?**

**Tuesday, 16 July 2024**

**10:15 to 11:45 hrs. (New York Time)**

**(4 minutes)**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It has been an honour to serve as Vice-Chair of the Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), which was held in February 2024 under the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”.

Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies, international organizations and major groups and other stakeholders shared their perspectives and innovative actions and opportunities for the accelerated implementation of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

The APFSD provided a key platform to highlight that at the current pace, the region will not achieve any of the 17 Goals by 2030. Additionally, the forum underscored that climate change exacerbates poverty and hunger, threatening to

reverse sustainable development gains, with vulnerable groups facing disproportionate impacts. Ambitious climate action, coupled with robust investments in social protection, energy efficiency and renewable energy production is necessary and should prioritize gender equality and access for marginalized groups to mitigate the adverse effects of climate-induced disasters and support livelihoods.

The APFSD supported the substantive regional review of the SDGs by hosting five parallel roundtables on Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17. which identified challenges and priority areas of engagement. Fifty-four side events and related events were organized with the contributions of Member States, UN agencies, and other stakeholders.

The APFSD underscored the pivotal role of policy coherence for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It emphasized the importance of voluntary national reviews to align efforts across all levels of government, fostering collaboration and engagement, ultimately paving the way for forward-thinking, inclusive governance.

Leveraging science, technology and innovation can facilitate sustainable development and ensure that no one and no country is left behind. This should be supported by effective and ongoing international, regional and subregional cooperation, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, for peace and prosperity in the region. APFSD participants shared successful examples of inclusive multilateral approaches in the areas of sustainable financing, digitalization, climate action and the empowerment of women and girls.

This year, the APFSD also mobilized engagement of member States in the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future and served as a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially as we reflect on the outcomes of the SDG Summit and look toward the Summit of the Future in September. To achieve sustainable development, urgent, accelerated actions are required, supported by strong, sustained multilateral cooperation.