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Agenda item 4: Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Statement by

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Your Excellency Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Chair of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to express ESCAP's appreciation for the work being carried out by the Population Division of DESA, as outlined in the Secretary-General report on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2018, E/CN.9/2019/5.

ESCAP frequently uses the Population Division's outputs, notably the databases, including estimates and projections of the total, urban and rural populations, and the components of population change. They form an important basis of our work. The estimates and projections are methodologically-sound, timely, and disaggregated by key characteristics. They often provide the evidence base for ESCAP's analysis of demographic trends, including on population ageing, international migration and urbanization, and the consequences of these trends for sustainable development.

As the Secretary-General has emphasized, United Nations entities must come together to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ESCAP, SDD has successfully collaborated with the Population Division in the past, for example by organizing a training workshop on migration data, co-organized with the Statistics Divisions in New York and held at ESCAP in the spring of 2019, and a forthcoming workshop on measuring population ageing.

We strongly believe that regional commissions serve as regional *integrators* on many issues, including capacity-development, bringing together various national, subregional and regional stakeholders and providing a platform for exchange of views and training on SDGs and related population indicators and matters. Our collaboration with the Population Division's helps support this goal.

ESCAP, along with other regional commissions and the Population Division regularly meet to better coordinate our work and to ensure that regional perspectives inform global

discussion. In particular, with regard to this session of the Commission, we are grateful for the opportunity provided to the Chairs of our respective regional meetings to brief the Commission on the outcomes of these meetings and ensure that valuable regional perspectives can inform global outcomes. We hope similar opportunities will arise in the future, so that the regional commissions can continue to regularly contribute to the work of the Commission, as stipulated in ECOSOC resolution 2016/25.

As the UN proceeds with reforms of the development pillar, ESCAP is ready to play its role in supporting the implementation of global outcomes at the regional level, and to provide the critical regional perspectives to strengthen global dialogue on population and development and assist countries in implementing and monitoring region-specific mandates in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

Looking ahead, we hope for more fruitful cooperation with colleagues in other regional commissions and in the Secretariat, enabling us to effectively advance Commission outcomes in support of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we look forward to the 2019 revisions of the *World Population Prospects* and the *International Migrant Stock*, among others which will inform our work on population and development interactions, including on international migration. And we stand ready to support the Secretariat in its work, and to further feed into global processes such as future Commission sessions, forthcoming reviews of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the review and follow-up of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.