



Regional Commissions New York Office

**80th Session of the UN General Assembly**

**Second Committee General Debate**

***“Five years to 2030 – Multilateral solutions for sustainable development”***

**New York, 9 October 2025**

**Statement by Ms. Thilmeeza Hussein,  
Director, Regional Commissions New York Office**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the five United Nations Regional Commissions.

Allow me to start by congratulating Ambassador Lamin B. Dibba of The Gambia on his election as Chair of the Second Committee, as well as the members of the Bureau.

Excellencies,

The theme of the general debate resonates strongly with the critical task ahead of us: to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda through **renewed multilateralism that delivers at scale and speed, grounded in regional cooperation and solidarity**.

With the clock to 2030 rapidly ticking down, we are reminded that the time for pledges has passed. What is needed now is a decisive shift from commitment to action.

The Regional Commissions remain firmly committed to supporting the Second Committee in advancing inclusive, sustainable and resilient development. As the regional arms of the United Nations, the Regional Commissions connect global deliberations and agreements with national realities—helping countries turn the 2030 Agenda into concrete action.

The 2025 Regional Forums for Sustainable Development sent a clear message: progress towards the SDGs is still too slow, but momentum for transformation is growing. Countries are calling for stronger leadership, deeper regional cooperation, foresight, investment in context-specific solutions and renewed multilateral solidarity.



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The Regional Commissions serve as the *regional engines of implementation*, linking global ambition with country action through **evidence, platforms, and partnerships**. In this connection, they will intensify efforts in providing the analysis, policy dialogue platforms and capacity support needed to turn global commitments into regionally tailored solutions.

Following the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, they are now helping countries put the Seville Commitment into practice—including through innovative regional financing mechanisms. [These include green, blue and sustainable bonds; debt-for-climate swaps; blended finance; carbon markets; and gender-smart investments—mobilizing resources well beyond traditional assistance.]

Looking ahead, our work focuses on three interconnected priorities:

***First, scaling up sustainable finance and investment.***

The Regional Commissions are helping countries strengthen tax policy, manage debt responsibly, and build more inclusive financial systems. Through regional platforms, they align fiscal tools with climate goals and connect capital providers with sustainable investment opportunities. They also continue to advocate for reform of the international financial architecture, promote domestic resource mobilization, and curb illicit financial flows. The recent launch of the **Africa Credit Rating Agency** stands as a clear example of transformative action through regional partnership.

***Second, driving structural transformation and inclusion.***

The Commissions support countries in advancing green and digital transitions that generate decent jobs, empower women, and expand opportunities for young people. This includes strengthening regional value chains, promoting the care economy, and investing in innovation and social protection systems that leave no one behind. They are also preparing to help countries translate WSSD2 commitments into action by building the institutional capacities needed for effective social policies.

***Third, deepening regional cooperation on shared challenges.***

Together with DESA, the Commissions are preparing the implementation plan for the **United Nations Decade on Sustainable Transport**, promoting safe, accessible, and low-carbon mobility. ESCWA and ESCAP, as co-chairs of the **Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms**, are advancing practical measures to tackle this urgent transboundary threat.



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The upcoming **Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries with the Second Committee scheduled for 21 October** will focus on the theme of *“Beyond GDP: Regional Perspectives and Initiatives shaping new measures of progress.”* We look forward to an insightful and engaging dialogue on this topic.

Excellencies,

The next five years will define not only the fate of the 2030 Agenda, but also the credibility of multilateralism itself. [The Regional Commissions stand ready to help bridge divides, mobilize innovation and investment, and champion regional solutions that drive global transformation.]

Allow me to reaffirm our full commitment to working with the Second Committee and all partners to turn the urgency of this moment into unity of purpose to deliver on the promise of sustainable development for every country, community and generation.

Thank you.