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Statement by the Regional Commissions New York Office

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The United Nations Regional Commissions—ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, and ESCWA—are key engines of sustainable development. They bridge global commitments and regional realities, helping countries implement the 2030 Agenda and advance collective solutions through regional cooperation.

Across all regions, the Commissions are advancing integrated approaches to climate action, environmental protection, and the needs of the groups of countries in special situations, including the Small Island Developing States. They remain fully committed to implementing the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)—supporting access to finance, resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, ocean governance, and energy transitions that are inclusive and just.

Recent initiatives illustrate this collective engagement. ECLAC, in the Caribbean, is helping countries operationalize ABAS through climate-resilient investment frameworks and biodiversity mainstreaming. ESCAP supports Pacific SIDS through ocean accounting and early warning systems that protect lives and livelihoods. ESCWA drives science-based cooperation on desertification, water scarcity, and sustainable food systems in the Arab region. ECA is strengthening data and institutions for green industrialization in Africa, while ECE promotes sustainable resource management and transparency in critical raw materials to ensure environmental integrity across value chains.

On energy, the Regional Commissions are helping countries accelerate a just transition by strengthening clean energy policies, expanding cross-border power connectivity, and fostering innovation in renewable technologies.

Addressing desertification and land degradation is another shared priority. Through the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Commissions promote sustainable land and water management, ecosystem restoration, and drought resilience—strengthening food security and climate adaptation.

Excellencies,

The Regional Commissions stand as vital platforms for dialogue and cooperation—where countries convene to exchange knowledge, share good practices, and build collective capacity in pursuit of common goals. By fostering regional solidarity and translating global aspirations into concrete action, they continue to contribute decisively to a more sustainable and equitable world for all.

I thank you.