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COUNTRY STATEMENT
Head of the Indonesian Delegation to 70th Session of UNESCAP
H.E. Mr. Lutfi Rauf
7 August 2014, Bangkok

***Mr. Chairman,
Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Let me first congratulate the Prime Minister of Bhutan, His Excellency Mr. Tshering Tobgay on his assumption as Chairperson of the Ministerial Segment of the 70th Session of the United Nations of the Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific. My delegation believes that under his able leadership, we will have a successful and productive session. We wish to assure you our full support and cooperation as you carry out this important task.

I would also like to thank the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP and her secretariat for their tireless effort in preparing and organizing the 70th Session of UNESCAP.

Indonesia believes that the theme "Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity" indeed fits well with the dynamic in the region, as Asia Pacific is becoming more connected and able to reveal its potentials to become the main engine for global growth.

***Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,***

Asia and the Pacific is facing a pressing issue of strengthening connectivity, in which connectivity means that a person is able to pursue a broad range of opportunities. The opportunities include among others economic aspect, access to infrastructure, and other social services. In attaining opportunities and facing challenges, our region needs to maximize convergence of people, goods, services, and economic hubs through connectivity.

Improving connectivity, therefore, becomes a critical priority. We cannot confine the issue of connectivity only to physical infrastructure, but we must also address the issues of institutions and people-to-people contact. Today, our means to connect have tremendously changed. We have become much more connected through extensive

transportation networks including air transports, social-media information, communication, and technology.

I have the privilege to inform you all that at the national level, Indonesia has adopted the Master Plan on the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia's Development for the period of 2011 – 2025. The Master Plan will ensure that economic growth and benefits are fairly spread and can be enjoyed by all regions and communities across Indonesia.

As for the Southeast Asian countries or ASEAN, we have adopted a Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). ASEAN Connectivity is the first step in the development of enhanced connectivity between ASEAN countries and the wider region. It is a mechanism to achieve a vision of an ASEAN Community that is regionally integrated and globally connected.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

On the policy issues of Asia Pacific related to Sustainable Development and Development Financing, my delegation would like to commend and praise on the "Jakarta Outcome Document" coming out from the Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing that was held recently in June 2014 in Jakarta. My Government expresses its highest gratitude to the Executive Secretary, Madame Shamshad Akhtar for her presence in the aforementioned meeting, and to all of the participants who contributed their valuable views and ideas.

The Government of Indonesia continues to believe that sustainable development and development financing is an important concern. And to emphasized that the need for policy measures to promote investment on infrastructure with the goal of not only stimulating economic growth but also reducing poverty and addressing growing concerns of social, economic and environment issues. Thus, alternative funding should be studied further in finding ways besides the traditional sources of finance.

In ensuring that development continues to sustained, improving livelihood and living conditions are necessary. Our cities in the region continue to grow including in Indonesia, in which we all must face this enormous challenge.

They are more urban settlers in today's world than ever before and for sure Asia Pacific region is moving towards that direction, especially when our region is growing head fast and with all the economic opportunities.

The international community has reiterated for a renewed effort to overcoming the challenges of housing and urban development. UN General Assembly has decided to convene a United Nations Conference on Human Settlement and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016, and through its UN bodies of ECOSOC and Governing Council of UN-Habitat have asked regional commissions and other related intergovernmental meetings to provide input to the preparatory process of Habitat III, in an inclusive, efficient and effective manner.

In this regard, I'm pleased to announce that my Government will host the high level regional preparatory meeting on issues related to housing and sustainable urban development in 2015, as an intergovernmental process, and to provide input to Habitat III Conference.

I'm also happy to learn that the Working Group on draft resolutions has adopted all of its resolutions including on "Strengthening Efforts on Human Settlement and Sustainable Urban Development for the Asia-Pacific Region" which Indonesia proposed.

On behalf of my Delegation and myself, I would like to thank to all member states for their valuable contribution in supporting and co-sponsoring the resolution. And a special appreciation to the Chair of the Working Group on draft resolutions, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Bhutan for his able leadership in steering and adopting all of the resolutions.

***Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

To conclude, my Government will continue to take an active role in issues of grave concern to the region of Asia and the Pacific. UNESCAP is the leading UN body for the Asia-Pacific region and Indonesia will continue its full support in achieving the development goals for the betterment and prosperity of our region.

Thank you