

**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals
to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015
Bangkok, 26-28 August 2013**

**Closing statement by Mr. Shun-ichi Murata
Deputy Executive Secretary**

27 August 2013

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

First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the distinguished panellists and delegates, for the fruitful outcome of this event.

This Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue was a milestone as a first regional level dialogue to discuss on the Report of the High-Level Panel of the Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and I was really pleased to see the amount of interest and enthusiasm in this event.

During the Dialogue, we heard strong shared aspirations for change, while keeping a focus on the situation of the millions of people living in poverty and deprivation. Poverty reduction and sustainable development were repeatedly pointed out as the biggest challenges in this region. It has become clear that economic growth alone is not enough. For long-term prosperity and sustainability, we need transformative shifts. These transformative shifts have been suggested in the High-Level Panel report. We heard a spectrum of views as how these transformative shifts could be achieved - reflecting differences in critical development challenges that different countries face, and reflecting differences of countries' situation and capacity to cope with challenges.

ESCAP has been accorded a specific role in convening the preparatory meetings of the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development. The first meeting is likely to be held next year. We are also working with the UN

Development Group to solicit Asia-Pacific perspectives on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Both governments and civil society alike are calling for ambitious but practical solutions. As we move forward, we must remain accountable to all of our respective constituents as we take up this important task.

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

I would like to reiterate the importance of voicing the regional views and concerns to the global process and I would like to congratulate you for adopting Bangkok Declaration as an important step towards this endeavour.

Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks also go the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting this event with ESCAP, and to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand for their excellent cooperation.

I wish you a safe journey home.