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**Introduction of the Secretary-General's Report on
"Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields"**

**Statement by Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Director
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29 July 2025

Mr. Chair, Ambassador Thapa, Vice-President of ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Regional Commissions, of introducing the Secretary-General's report on regional cooperation contained in document E/2025/15 and its Addendum.

Excellencies,

With just five years remaining until the 2030 deadline, and against a backdrop of global uncertainty and weakening trust in collective action, regional cooperation stands out as a vital force for revitalizing multilateralism and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Although progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains uneven and slow, encouraging developments across



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regions highlight opportunities to accelerate momentum and give reason for hope. As the Secretary-General emphasized at the High-level Political Forum, it is time to “turn this momentum into transformation.” Central to this shift is SDG 17, which underscores the importance of robust global partnerships, adequate means of implementation, and effective regional cooperation. In this regard, the five United Nations Regional Commissions continue to play a vital role. Tasked with promoting regional economic integration and advancing sustainable development, they are instrumental in narrowing economic, social, and environmental disparities both within and among regions.

Through their analytical, normative, and operational work, they promote regional dialogue, mobilize multi-sectoral partnerships, and deliver policy and technical support tailored to national contexts—all firmly grounded in the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies,

The Secretary-General’s report in front of you today is presented in two parts. The first part provides a snapshot of the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs in the regions, highlights selected work undertaken across key thematic areas, and the second part outlines the contributions of the regional commissions to strengthening multilateralism and delivering system-wide support as part of the repositioned United Nations development system.

Allow me to highlight some highlights of the Regional Commissions around the three broad thematic areas, as evidenced in the report before you.



First, on financing, the Regional Commissions are supporting debt sustainability, climate finance, and domestic resource mobilization. This includes tools for debt swaps, technical guidance on fiscal reforms, and regional dialogues on public investment and private sector engagement.

Second, on digital transformation, the Commissions are working to close infrastructure gaps and promote inclusive technology adoption. From AI policy frameworks in the Arab States to digital identity systems in Africa, innovation is being harnessed to improve service delivery and access.

Lastly, on inclusive social development, the Commissions are strengthening policy capacities to address poverty, inequality, population ageing, and gender disparities. They support countries in designing multidimensional poverty indices, care systems, and policies that leave no one behind.

As we move toward critical global milestones—including the Second World Summit for Social Development—regional action will be indispensable for building momentum, aligning national and local efforts with global priorities, and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Regional Commissions remain committed to providing targeted technical assistance, strengthening data and monitoring systems, and promoting inclusive platforms that connect local realities to global solutions.

I invite all Member States to consult not only the Secretary-General's report on regional cooperation but also the Summaries of the Work of the



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Regional Commissions submitted today as part of the official documentation.

Mr Chair,
Excellencies.

As per established procedure, the draft resolutions recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa at its fifty-seventh session, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 March 2025; the Economic Commission for Europe at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on 9 and 10 April 2025; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its fortieth session, held in Lima from 9 to 11 October 2024; and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its eighty-first session, held in Bangkok from 21 to 25 April 2025, are also brought to the attention of the Council today.

Mr Chair,
Excellencies,

In closing, as we approach the end of the current ECOSOC cycle and prepare for the next, I would like to reaffirm—on behalf of the Regional Commissions and in my capacity as Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office—our continued commitment to enhanced coordination and the effective, coherent delivery of support to countries and regions in advancing the 2030 Agenda. I remain dedicated to promoting cross-regional collaboration, facilitating knowledge exchange, and strengthening the connections between regional and country-level efforts and global policy dialogue.



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Thank you for your attention.

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