

**Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program -
23rd Ministerial Conference, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 17-18 November 2019**

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United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific**

Excellencies, Distinguished Senior Officials, Distinguished Development Partners, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office, I would like to thank Asian Development Bank for the kind invitation to attend the 23rd Greater Mekong Subregion Program in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

At the recently concluded ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment held in October 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, Ministers recognized the emerging environmental challenges such as climate change and marine debris pollution.

Following the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region, UNEP will collaborate with ASEAN Member States including Greater Mekong Subregion Member States through its Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)'s Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. SEA of Solutions 2019 - the first annual partnership week convened on 11-14 November 2019 by SEA circular project – an initiative from the UNEP and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) – to inspire market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution in South East Asia.

On the climate change, UNEP will collaborate with GMS Member States on implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. For the adaptation, by fostering the nature-based solutions for urban resilience and, for the mitigation, through promoting e-mobility plan, and energy efficiency appliances.

UNEP will also collaborate with GMS Member States to mainstream biodiversity in all relevant sectors and to fully engage in the process of developing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2020.

UNEP is also to assist on capacity building on sustainable consumption and production, including sustainable public procurement (SDG 12), and circular economy to address plastic, marine litter and agriculture sector.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again for the kind invitation and opportunity to deliver the statement.