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NORDIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

Jan Top Christensen, Alternate Governor for Denmark

(On behalf of Governors from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden)

Mr. Chairman, President Nakao, Distinguished Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the four Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden – let me express our sincere appreciation to the Republic of the Philippines, the city of Manila as well as ADB management and staff for your hard work in making this event happen.

Together we have agreed on a set of shared global goals, notably the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Clearly these international agreements must form the basis for an ambitious new Strategy 2030.

On behalf of the Nordic Countries allow me to emphasize three issues that we believe must be at the core of a Sustainable 2030 strategy: Green Growth, a stronger private sector and gender equality.

Firstly. We welcome ADB's efforts to support the Paris agreement and to allocate 6 billion USD annually to climate finance – However, we would like to see more ambition and suggest that ADB makes a commitment to be the greenest of the development banks.

One important issue in this regard, is the need to update the energy policy from 2009.

Asia's total emissions of greenhouse gases continues to grow. ADB's operations therefore need to focus more on supporting low-carbon transition in *all* sectors, not only the energy sector.

Secondly. In order to achieve the SDG's, the Asia Pacific region needs a stronger private sector. ADB's private sector projects need to demonstrate clear development impact. More emphasis should be put on development impact in project selection.

Thirdly, we commend the ambition of the bank in obtaining gender equality, both inside the organization and in the bank's operations. The Nordic experience with gender equality clearly shows that empowering girls and women makes economic sense and will be essential for the achievement of the new long term strategic vision of the Bank. We would therefore like to see more ambitious and clearly defined gender targets in Strategy 2030 with specified actions and timelines.

We firmly believe that in order for ADB to achieve these ambitious goals and deliver knowledge products of the highest quality, ADB must increase its focus.

Please allow me to assure you that we will work with you to create sustainable development, especially in less developed nations and regions.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Distinguished Governors, let us work together to create a greener Asia, with gender equality and a strong private sector.

On behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, I thank you for your attention.