Annex-2.

Call for Action in Asia-Pacific

To take the message “In every crisis there lies an opportunity”, said Madam Anmida, Executive Secretary, ESCAP, April 2026, Bangkok, which we can rephrase to “In every extreme heat event theme lies an opportunity for cooling the most affected” for Asia-Pacific.

Asia-Pacific needs a **regional shift from heat awareness to coordinated heat resilience on the ground, taking everyone along**. Rising heat is already affecting health, labour productivity, agriculture, food security, energy systems, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Heat should therefore be treated as a cross-sector development risk, not only as a seasonal emergency, summer to summer

Governments and regional institutions should integrate heat resilience into existing development finance, infrastructure investment, public health, urban planning, social protection, and climate adaptation. Dedicated finance is useful, but much faster progress can come from making existing investments heat-responsive, with more work to align with Baku-Bangkok Declaration.

Countries should strengthen impact-based forecasting and connect warnings with practical protection: cooling spaces, water, safer work arrangements, accessible communication, health services, and livelihood support. Warning systems must reach women, informal workers, persons with disabilities, and other high-risk groups in forms they can understand and act upon by national authorities by sharing at regional level.

Regional cooperation should focus on **shared data, common heat terminology, tested urban cooling solutions, locally led innovation, and exchange of evidence across countries** and lead to transformative, equitable, innovative and cooperative actions towards Agenda 2030.

Asia-Pacific institutions should also document and scale community solutions that are already working. The regional goal should be simple: ensure that every warning leads to protection, every local innovation has a pathway to scale, and every heat policy protects both health and livelihoods.