Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group

at

Multi-Year Expert Meeting (MYEM) on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development – 4-5 May 2026

Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you Chair and the vice chair on your election this monrning.

We thank the UNCTAD secretariat for the insightful background note. It clearly highlights how geopolitical tensions, supply chain restructuring and the rapid expansion of AI-related investment are reshaping global investment patterns.

For our Group, these trends present both opportunities and risks. While regionalization and the growth of strategic sectors may create new pathways for investment and integration, there is also a real concern that these shifts could deepen existing inequalities.

Many countries in our Group—including least developed countries, small island developing States and structurally vulnerable economies—continue to face constraints in infrastructure, digital connectivity, skills and access to finance. At the same time, investment in strategic sectors remains highly concentrated in a limited number of economies, raising the risk that others may be left behind.

Chair,

In this evolving landscape, developing countries face a dual challenge: remaining open and attractive to investment, while also addressing legitimate concerns related to economic security and resilience.

In this regard, the Asia-Pacific Group would like to put forward a couple of questions for the panel of experts in the next three sessions:

First, how can developing countries—particularly those with limited fiscal space—effectively participate in emerging strategic sectors such as artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure, without being crowded out by large-scale industrial policies elsewhere?

Second, what practical and affordable policy tools can support investment attraction and retention, beyond subsidies—especially in areas such as skills development, digital infrastructure and investment facilitation?

Chair,

We believe that strengthened international cooperation and targeted support will be essential to ensure that the ongoing transformation in global investment contributes to inclusive and sustainable development.

I thank you.