

**Country Statement by Mr. Jeon Joyoung,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to ESCAP
at the 1st Session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise
and Business Innovation**

**Agenda Item 2: Making trade in Asia and the Pacific more
competitive, sustainable and inclusive**

Wednesday, 22 May 2023 (10:30-12:00)

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Mr. (Madam) Chair,

At the outset, please allow me to extend to you on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, my sincere congratulations on your election as Chair of this important Committee. We are confident that under your able leadership the first session will yield substantive results.

Mr. (Madam) Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Korea attaches high priority to making trade more sustainable and inclusive.

Digital trade facilitation is essential to this path, as it significantly reduces trade costs, builds preparedness against the climate crisis, and further enhances our competitiveness in the global digital economy.

Korea also recognizes the environmental benefits of **cross-border paperless trade facilitation**. As many ESCAP publications have highlighted, we strongly believe the use of electronic processes has a huge potential to reduce environmental burdens, especially in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

In this spirit, the Republic of Korea joined the ESCAP-led **Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade** last November, and it will take into force on February 26th.

Mr. (Madam) Chair,

The Government of the Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to support paperless trade in the Asia and the Pacific region. We will continue to work with ESCAP member states on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable inter-regional trade through capacity-building and technical assistance projects.

I thank you for your attention. /END/