

U.S. National Statement for
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation
February 22-23, 2023

- It is an honor for the United States to join the First Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise, and Business Innovation. Thank you to Executive Secretary Alisjahbana (ah-LEE-shah-bah-nah) for your earlier remarks and for your excellent leadership of ESCAP.
- Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation are especially important at times like these. The Asia-Pacific region is facing multiple interlinked crises, from supply chain challenges to climate change, that weigh on our economic connectivity and integration.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a framework for collective action to address these challenges, and it frames how the United States engages throughout the UN system. At their heart, the SDGs are about expanding economic opportunity, social justice, caring for our planet, good governance, and ensuring no one is left behind. That is the American mission at its core and that is why the United States is committed to the SDGs.
- On SDG 3—public health—the United States has partnered globally on an ambitious campaign to fight COVID-19, strengthen global health systems, deliver more than 622 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to 116 countries around the world, and finance future pandemic preparedness.
- The United States is likewise all-in on Goal 2, food security: We are the lead global financial contributor to the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Program, and other UN food agencies, and Secretary Blinken introduced the Roadmap on Global Food Security during the May 2022 U.S. Presidency of the Security Council.

- At the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, we announced a planned multi-year investment of more than \$10 billion to promote food systems transformation, and President Biden just announced at the UN General Assembly another \$2.9 billion for lifesaving humanitarian and food security assistance. Many of our food security programs are implemented in the ESCAP region, in partnership with fellow member states.
- Regarding connectivity, I'd like to discuss *sustainable energy* connectivity, which is central to our efforts to protect the environment and achieve SDGs 13, 14, and 15, which focus on the climate and our aquatic and land ecosystems.
- This is a top focus for the United States. President Biden recently signed into law the "Inflation Reduction Act," which will invest \$369 billion toward climate change solutions and reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 1 gigaton per year. We hope this contributes to a new era of clean-energy-powered economic growth, and we welcome ideas on how we can partner here at ESCAP on this issue.
- Secure and reliable ICT connectivity is also fundamental to development. We look forward to continuing collaboration with our Armenian friends as co-chairs of the "Connectivity for All" pillar of ESCAP's Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative. Through those efforts, we hope to close the digital divide and expand access to information and communications technology.
- The new challenges we face in the 21st century make economic cooperation and integration a necessity. This is the idea behind the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, which we launched this year with 13 other Indo-Pacific economies; it is why we're working with partners in ASEAN and the Pacific Islands to support an Indo-Pacific region that is free and open, connected and prosperous, secure and resilient; and it is why we look forward to deepening regional cooperation when we host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in 2023.

- We look forward to further partnerships with ESCAP and other regional institutions to promote economic connectivity and integration, recover from the pandemic, protect our planet, and achieve the SDGs. Thank you.