



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

## **Statement by the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network to the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission**

**Delivered by Dr. George Lam  
Chair of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network represents businesses of the Asia Pacific region committed to development that is sustainable, creating infrastructure, technology, logistics, goods and services to improve people's lives and to create a more sustainable and inclusive future for all.

Now is the time to work together much closer, faster and smarter to achieve the global goals agreed by world leaders in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We welcome the new momentum at COP 28 and we urge governments to create clear and predictable policy frameworks that foster and accelerate green innovation and transformation to net zero carbon emissions.

We are dedicated to working in partnership among businesses, governments and communities to enable the transformation to a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

We will continue to align our business strategies with Environmental, Social and Governance principles, to mobilize and deploy Green Technology and Green Finance solutions and ESG investment funds, and we will continue implementing our Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business, with our region's businesses working hand in hand with governments and communities, to develop new business models that create new and sustainable employment and better outcomes for the environment. Businesses that pledge for the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business are encouraged to take specific actions aimed at achieving:

- (1) a Green Energy system,
- (2) smart, low-carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, buildings and other Green Infrastructure,
- (3) Green Finance solutions and ESG investment,
- (4) Green Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and
- (5) a more Circular Economy.

These are the five pillars of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business.

We must quickly and decisively invest more in smarter and greener solutions, leveraging from Green Finance and ESG, Green Technology and Digital Technology developments including FinTech, Green FinTech, InsurTech, RegTech, PropTech, Web 3.0 and Digital Assets. We will continue to promote and facilitate the development of young people into sustainability-committed Green Economy professionals and entrepreneurs through businesses' ongoing efforts and investments in training and mentoring our youth to start or transition to Green Economy jobs and start-up opportunities with the required Digital Technology, Green Technology, Green Finance, ESG and entrepreneurial skillsets. To achieve successful green transformation, we need the full participation and contribution of our youth.

We are implementing the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business to demonstrate our conviction that the private sector must take the leading role in the green transformation of our region, for the good of the world. In the Asia Pacific region, we are committed to balancing our development aspirations with our responsibility to protect the Earth. The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business is all about harnessing transformational opportunities of a new Green Economy. It is more than building back better and faster from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is about building back greener and smarter together.

We urge businesses to join us in accelerating the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I wish you good health and good business. Thank you.