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March 16, 2021

Distinguished Delegates,

Our generation of leaders - in government, business and in every community of the Asia Pacific - faces a grave challenge from global climate change, pandemic and economic crisis. We must build back better and smarter, taking stewardship of a great transition to a new era of sustainable development.

Following our region's development achievements of recent decades, we are confident that the Asia Pacific can develop the vision and the long term, strategic thinking necessary to achieve its next challenge, a green transformation.

We urge governments, business and communities to turn our urgent attention to taking responsibility in three key areas:

1. We need clarity and certainty of policy frameworks to move as a region to renewable energy, sustainable transport, green cities and sustainable agriculture and fisheries, with less waste, climate and disaster resilience and greater commitment to environmental protection. This must be our shared mission.
2. We need regional cooperation, rules, norms and standards, aligned with multilateral cooperation, to drive the change to green finance, green tech, green materials, green logistics and green waste. This must be our shared action plan.



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3. We need a business environment that fosters research, development and innovation to create integrated solutions from the low cost, more efficient, clean, green and safe industries of the next decade. This must be our shared innovation culture.

The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network urges businesses of our region to:

1. Pledge support for the UN Global Compact and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, aligning business strategy with sustainability, including the transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions and net zero non-biodegradable waste.
2. Commit to research, development and innovation now, for stronger, sustainable and smarter solutions.
3. Advocate to governments and communities to make the transition to the green economy.

We welcome partnerships for action, to implement an Asia Pacific Green Deal.

UNESCAP / ESNB
Green Economy Task Force

