

**Hong Kong, China's Statement for
79th Session of the United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

**Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for
sustainable development**

Your Excellency the Chairman, Executive Secretary and Distinguished Delegates,

Hong Kong, China considers today's agenda highly relevant as our region is in dire need for faster and bolder climate actions for sustainable development.

2. As an active participant in global efforts to combat climate change, Hong Kong, China are among the earliest places in Asia taking actions. Our carbon emissions have reduced by about 27% from the peak of 6.2 tonnes per capita in 2014 to 4.5 tonnes in 2020.

3. Hong Kong, China has laid down ambitious decarbonisation targets in support of a net-zero-carbon future, and our strategies and actions are set out in the Climate Action Plan 2050. We strive to reduce the total carbon emissions from the 2005 level by half before 2035, and achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. To achieve this, we adopted a four-pronged approach.

4. First, net-zero electricity generation before 2050. We are developing renewable energy and exploring new energy sources. Specifically, by 2035, we will cease using coal for electricity generation, and increase the share of renewable energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation to 7.5% to 10% and that of zero-carbon energy to about 60% to 70%.

5. Second, energy saving and green buildings. Ambitious targets have been set to cut the electricity consumption of commercial buildings by 30% to 40% and that of residential buildings by 20% to 30% from the 2015 level by 2050.

6. Third, green transport. We announced in 2021 a roadmap to promote the adoption of EVs and their supporting facilities, and will cease the new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars by 2035, and test out hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and heavy vehicles within this year.

7. Finally, waste reduction. We announced in 2021 a Waste Blueprint. Among others, we strive to develop adequate waste-to-energy facilities by 2035. We also plan to implement municipal solid waste charging and introduce a bill to regulate plastic products within this year. Together with other measures to promote waste reduction, separation and recycling, our medium-term target is to reduce the per capita municipal solid waste disposal by 40% to 45% and raise the recovery rate to about 55%.

8. Meanwhile, our quest for carbon neutrality is creating manifold opportunities for the development of green finance. As an international financial centre, Hong Kong, China is well-placed to develop into a green finance hub and serve as a premier financing platform for green enterprises and projects in the region. As at January 2023, we have issued around US\$13 billion green bonds under the Government Green Bond Programme. Separately, we have allocated about US\$50 million to the Green Tech Fund to support research and development projects which can help decarbonise and enhance environmental protection.

9. Looking ahead, Hong Kong, China looks forward to regional collaboration in Asia and the Pacific, including cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, to jointly accelerate climate actions.