

UN ESCAP 79TH Session National Statement

Thank you Madam Chair.

I am delighted to meet in this body with so many distinguished members and experts. The UK is deeply committed to the Indo-Pacific region – it is critical to our economy, our security and our values.

That is why we are proud to be an ASEAN dialogue partner, to have joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and to be deepening our bilateral political, economic and security relations across the region.

A core tenet of the UK's approach in the Indo-Pacific will be to support the vision shared by many regional partners in this room for a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific. UN ESCAP and its Secretariat are important partners in that work.

Madam Chair.

In the Asia-Pacific region, Climate Action – the theme of this session - could not be more important. Let me be frank, the climate crisis is existential to all of us. The IPCC has clearly warned us that the window of time we have left to act is closing fast, and we must urgently reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

Climate Change is already wreaking havoc in the Asia-Pacific region: ecosystems are being irreversibly destroyed; people are being forced to move from their homes, and both food and water insecurity have increased. We must also note that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is hitting the poorest people hardest, including regarding energy and food security.

To meet the challenge of Climate Change we must all take action.

The UK will maintain the high ambition set by the Glasgow Climate Pact. We will lead and galvanise a collective global effort to keep the 1.5-degree target alive. We will support the most vulnerable to adapt and build resilience to the effects of climate change. And we will protect nature and biodiversity as agreed through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

UN ESCAP and its members' actions will be vital in the Asia-Pacific region. The UK is demonstrating its long-term partnerships in Asia Pacific through practical steps:

- To support mitigation efforts, we recently completed the successful ASEAN Low Carbon Energy programme, working alongside our Asia-Pacific partners to support their transitions towards low carbon energy.
- To assist in strengthening adaptation, over the next 7 years we are committed to spending more than £270m. Done in partnership with the regions, this will help build the resilience of economies and vulnerable communities to climate change and improve the natural environment, across South Asia, South-East Asia, and the Pacific.
- And the UK has committed to £126m to scale up the Transforming Energy Access platform to reach 25 million people with improved clean energy access by 2026. This will create 170,000 long-term green jobs, building clean sustainable growth, and supporting clean energy access technology in Africa and Asia-Pacific.

Madam Chair.

Our collective success depends on international cooperation. The UK will be a responsible partner to UN ESCAP and will work with you all in the spirit of cooperation to address the common challenges of our time.

Thank you.