

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Michele Sison
United States Assistant Secretary of State for
International Organization Affairs**

On behalf of the United States, it is an honor to speak with friends from throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

I would like to thank Executive Secretary Alisjahbana for her hospitality during my recent visit to Bangkok. And thank you to all at ESCAP for serving as a trusted, transparent platform where the region can come together to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United States is committed to an ESCAP region that is free and open, connected, prosperous, resilient, and secure—a region that steadfastly supports the UN Charter’s four pillars: peace and security, development, rule of law, and human rights.

Our support for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda frames how the United States engages in ESCAP, and we applaud this year’s emphasis on SDG 13 to advance climate solutions.

A few weeks ago, President Biden convened the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate for a fourth time to galvanize efforts needed during this critical decade to stem the climate crisis.

President Biden called on fellow leaders to “recommit ourselves to action while we still have the time.”

He invited them to join the United States in a set of joint efforts targeting four urgent priorities that are critical to keeping the 1.5-degree limit within reach—decarbonizing energy, ending deforestation, reducing non-CO2 emissions, and advancing carbon management.

President Biden urged leaders to support strengthened efforts this year to fully leverage the capacity of the multilateral development banks to address global challenges, including climate change.

He also announced that the United States is providing \$1 billion dollars to the Green Climate Fund.

In the Indo-Pacific region, the United States budgeted \$165 million dollars in assistance for climate adaptation, resilience, and clean energy projects last year.

As host of APEC this year, our theme “Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All” seeks to address climate change, along with supply chain shocks, struggling health systems, and food insecurity.

To further help support the work of individual countries to accelerate their own energy transition, the United States, alongside our G7 and other partners, has launched Just Energy Transition Partnerships with Indonesia and Vietnam.

Our regional partnerships on climate start from our commitment to ASEAN centrality, and include extensive collaboration with the Pacific Island Forum and other regional bodies.

For example, our Emergency Plan on Adaptation and Resilience is expanding the ability of Small Island Developing States in the Pacific to improve forecasting of severe weather and climate events by investing in their infrastructure and communication capabilities.

I wish I could be there in Bangkok with you in person, and I'll conclude with a simple request: please reach out to our U.S. delegation in Bangkok.

Let's share ideas on how we can embrace the UN's cooperative spirit and partner at ESCAP to address climate challenges, promote peace and prosperity, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.