BRUNEI DARUSSALAM COUNTRY STATEMENT

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is an honor to convey Brunei Darussalam’s sincere appreciation, to ESCAP for convening this Conference, as it provides an important platform for us to explore further ways to accelerate a resilient recovery.

Please allow myself the pleasure of sharing a few of our thoughts.

Firstly, International Trade undoubtedly remains one of the key tools in advancing economic prosperity.

As we have collectively learnt from the unfortunate disruptions brought about by COVID-19, we need to remain committed & focused, on ensuring an unimpeded flow of trade, particularly the flow of essential items.

Let’s strengthen our on-going collaboration by deepening regional integration, in order to foster seamless supply chain connectivity.

Together, we need to continue to address non-tariff measures, further digitalize custom’s procedures towards paperless trading and improve logistics services overall.
Free Trade Agreements, like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership and Frameworks such as the Indo Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, should also be leveraged upon to create an enabling economic environment, within both the domestic and regional settings.

Overall, all of these initiatives, coupled with increasing FDI in productive sectors and by having a more adaptable workforce, will help to create trade supply networks that are diversified & resilient against future global shocks.

Speaking of being more resilient, Brunei Darussalam recognizes the significant contribution technological advancements can provide.

For instance, the digital economy has given rise to more business opportunities, it has transformed economic linkages and enhanced people-to-people connectivity.

In this regard, we appreciate ESCAP’s Flagship Digital Transformation Report, which highlights the ‘Digital Big Bang’ and justifies the continued coordination of policies & actions for digital transformation.

Actions which ASEAN has undertaken last year under the ‘Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap’ have set out accelerated pathways, leading towards enhanced regional digital integration.
Given our similar interests, Brunei Darussalam welcomes the opportunity to work together with ESCAP.

Lastly, in whatever we do, priority needs to also focus on the green development agenda.

In fully appreciating this paradigm, Brunei Darussalam has identified several priority areas towards growth, which is low-carbon & climate resilient through our National Climate Change Policy.

Furthermore, we recognize that such efforts require supportive policies, transformative technologies & infrastructure and the mobilization of large-scale capital.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam will continue to actively participate in discussions, to ensure the facilitation of the trade of environmentally friendly goods under the APEC and ASEAN domains.

We equally look forward to initiatives in ESCAP that supplement other regional mechanisms, initiatives that allow for the exchange of experiences, provide policy support and give rise to the mobilization of non-sovereign financing.
Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The active collaboration that is on-going under the ambit of ESCAP shows member countries’ great determination, to achieve resilient growth through sustainable & inclusive trade & investment.

As the building blocks of multilateral cooperation frameworks, we are confident that joint actions undertaken here will also contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.