



**Statement by the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network to
the 78th Session of the Commission**

**Delivered by Dr. George Lam
Chair of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN)**

Distinguished Delegates,

The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) represents businesses of the Asia Pacific region committed to development that is sustainable, creating infrastructure, technology, logistics, goods and services to improve people's lives and to create a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Our region's immediate challenge is to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. As we build back, we must invest in smarter, greener solutions. That is what building back better must mean.

Now is the time to double down, not to neglect, our commitments to achieve the global goals agreed by world leaders in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

We welcome the recognition at COP 26 that the world must move "into emergency mode" to address the urgent challenge of climate change and we urge governments to create clear and predictable policy frameworks that foster green innovation and transformation to net zero carbon emissions.

We are dedicated to working in partnership among businesses, governments and communities to enable the transformation to a more sustainable economy.

We will continue to align our business strategies with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles.

To build back better and to achieve the sustainable development agenda, we need our own version of an Asia Pacific Green Deal for Business, with businesses working hand in hand with governments and communities, to develop new business models that create new and sustainable employment and better outcomes for the environment.

We urge all Asia Pacific businesses to join us in leading green transformation to secure our future, by taking specific actions across the following five Green Deal Pillars:

- Green energy: advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system
- Green infrastructure and logistics: building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, buildings and other infrastructure, designed for walkability and low carbon mobility
- Green finance: mobilizing public and private investment for green transformation in energy, infrastructure and logistics and other sustainable innovation for the new economy
- Green innovation: accelerating and scaling up new technologies and applications to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce environmental impact from the way we live, work, commute, trade and conduct business
- Green production, consumption and waste: changing towards a more circular economy with new business and employment opportunities, to minimize environmental impact