Statement by the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network to the 77th Session of the Commission

Delivered by Dr. George Lam
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Infrastructure and Real Assets

Distinguished Delegates,

We are facing a grave challenge from global climate change, economic crisis and particularly the COVID-19 pandemic. We must build back better and smarter from crisis, taking stewardship of a great transition to a new era of sustainable and inclusive development.

Following our region’s development achievements of recent decades, we are confident that Asia and the Pacific can develop the vision and the long term, strategic thinking necessary to achieve its next challenge, a transformation towards a sustainable and inclusive economy.

The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network urges businesses in Asia and the Pacific to do three things:

1. Pledge full support for the UN Global Compact and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, aligning business strategy with sustainability, including the transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions and net zero non-biodegradable wastes.
2. Commit to more research, development and innovation now, for stronger, sustainable and smarter solutions.
3. Advocate to governments and communities to make the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Together we can achieve this through regional cooperation and concerted efforts centered around four critical interconnected areas: broadening social protection, investing in a sustained recovery, strengthening connectivity and supply chains and mending a broken relationship with nature. We welcome partnerships for action, to build back better from crises.