Statement of India

Agenda 5(h): Trade, investment, enterprise and business innovation

81st Session of UNESCAP

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Excellencies and Delegates

India appreciates the efforts and contributions of UNESCAP in connecting with different countries on the issue of Trade, Investment, enterprise, and business innovation.

India is one amongst the fastest-growing economy in the world and is poised to become the fourth-largest economy by the end of 2025 and third-largest by 2027 and there is a range of opportunities that India offers. In the next two to two-and-a-half decades, India will grow significantly, supported by the aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians. This creates a massive domestic demand and offers the benefits of scale that are being recognised globally. In the last two years alone, at least eight high-level delegations have visited India, signaling the world's growing interest in forging stronger trade relationships with India.

Global Trade has many challenges and in order to obviate these challenges, India has recently

operationalised a dedicated **'Global Tariff and Trade Helpdesk'** to assist stakeholders in navigating emerging trade issues. This helpdesk would look into issues relating to Import and Export Challenges, EXIM Clearance, Logistics or Supply Chain Challenges, Financial or Banking issues, Regulatory or Compliance Issues, and Other Issues or Suggestions and facilitate stakeholders.

Mr. Chair,

To promote FDI, India has put in place an investor-friendly policy, wherein most sectors, except certain strategically important sectors, are open for 100% FDI under the automatic route. India has embarked on a series of reforms aimed at liberalizing its FDI policies, with the goal of stimulating economic growth and encouraging foreign capital inflows.

Mr. Chair

India has a vast pool of STEM graduates, with 43% being women. Indian innovators are rising to the occasion, delivering R&D-driven solutions. India's position as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem is attributed to talent pool, dynamic entrepreneurial spirit, and technological advancements especially among the youth. The vision of Digital India Programme through adoption of BHIM-UPI, Aadhaar and Cowin, transformed India into a

digitally empowered society, which is an essential prelude of Forth Industrial Revolution.

The Government of India acknowledges the importance of regional cooperation for ethical use of emerging technologies for realizing the objectives of SDGs.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.