Dear colleagues,

Climate change and natural resources preservation are among the main global challenges of our era. We, as the United Nations, have an important responsibility in setting the pace for action and leading by example.

2019 has shown tremendous progress in our policy framework and commitment for in-house environmental sustainability. I am therefore thrilled to announce that the Secretariat has adopted a comprehensive Environmental Policy to ensure the integration of environmental considerations into our work.

Since 2017, ESCAP and all United Nations agencies at our compound demonstrated a common vision and commitment to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals in-house by establishing a joint Environmental Management System (EMS) for our facilities and operations.

This work has been helping us reduce our environmental impacts, minimize the associated risks, and promote sustainable practices in alignment with the emission reduction goals of the Secretariat, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All this would not have been possible without the support of our personnel and service providers at large. I therefore count on your support to ensure that the policy is realized in our daily work and invite you to proactively participate in the identification of activities and solutions to minimize our environmental impacts.

In continuation of the inclusive approach adopted by the EMS to date, I also encourage the sharing of best practices and guidelines in the field of environmental sustainability with all partners in the region and across the United Nations System.

I hereby commit to making of the Secretariat’s Environmental Policy our beacon in the implementation of ESCAP’s mandate in the region by integrating its guiding principles and objectives into our operations and programmes, and by seeking continual improvement of environmental sustainability through the EMS initiative.

Annex: Secretary-General’s bulletin, ST/SGB/2019/7, Environmental policy for the United Nations Secretariat