

**Statement by Mr. Ahmed Emre Büyükkılıç,
Country Advisor at the Investment Office of the Presidency of Turkey
Representative of Turkey at the Seventh session of the Committee on Trade and
Investment**

Distinguished committee members, speakers, organizers and delegates,

Please allow me to thank ESCAP Secretariat first for their efforts to organize the 7th Session of the Committee on Trade and Investment. I hope you and your loved ones are all doing well under such difficult circumstances all around the globe.

I'd like to start my remarks by introducing our organization. The Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey is the national investment promotion agency of Turkey. Directly reporting to the President of Turkey, our Office is in charge of encouraging investments that further enhance the economic development of Turkey. To this end, the Investment Office supports high-tech, value-added, and employment-generating investments with its facilitation and follow-up services during whole stages of relevant investments. Active on a global scale, we operate with a network of local consultants in a number of locations and I am personally the representative based in Singapore covering Southeast Asia market.

In line with our agenda today, I'd like to quickly inform you on our Office's approach and actions taken for promoting inward foreign direct investment throughout and the post pandemic era. As we have already been accustomed to working remotely with our international network in 11 countries, it was easy for us to adjust to the new working conditions also thanks to the digital infrastructure. Then we have set up new channels of communication with investors by introducing a hotline, particularly with the existing ones by targeting the investment retention and continuity of their current operations.

The pandemic has vindicated Turkey's core value proposition; a strategic partner with a convenient location between East and West that plays a key role in global value chain which was significantly disrupted by the COVID-19. Our long-term strategy to attract high value-added investments has not changed, but the pandemic has created an opportunity to highlight Turkey's position as a reliable supplier for the global economy. Turkey's comparative advantages, such as advanced manufacturing capabilities, convenient location, international network of free trade agreements make it an ideal place for multinational companies that looking to relocate some of their overseas production in order to diversify and secure their supply networks.

Our manufacturing industries have profoundly transformed over the past decade, transitioning from limited to advanced manufacturing according to a recent report by the World Bank. However, we want to further move up the value chain towards high-

tech manufacturing in which Turkey has certain capabilities and advantages, particularly pharmaceutical, aerospace, ICT, and some parts of the automotive industries. We are studying high-tech sectors in detail with breakdowns by sub-sectors and product groups to identify potential opportunities for international investors. Our Office is also co-implementing the eleventh (11th) Development Plan, which is Turkey's five-year national development program. Together with the Ministry of Industry and Technology, we are working on industrial cluster development across Turkey. From our perspective, we aim to contribute to these strategies through attracting high-tech investments that will transform Turkey's manufacturing base. We have, therefore, developed customized strategies focusing on priority sectors with high technology intensity. We believe FDI can play an important role in transferring technology to a country and transform host country's ecosystem.

Considering the time constraints, I'd like to finalize my statement here and wish everyone a fruitful session ahead. Thank you!