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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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VIDEO MESSAGE FOR THE 79TH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

To be recorded in New York, 20 April for use in Bangkok, 15 May 2023

The video will be played at the United Nations Conference Centre Bangkok on Monday 15 May 2023 tentatively between 10:15 and 10:45 am Bangkok time (Sunday 14 May 11:15-11:45 pm NY time) during the high-level opening of our 79th Commission session.

I send warm greetings to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

I welcome your theme for this session: “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”.

This region accounts for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions, and is home to some of the most vulnerable countries in the world.

It is vital to global efforts to keep temperature rise within the 1.5 degree limit.

Most countries in the region have already pledged carbon neutrality goals towards mid-century. But we need to accelerate action, with steep reductions in emissions within the next few years.

The Acceleration Agenda will require fast-tracking climate efforts in every sector, and on every timeframe.

The ESCAP study that provides the basis for your discussion sets out the necessary transformations and pathways.

ESCAP stands ready to support.

Asia and the Pacific region can set the pace of climate action in the decades to come.

I urge you to be bold, and I wish you a successful session.

Thank you.
