

Statement by the 1st CTIEBI Chair

Reporting on the first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation at the 79th Commission Session of ESCAP

(Pre-recorded message)

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

- It was my honour to serve as Chair of the first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, which was held from 22 to 24 February 2023 in Bangkok and online.
- During the proceedings, member States of ESCAP, intergovernmental bodies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and other stakeholders discussed regional and national perspectives and shared views on how opportunities can be leveraged to accelerate progress for sustainable development.
- The Committee highlighted the need to make trade in the region more competitive, sustainable and inclusive, including through expanding efforts in the digitalization of trade and trade processes, green development, and support for businesses in relation to trade. Addressing the digital divide was noted as being vital to achieving this goal.
- The importance of strengthening private sector engagement and public-private partnerships was recognized, and the Committee acknowledged the facilitative role played by platforms such as the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, and initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business in facilitating corporate social and environmental responsibility.
- The Committee also emphasized the significance of mobilizing impact investment and foreign direct investment for sustainable development, noting its potential in promoting gender equality, bridging the digital divide and tackling climate change.

- With regard to enterprise and business innovation, the Committee welcomed the emergence of innovative business models that aim to address social and environmental challenges, and expressed support for continued efforts in promoting inclusive and socially responsible businesses and women-led enterprises.
- Last but not least, the Committee recognized the importance of new and emerging technologies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and called for enhanced cooperation for the development, diffusion and scaling up of these technologies in the region.
- In conclusion, this first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation has laid a strong foundation for collaboration on these issues in our region, and we look forward to further progress in the coming years. Thank you.