



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

## **Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Declaration**

We are businesses of Asia and the Pacific creating infrastructure, technology, logistics, goods and services to improve people's lives and to create a more sustainable and inclusive future,

We are committed to achieving the global goals agreed by world leaders in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement,

We are dedicated to working in partnership with businesses, governments and communities to achieve development that is sustainable,

We welcome the recognition by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) that the world must move "into emergency mode" to address the urgent challenge of climate change, and we urge Governments to create clear and predictable policy frameworks that foster green innovation and transformation to net zero carbon emissions,

We will continue to align our business strategies with environmental, social and governance principles,

Our Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business can change the world, just as earlier industrial revolutions changed the world, by enabling new business models that create new and sustainable employment,

We urge our partners to join us in leading green transformation to secure our future:

- **Green energy:** advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system
- **Green infrastructure and logistics:** building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, buildings and other infrastructure, designed for walkability and low carbon mobility

- **Green finance:** mobilizing public and private investment for green transformation in energy, infrastructure and logistics and other sustainable innovation for the new economy
- **Green innovation:** accelerating and scaling up new technologies and applications to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce environmental impact from the way we live, work, commute, trade and conduct business
- **Green production, consumption and waste:** changing towards a more circular economy with new business and employment opportunities, to minimize environmental impact

**Pledge** your support for this Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Declaration:

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*An initiative of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, which advocates for business leadership in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advises the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*

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### **Further background: Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business**

- The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) recognizes climate change as an urgent global and regional challenge to address in partnership with businesses, governments and communities.
- We welcome the international commitments to address sustainability and climate change including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact. This pact recognized it is time to go “into emergency mode”, to take actions including ending fossil fuel subsidies, phasing out coal, putting a price on carbon, halting and reversing deforestation, protecting vulnerable communities, and delivering on the \$100 billion climate finance commitment.<sup>1</sup> The COP 26 outcome statement firms up the global agreement to accelerate collaboration among all stakeholders on climate goals. We all have a responsibility to do more to jointly secure carbon neutrality.

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<sup>1</sup> Secretary-General [António Guterres](#), in a video statement released at the close of the two-week COP 26 meeting.

- ESCAP Sustainable Business Network stands united in advocating business action and innovation to transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable new economy. We are committed to sharing best practices in the private sector and related policies and measures and to working in partnership with all stakeholders, including governments and communities.
- We have formulated the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business to demonstrate our conviction that businesses must take a leading role in the green transformation of our region, for the good and commitment of the world. In the Asia-Pacific region, we are committed to balancing our development aspirations with our responsibility to protect the Earth. The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business is all about harnessing transformational opportunities of a new green economy. It is more than building back better, it is about building back stronger and smarter.
- The new green economy will generate new technologies and industries enhancing resource efficiency and phasing out polluting industries, including greenhouse gas emissions. The new green economy will create sustainable, quality jobs for a just transition. It will focus on sustainable economic development and replace outmoded forms of economic development that depleted natural resources and degraded our natural environment.
- We, the members of ESBN, call on Asia-Pacific businesses to pledge support for the United Nations Global Compact and environmental, social and governance principles.
- With these aspirations, we seek clarity and policy predictability to move forward as a region towards renewable energy, sustainable transport, green cities, water supply and sustainable food production, so as to generate less waste, improve resilience to climate change and disasters and strengthen our commitment to environmental protection. This must be our shared mission. We need regional cooperation, rules, norms and standards, aligned with multilateral cooperation, to drive the change to green finance, green tech, green materials, green logistics and green waste. This must be our shared action plan. We need a business environment that fosters research, development and innovation to create integrated solutions from the low cost, more efficient, clean, green and safe industries for the next decade. This must be our shared innovation culture.
- We, the members of ESBN, have identified five business actions to pursue the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. We will advocate for these actions to businesses across our region, in the lead up to and beyond the launch of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business at our premier regional business event, the Asia-Pacific Business Forum. We will actively support local actions and initiatives across the region through our task forces, to implement the spirit of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. We will implement green values in how we

communicate and engage with partners and support green research, education and innovation to share the latest best practices and knowledge for practical implementation of the new green economy:

1. **Advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system.** The energy system must be decarbonized in accordance with the commitments of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while providing reliable and affordable access to zero carbon energy for all.
  2. **Building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, infrastructure and mobility.** Greenhouse gas emissions from construction and operations of urban infrastructure and its activities, including buildings and transport infrastructure, must be reduced further, while water security and resilience to future crises are strengthened.
  3. **Mobilizing public and private finance for green transformation.** New investment must be directed to sustainable energy, infrastructure, logistics, food production, water supply and other innovations for the new green economy.
  4. **Accelerating and scaling up innovations for sustainable development.** Now is the time to implement new business models and solutions to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce environmental impact from the way we produce, consume, transport, work, trade and conduct business.
  5. **Changing towards a more circular economy.** New circular production and consumption practices will bring new business and employment opportunities, to maximize resource efficiency and minimize environmental impacts.
- We, the members of ESBN, are committed to taking these practical steps to live up to our potential, and to substantively answer this century's great challenge. This Declaration is our call for businesses across Asia and the Pacific to take a leadership role on climate actions.

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