

**Hong Kong, China's Statement for
78th Session of the United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

**A common agenda to advance sustainable development
in Asia and the Pacific**

Your Excellency the Chairman, Executive Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Hong Kong, China (HKC) delegation, I congratulate the Government of Thailand and the ESCAP Secretariat on the very successful organisation of this meeting.

2. HKC takes note of the overlapping crises facing the world, alongside the coronavirus disease, environmental harm, climate change and recurrence of natural disasters that are threatening sustainable development of the planet and people. We echo the call for greener and more resilient pathways to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery.

3. We are determined to contribute to the world's efforts in achieving a full-fledged economic recovery, with foci on people, the planet, prosperity and partnerships. International and regional cooperation is of paramount importance. HKC remains committed to free and open trade and investment, and has formulated an array of initiatives towards the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals.

4. HKC is committed to forging high-quality and comprehensive free trade agreements, and we are now more than ready to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). HKC's accession to RCEP would help boost trade and investment and be conducive to further consolidating the regional supply chain.

5. In addition, digital transformation is another key prerequisite

for economic recovery. HKC supports the extension of the World Trade Organization's moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions. Domestically, we have published the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0, in which over 130 initiatives are proposed to embrace innovation and technology.

6. In October 2021, HKC announced the Climate Action Plan 2050, setting out the vision, strategies and targets for combating climate change and achieving carbon neutrality. The action plan outlines four major decarbonisation strategies and measures, namely net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction. HKC will devote about US\$30 billion to take forward various measures on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

7. As an international financial centre, our Government also joins hands with the financial sector to enrich the green finance ecosystem in HKC, especially through the Government Green Bond Programme.

8. In conclusion, HKC is always prepared to work with all economies, the private sector, academia and community groups of the region to advance sustainable development as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda.