

**Asia-Pacific Trade, Investment and Innovation Week
21-24 February 2023, Bangkok
Agenda Item 4. Mobilizing Impact Investment and Foreign Direct
Investment for Sustainable Development
23 February, 2023**

Hon'ble Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you all a very good morning!

It is my pleasure and privilege to be part of the “First Session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation”. We thank the UN ESCAP for inviting us to this important event.

Hon'ble Chair and Distinguished Delegates

Bhutan's development strategy is guided by the philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), and we continue to do so even to this date. Bhutan's development policy embodies the core values of sustainable development and aims to balance economic, social and environmental pillars in our pursuit of wellbeing and happiness.

Bhutan is a carbon negative country with a well-preserved natural environment (72 % forest coverage) and has pledged to remain

carbon neutral at all times. As such, the priority sectors for promotion of investment and FDIs will always be in sectors that are in sync with the SDGs.

FDI is undoubtedly the most sought-after investment worldwide for economic development and to bridge the financing gaps. In the case of Bhutan, while we are open to FDI, we have always taken prudent and cautious steps to ensure that FDI is promoted in a sustainable manner. The focus of the Royal Government of Bhutan is to: develop a green and sustainable economy; promote socially responsible and ecologically sound industries; and to create a knowledge society.

The FDIs that we have received so far are mostly in the green sector. Service sector dominates FDI in the country with investments primarily in hotels, wellness centers and IT & IT enabled services.

Hon'ble Chair and Distinguished Delegates

While there has been seamless integration of the sustainable development objectives in the national policy, the country faces challenges in promoting and attracting impact investment and FDIs. Expression of interest to invest in the country are not often in areas that are of high priority for the Government.

Due to resource constraint, advocating the need of investments in the priority sectors to the foreign investors are challenging. Despite this difficulty, the Government and in particular the Invest Bhutan under the Department of Industry; Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment; remains committed to working towards promoting investments and FDIs for sustainable development.

As the country emerges from the setbacks inflicted by the pandemic, we will continue to work closely with the key sectors and development partners to attract, promote and facilitate investment that will contribute to SDGs.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the UNESCAP for your support and kind cooperation. We look forward to your continued support in the areas of capacity building, and mainstreaming SDGs into investment attraction, promotion and facilitation works.

Finally, Bhutan recommends that the Secretariat continue to support its member States on FDI, especially related to sustainable development, including gender, digital and climate FDI.

you very much! Thank

