

## New Zealand Country Statement to the 78th UN ESCAP Session

The Government of Australia wishes to associate itself with this statement.

Thank you Chair, Executive Secretary.

New Zealand is pleased to participate in this 78th session of ESCAP.

New Zealand is located in the Pacific Ocean and has strong and important people-to-people and trade linkages across the Indo-Pacific region.

We have long acknowledged that the successful and sustainable development of our country is strongly connected to the success of our partners in the rest of the Pacific and in Asia.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored this interconnectivity and the challenges that we collectively face, domestically, within our region, and across the globe.

We can also see those challenges playing out in other regions, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine having global implications for peace, security, and economic stability.

New Zealand condemns, unequivocally, the unprovoked and unjustified attack by Russia on Ukraine, and calls for an immediate end to hostilities.

We find ourselves in an era characterised by considerable environmental, health, and geopolitical challenges, accompanied by a riskier and more uncertain context.

Within this context, strengthened multilateralism, the rules-based international order, and increased economic integration remain vital to achieving our collective ambition of advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

New Zealand considers our engagement in the world through a values-based lens, drawing on the bicultural values that characterise who we are as a people, and how we relate to others.

In practice, this means that New Zealand approaches our relationships with an understanding of:

- whanaungatanga: our connectedness to each other and our natural environment;
- manaakitanga: kindness and the reciprocity of goodwill;
- mahi tahi and kotahitanga: working for a collective benefit; and,
- kaitiakitanga: acting as guardians for the people and the planet.

As we apply this lens to the theme of this 78th ESCAP session, this means acknowledging the value we gain through working together.

It means collaborating with our partners across the region in a predictable, reliable, and inclusive manner, and with a focus on intergenerational stewardship.

New Zealand will continue to work in good faith with partners to protect and allow to flourish our economies, our people, and our environment.

Together, we can support an Indo-Pacific region that is resilient, stable, free and open, and prosperous.

Thank you, Chair.