

**United States National Statement
UNESCAP Asia Pacific on Sustainable Development
Bangkok, Thailand, March 27-30, 2023**

On behalf of the United States, it is an honor to speak with fellow ESCAP members at this Forum on Sustainable Development. As with our strong commitment to the UN Charter, our commitment to the 2030 Agenda is grounded in our belief in a free, open, prosperous, and secure international system.

Twenty U.S. government agencies work globally to advance the 2030 Agenda, including mine, the U.S. Agency for International Development or USAID, which implements programs in more than 30 countries in the ESCAP region. We continue a long tradition of partnerships grounded in expanding economic opportunity, caring for our planet, good governance, upholding human rights, and ensuring no one is left behind.

Let me speak briefly about U.S. efforts on some of the key SDGs under review at this year's Forum.

To advance SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, the United States released last June our White House Action Plan on Global Water Security, which will strengthen global, national, and local policies and water and systems in a way that meets the needs of marginalized and underserved populations.

In the ESCAP region, our contributions include USAID's Water Security and Sanitation programs and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation's mobilization of private capital to promote access to potable water.

Last week, at the UN Water Conference in New York, the United States announced more than \$49 billion in domestic and global action to ensure that climate-resilient water and sanitation remain a priority worldwide.

SDG 7's focus on clean, affordable energy is central to President Biden's climate agenda. Our Inflation Reduction Act is supercharging investment in clean energy that will drive down costs for clean technology, globally. We are also scaling up climate finance to support developing countries and ensure a more just energy transition.

We work with several ESCAP member states through the CLEAN EDGE Asia program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mobilize investments, increase clean energy generation and deployment, and improve energy services for households across the region. The Clean Energy Demand Initiative and the Japan-U.S.-Mekong Power Partnership likewise work with countries in the region to decarbonize power sectors and expand investments in clean energy infrastructure.

On SDG 9, we partner throughout the region on transparent investments in high-standard infrastructure projects that deliver real economic benefits while protecting the environment and internationally recognized workers' rights.

And we championed the launch of the G7's Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), looking to mobilize \$600 billion by 2027 to help low- and middle-income countries invest in infrastructure.

We support SDG 11 through programs like USAID's Program for Locally-led Urban Sustainability (PLUS) which helps countries develop more sustainable, equitable, healthy, and prosperous cities. In the same vein, the State Department recently named a new Special Representative for City and State Diplomacy to strengthen subnational collaboration, share best practices, and promote sustainable cities.

To conclude, I would like to thank ESCAP for hosting this Forum and ensuring that inputs from the region are considered at the SDG Summit in September.

I look forward to chatting with you, and please reach out to our U.S. embassies and USAID missions in your countries to deepen collaboration as we strive to achieve, *together*, the SDGs.

Thank you!