

# UN ESCAP Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development Ministerial 27/3/23:

## European Union presentation

### Agenda Item 2

Under-Secretaries General of the UN, Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

The EU recognises the global importance of the Asia-Pacific. We are bound together politically, economically and in security terms.

In 2021 the EU adopted its Strategy for Cooperation with the Indo-Pacific. This Strategy is inclusive, seeking to develop further cooperation with all countries based on democratic principles, respect for human Rights, good governance and sustainability.

The EU wishes to strengthen its partnerships across Asia; for example, for S.E. Asia, we were pleased to host recently the first ever EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in Brussels.

The EU continues its trade agenda in the region with negotiations on an FTA to be resumed with Thailand later this year, joining ongoing negotiations with Australia and Indonesia.

The EU Global Gateway is a new way of combining the strengths of the EU and its Member States, with those of the financial institutions and the private sector, to help partner countries with their infrastructural investments in a sustainable way economically, environmentally and politically. Let us work together.

The EU Green Deal encourages sustainable production and consumption; with partner countries across Asia we want to build Green Alliances and Partnerships against Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss.

I wish to highlight 3 key programmes:

First, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy: helping 120 cities across Asia to improve their local Climate Actions under their National Contributions:

Second, Switch Asia: supporting sustainable production and consumption, helping 80,000 SMEs across 41 countries in Asia:

Third, the Global Spotlight Initiative with the UN: supporting the ending of violence against Women and Girls; with the EU €500m and working with many UN Agencies, there is greater awareness of the problem, there is more action across countries and there are an estimated 21m fewer women and girls affected by Gender Based Violence:

EU response to COVID19: the EU and its Member States have allocated €54 billion to help 140 countries globally; we have been a leading donor to COVAX and have sent 1.4 billion vaccine doses globally; in S.E. Asia we have given €20m to the WHO to support health care systems.

This EU engagement is not new: EU Solidarity with countries around the world, including in the Asia-Pacific, can be seen by the fact that:

- The EU and its Member States give around half of all global ODA:
- that the EU is the leading donor of humanitarian assistance:
- That the EU gives around 30% of Climate finance globally:

All this shows that the European Union remains committed to the SDGs globally and here in the Asia-Pacific.

Thank you for your attention.