



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Declaration

We are businesses of Asia and the Pacific creating infrastructure, technology, logistics, goods and services to improve people's lives and to create a more sustainable and inclusive future,

We are committed to achieving the global goals agreed by world leaders in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement,

We are dedicated to working in partnership with businesses, governments and communities to achieve development that is sustainable,

We welcome the recognition by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) that the world must move "into emergency mode" to address the urgent challenge of climate change, and we urge Governments to create clear and predictable policy frameworks that foster green innovation and transformation to net zero carbon emissions,

We will continue to align our business strategies with environmental, social and governance principles,

Our Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business can change the world, just as earlier industrial revolutions changed the world, by enabling new business models that create new and sustainable employment,

We urge our partners to join us in leading green transformation to secure our future:

- **Green energy:** advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system
- **Green infrastructure and logistics:** building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, buildings and other infrastructure, designed for walkability and low carbon mobility

- **Green finance:** mobilizing public and private investment for green transformation in energy, infrastructure and logistics and other sustainable innovation for the new economy
- **Green innovation:** accelerating and scaling up new technologies and applications to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce environmental impact from the way we live, work, commute, trade and conduct business
- **Green production, consumption and waste:** changing towards a more circular economy with new business and employment opportunities, to minimize environmental impact

Pledge your support for this Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Declaration:

www.asiapacificgreendeal.org

An initiative of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, which advocates for business leadership in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advises the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Further background: Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

- The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) recognizes climate change as an urgent global and regional challenge to address in partnership with businesses, governments and communities.
- We welcome the international commitments to address sustainability and climate change including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact. This pact recognized it is time to go “into emergency mode”, to take actions including ending fossil fuel subsidies, phasing out coal, putting a price on carbon, halting and reversing deforestation, protecting vulnerable communities, and delivering on the \$100 billion climate finance commitment.¹ The COP 26 outcome statement firms up the global agreement to accelerate collaboration among all stakeholders on climate goals. We all have a responsibility to do more to jointly secure carbon neutrality.

¹ Secretary-General [António Guterres](https://www.un.org/en/secretary-general), in a video statement released at the close of the two-week COP 26 meeting.

- ESCAP Sustainable Business Network stands united in advocating business action and innovation to transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable new economy. We are committed to sharing best practices in the private sector and related policies and measures and to working in partnership with all stakeholders, including governments and communities.
- We have formulated the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business to demonstrate our conviction that businesses must take a leading role in the green transformation of our region, for the good and commitment of the world. In the Asia-Pacific region, we are committed to balancing our development aspirations with our responsibility to protect the Earth. The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business is all about harnessing transformational opportunities of a new green economy. It is more than building back better, it is about building back stronger and smarter.
- The new green economy will generate new technologies and industries enhancing resource efficiency and phasing out polluting industries, including greenhouse gas emissions. The new green economy will create sustainable, quality jobs for a just transition. It will focus on sustainable economic development and replace outmoded forms of economic development that depleted natural resources and degraded our natural environment.
- We, the members of ESBN, call on Asia-Pacific businesses to pledge support for the United Nations Global Compact and environmental, social and governance principles.
- With these aspirations, we seek clarity and policy predictability to move forward as a region towards renewable energy, sustainable transport, green cities, water supply and sustainable food production, so as to generate less waste, improve resilience to climate change and disasters and strengthen our commitment to environmental protection. This must be our shared mission. We need regional cooperation, rules, norms and standards, aligned with multilateral cooperation, to drive the change to green finance, green tech, green materials, green logistics and green waste. This must be our shared action plan. We need a business environment that fosters research, development and innovation to create integrated solutions from the low cost, more efficient, clean, green and safe industries for the next decade. This must be our shared innovation culture.
- We, the members of ESBN, have identified five business actions to pursue the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. We will advocate for these actions to businesses across our region, in the lead up to and beyond the launch of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business at our premier regional business event, the Asia-Pacific Business Forum. We will actively support local actions and initiatives across the region through our task forces, to implement the spirit of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. We will implement green values in how we

communicate and engage with partners and support green research, education and innovation to share the latest best practices and knowledge for practical implementation of the new green economy:

1. **Advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system.** The energy system must be decarbonized in accordance with the commitments of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while providing reliable and affordable access to zero carbon energy for all.
 2. **Building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, infrastructure and mobility.** Greenhouse gas emissions from construction and operations of urban infrastructure and its activities, including buildings and transport infrastructure, must be reduced further, while water security and resilience to future crises are strengthened.
 3. **Mobilizing public and private finance for green transformation.** New investment must be directed to sustainable energy, infrastructure, logistics, food production, water supply and other innovations for the new green economy.
 4. **Accelerating and scaling up innovations for sustainable development.** Now is the time to implement new business models and solutions to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce environmental impact from the way we produce, consume, transport, work, trade and conduct business.
 5. **Changing towards a more circular economy.** New circular production and consumption practices will bring new business and employment opportunities, to maximize resource efficiency and minimize environmental impacts.
- We, the members of ESBN, are committed to taking these practical steps to live up to our potential, and to substantively answer this century's great challenge. This Declaration is our call for businesses across Asia and the Pacific to take a leadership role on climate actions.

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ESCAP Sustainable Business Network



Asia-Pacific Business Forum

Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) 2022

Towards an Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

United Nations ESCAP Bangkok

26 August 2022

Overview and objectives:

With less than ten years left to deliver on the 2030 agenda, efforts are underway to mobilize action by governments, businesses, civil society and people on the sustainable development goals (SDGs). While much progress has been made, overall, the world is not on track to meet the 2030 sustainable development goals. Research by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), shows that the Asia-Pacific region is not on track to achieve any of the 17 SDGs by 2030. Moreover, over half the SDGs' progress has either stagnated or is heading in the wrong direction. While the region has made some progress in ending poverty (SDG1), access to education (SDG4) and clean energy (SDG7), the advances are too slow for these goals to be met by 2030. The situation has been further exacerbated by the Covid19 pandemic and the resulting economic slowdown, which in some cases threatens to erode some of the progress made in recent years.

Achieving the SDGs by 2030 will require coordinated action by public and private sector actors and civil society. Recognizing the critical role of the private sector in advocating and scaling up business action in support of the SDGs, the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) has been promoting business action and innovation to transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable new economy. More recently, ESBN has formulated the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business declaration to demonstrate that businesses must take a leading role in the green transformation of the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business is about harnessing transformational opportunities of a new green economy. It is more than building back better, it is about building back stronger and smarter. Through the Green Deal for Business, five priority business actions have been identified, and ESBN through its taskforces will advocate for these actions to businesses across the region by actively supporting initiatives, to implement the spirit of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business.

Against this backdrop, the Asia-Pacific Business Forum will discuss the rollout of the Green Deal for Business and its five priority action areas:

1. Advancing a zero carbon, affordable and resilient energy system. The energy system must be decarbonized in accordance with the commitments of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while providing reliable and affordable access to zero carbon energy for all.
2. Building smart, low carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, infrastructure and mobility. Greenhouse gas emissions from construction and operations of urban infrastructure and its activities, including buildings and transport infrastructure, must be reduced further, while water security and resilience to future crises are strengthened.
3. Mobilizing public and private finance for green transformation. New investment must be directed to sustainable energy, infrastructure, logistics, food production, water supply and other innovations for the new green economy.
4. Accelerating and scaling up innovations for sustainable development. Now is the time to implement new business models and solutions to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce environmental impact from the way we produce, consume, transport, work, trade and conduct business.
5. Changing towards a more circular economy. New circular production and consumption practices will bring new business and employment opportunities, to maximize resource efficiency and minimize environmental impacts.

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum has been held annually since 2004. APBF 2022 will be held in a hybrid format on 26 August 2022 in cooperation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN). The Forum will invite stakeholders, from governments, businesses, civil society and academics from all over the region to foster dialogue and identify innovative solutions and recommendations to advance the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business in the region.

10th ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) Meeting	
13:00-13:05	Welcome and opening remarks <i>Dr. George Lam</i> , Chair, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and President, Hong Kong-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Foundation
13:05-13:20	Updates on the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business Speaker: <i>David Morris</i> , ESBN Green Economy Task Force
13:20-13:50	Major activities of the ESBN in 2021/2022 Major activities and achievements of the Taskforces 2021/2022 - Green Economy - Digital Economy - Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction - Sustainable and Inclusive Finance

	- Youth & Women Entrepreneurship
13:50-14:00	Other Matters, next steps and closing <i>Dr. George Lam</i> , Chair, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and President, Hong Kong-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Foundation
<p>ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM 2022 “Towards an Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business” Hybrid 26 August 2022, 14:00-17:00 hours (UTC+7)</p> <p>TENTATIVE PROGRAMME</p>	
14:00-14:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome Statement by <i>Dr. George Lam</i>, Chair, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and President, Hong Kong-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Foundation Opening Address by <i>Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana</i>, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p>Inaugural address: <i>Arkhom Termittayapaisith</i>, Minister of Finance, Royal Government of Thailand (TBC)</p>
14:30-15:15	<p>Roundtable: Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business: Aligning business action and innovation in support of sustainable development.</p> <p>With less than ten years to go to deliver on the 2030 goals, there is a need to scale up ambition and action in support of the SDGs. The private sector has an important role to play by taking a leadership role in the green transformation of the region. Through advocating business action and innovation to transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable new economy, businesses in the region can raise awareness and accelerate action in support of sustainable development.</p> <p>This session will discuss how businesses across Asia and the Pacific can take a leadership role in the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Barbara Meynert</i>, Senior Advisor, Fung Group (TBC)</p> <p>Keynote speakers</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>John W.H. Denton</i>, Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce (TBC): how to translate the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business into an action agenda for the ICC • <i>Supachai Chearavanont</i>, President of UN Global Compact Network Association Thailand (TBC): the role of the Global Compact in implementing the Green Deal for Business • <i>David Morris</i>, ESNB Green Economy Task Force: on how the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network can realign its task forces to implement the Green Deal for Business <p>Discussion</p>
15:15-16:05	<p>Roundtable: Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business: Priority Action Areas for Business</p> <p>The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business proposes five priority areas for action by businesses in support of the sustainable development goals and to transition businesses in the region to a greener, resilient low carbon pathway. This roundtable will focus on the priority action areas and showcase initiatives from across the ESNB members and beyond that are already delivering impact in these priority areas</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Kaveh Zahedi</i>, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing a zero-carbon, affordable and resilient energy system <i>Mr. Hendrik Rosenthal</i>, Sustainability Director of CLP, Hong Kong, China (TBC) • Building smart, low-carbon, water-secure and climate-resilient cities, infrastructure and mobility <i>Thailand-BTS (TBC)</i> <i>Australia: Worley (TBC)</i> • Mobilizing public and private finance for green transformation <i>Mr. George Yuen</i>, ICBC (Asia), Hong Kong, China • Accelerating and scaling up innovations for sustainable development <i>Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy</i>, Founder, Infosys, India • Changing towards a more circular economy <i>Singapore-Nestle (TBC)</i>
16:05-16:50	<p>ESG for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise</p> <p>SMEs are increasingly looking at ESG principles and sustainability reporting to improve their competitiveness and to attract investments and capital. As corporations move to decarbonize supply chains, SMEs are increasingly being called upon to provide ESG data on their operations. SMEs that track and report on sustainability metrics have a competitive edge. At the same time, investors around the globe are increasingly looking at directing their investments into companies that track and report their sustainability metrics.</p>

	<p>This session will look at how SMEs can focus on ESG principles to improve their competitiveness.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Tientip Subhanij</i>, Chief of Investment and Enterprise Development, ESCAP</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Professor Louis Cheng</i> – Dr. S H Ho Professor of Banking and Finance; Director of the Research Centre for ESG; The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (<i>TBC</i>)• <i>Gabriel Tan</i>, CEO, Guava Amenities Pte.Ltd, Singapore (<i>TBC</i>)• <i>Admen Hassan</i>, Head, SME Academy, Center for Entrepreneur Development and Research (CEDAR) (<i>TBC</i>)
16:50-17:00	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Conclusions and Closing statements by:</p> <p><i>Dr. George Lam</i>, Chair, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and President, Hong Kong-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Foundation</p> <p><i>Rupa Chanda</i>, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p>