

2019 ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

Issued in New York, USA on 23 September 2019

1. **ASEAN** welcomes the convening of the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 in New York on 23 September 2019 and commends the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his leadership in addressing the climate change issue. The summit supports the work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in enhancing global response to climate change, by generating political momentum on climate action in order to achieve the objective and principles of the Convention and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.
2. ASEAN attaches great importance to tackling climate change. Since most of our population lives along low-lying coasts and river plains, ASEAN is highly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change. The increased impacts of climate change have threatened the region's economic and social progress. In this regard, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) have strived to strengthen our resilience by implementing both climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.
3. Because of our first-hand experience with the impacts of climate change, ASEAN is committed to be actively involved in global climate action at various levels as follows:

At the global level:

- ASEAN strongly supports global efforts to address climate change under the UNFCCC. All AMS have ratified the Paris Agreement and communicated their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

At the regional level:

- ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025

ASEAN has been implementing strategic measures under the ASCC Blueprint 2025 in order to move ASEAN towards “Sustainable Climate” with the aim to realize a resilient community. Among the key strategic measures include: (a) strengthening the efforts of government, private sector and community in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from main activities of development; (b) facilitating the development of comprehensive and coherent responses to climate change challenges; and (c) mainstreaming climate change risk management and greenhouse gas emission reduction in sectoral planning.

- Key ASEAN targets include

i. Energy transition:

- ASEAN has exceeded its energy efficiency target, reducing energy intensity by more than 21.9% compared to 2005 levels, well ahead of its 2020 target.
- ASEAN will continue to work towards the region's long-term target to reduce energy intensity by 30% by 2025.
- Additionally, ASEAN also set a target to increase the component of renewable energy mix by 23% by 2025.

- ii. Land transport:
 - ASEAN aims to reduce the average fuel consumption per 100 km of new light-duty vehicles sold in ASEAN by 26% between 2015 and 2025.
 - ASEAN will also (a) introduce and strengthen fiscal policy measures based on fuel economy or on CO₂ emissions at national level where applicable to incentivize consumers to purchase efficient vehicles; and (b) promote the adoption of national fuel consumption standards for light-duty vehicles in all markets, striving towards a regional standard in the long term.
4. ASEAN stresses the direct linkage between the means of implementation and the level of action. Adequate capacity-building, transfer of technology and financial support for developing countries are crucial and shall be aligned with national needs and priorities, and foster country ownership. ASEAN is of the view that the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 should be an opportunity for developed countries to deliver on their financial commitments to developing countries especially in providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020. ASEAN also hopes to see strong political signals from developed countries to demonstrate their collective commitment to scaleup climate finance that is secure, predictable and sustainable in the post-2020 context.
5. ASEAN welcomes the findings of the previous Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports and the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels that warned us that we have less time to avoid potentially irreversible climate disruption. ASEAN is of the view that no one country can fight climate change alone, and partnership is vital. ASEAN has enhanced both regional and international cooperation to address climate change, including through the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change as well as the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action (SAMCA) and Expanded SAMCA convened in July 2018.
6. ASEAN stands ready to advance our partnership with the global community on climate action to ensure sustainability for present and future generations.