

2021 ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO THE 26TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Adopted on 26 October 2021

1. **WE**, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of ASEAN, on the occasion of the 38th ASEAN Summit;
2. **RECALLING** previous ASEAN Joint Statements on Climate Change and ASEAN Leaders' Statements on Climate Change to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and United Nations Climate Action Summit;
3. **NOTING** that ASEAN Member States (AMS) have reaffirmed our commitments to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, by upholding the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances, by:
 - a. Communicating respective nationally determined contributions (NDCs), that reflect the highest possible ambition, with a view to facilitating the clarity, transparency and understanding of these contributions in line with respective UNFCCC decisions;
 - b. Strengthening ASEAN's capabilities to prevent, mitigate, and manage climate-related disasters through existing mechanisms under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the 'One ASEAN One Response' Declaration and the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Adaptation to Drought, and continuously mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the implementation of AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, including into the Phase 2 Plan of Action of the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (ADRFI), and advancing the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF);
 - c. Promoting sustainable management of forests, including through the implementation of UNFCCC decisions on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-Plus) under the guidance of the Warsaw Framework, as well as enhancing biodiversity conservation, protection, and restoration of various terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, and welcoming the launching of ASEAN Green Initiative by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity;
 - d. Continuing to achieve substantial progress of the energy efficiency programme in which ASEAN surpassed its aspirational target by achieving 21 percent of energy intensity reduction and 13.9 percent renewable energy share in the ASEAN total primary energy supply in 2018, and welcoming the new ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025: Phase II (2021-2025) outlining updated regional targets, towards low GHG emissions through energy transition in ASEAN;

- e. Welcoming cross-ASEAN pillar cooperation, amongst others, the development of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance (ASEAN Taxonomy) and other relevant work areas in the Joint Statement of the 7th ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM);
- f. Acknowledging Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN 2021 Chairmanship Initiatives of establishing the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam and involving youth in climate change dialogues which takes form in the ASEAN Youth on the Climate Action (ASEANyouCAN);

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4. **EXPRESS** our concern about the continuing rise in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in view of the findings and caution by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), through IPCC Assessment Reports (ARs), the IPCC Working Group 1 contribution to the IPCC 6th AR entitled Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the IPCC Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate and the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land; and by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) through the State of the Global Climate 2020 and the Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2021-2025.
5. **ALSO EXPRESS** our serious concerns about the spread and severity of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) that has imposed devastating impacts since it was declared as a pandemic on 11 March 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO). We recognise the loss and suffering caused by the pandemic, and extremely concerned with the socio-economic impacts, in particular on vulnerable groups.
6. **RECALL** that Parties aim to reach global peaking of GHG emissions as soon as possible, recognising that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties. in accordance with Article 4.1 of Paris Agreement.
7. **RECOGNIZE** the potential contribution by developing countries in the form of emissions avoidance, reductions, and carbon stock enhancement, dependent on the support provided by developed countries as guaranteed by the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
8. **ALSO EXPRESS** that the Means of Implementation committed by developed country Parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, such as finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building are key drivers to facilitate AMS and other developing countries to move towards a low GHG emission and climate-resilient pathway.
9. **FURTHER EXPRESS** our grave concern about the continuing increase in the losses and damages experienced disproportionately by developing countries including AMS due to intensifying climate-related extreme weather and slow onset events.
10. **RECOGNIZE** that climate change has potential negative impact to basic needs for human life such as food, water, energy, clean and green environment, and health including the supporting ecosystem, and that vulnerable groups, including women, children, older people, people with disabilities and low-income people are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change.

11. We **CALL UPON Parties to the UNFCCC** and its Paris Agreement to:

- a. Enhance and update the ambition of their respective NDCs under the Paris Agreement, in accordance with the principle of equity and CBDR-RC, and implement climate mitigation and adaptation commitments at regional, national and sub-national levels, in advancing low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development;
- b. Enhance their adaptation efforts by implementing, among others, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, focusing on the protection of the livelihoods and health of the vulnerable groups;
- c. Formulate and communicate their long-term low GHG emissions development strategies taking into account the equity and CBDR-RC principles in light of national circumstances, in accordance to Article 4.19, as called for under the Paris Agreement;
- d. Promote an intergenerational approach to climate action that is collaborative across stakeholders, and gender-responsive, taking into consideration vulnerable groups; and
- e. Promote and enhance scientific research on how climate change is affecting the entire Earth system, including the atmosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and their interactions, the sustainable use and protection of natural resources including ocean and marine ecosystems to ensure food and water security.

12. **WELCOME** the Chile-Madrid Time for Action and other decisions adopted by the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP25), the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP15) and the 2nd session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA2), in particular the decisions related to the Katowice Climate Package. **We CALL UPON Parties to the UNFCCC** and its Paris Agreement to:

- a. Expedite the completion of pending negotiation issues in particular on matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; the terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE); methodological issues under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement in particular the development of common reporting tables and the common tabular formats under the Enhanced Transparency Framework; and common time frames for NDCs;
- b. Engage constructively on discussions that allow Parties to address the urgency of climate change matters, in particular related to the Means of Implementation to be provided by developed countries to support the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions by developing countries;
- c. Take steps to implement the enhanced five-year Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan, including through mainstreaming the work plan in their national development plans, as appropriate; and
- d. Engage constructively on the further discussion on the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue to consider how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action.

13. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the NDC synthesis report prepared by the UNFCCC Secretariat for COP26. **WELCOME** Parties that have submitted new and updated NDC in accordance with the guidance on information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDC stipulated under Decision 4/CMA.1 and **ENCOURAGE** Parties that have not done so to communicate or update their NDCs as soon as possible.

14. **UNDERScore** the importance of the assessment and review of Pre-2020 ambition and implementation in order to build trust and confidence in the multilateral process that will provide a firm foundation for enhancing a full, effective, and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement in the post-2020 period. We **CALL UPON developed country Parties** to:
- a. Undertake a clear and comprehensive evaluation and stocktake of the pre-2020 commitments on mitigation and adaptation and finance to understand progress made and to build mutual trust for Post-2020 climate action;
 - b. Fulfil their commitment of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year by 2020 through 2025 to support the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions of developing countries, including AMS;
 - c. Continue and further scale up the mobilization of climate finance ahead of initiating deliberations on the setting up of a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year, which takes into account the needs and priorities of developing countries including AMS; and
 - d. Take the lead by enhancing mitigation ambition including setting net-zero emission targets with concrete policy and implementation recognizing that enhanced support for developing country Parties will allow for higher ambition in their actions.
15. **STRESS** the need to strengthen support for AMS and other developing **countries** to analyse climate risks, formulate and implement adaptation measures. We **CALL UPON developed country Parties**:
- a. To provide enhanced Means of Implementation and support to AMS and other developing countries to formulate and implement their National Adaptation Plans and to prepare and communicate their adaptation communications; and
 - b. To provide adequate and sustainable support to AMS and other developing country Parties to develop their plans related to adaptation and loss and damage, and to take into account the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
16. **EMPHASIZE** that adequate resources and the ability of AMS and other developing countries to access climate finance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF) should be ensured and facilitated. We **CALL UPON**:
- a. The GCF Board to swiftly conclude its work on developing guidelines for the approach and scope for providing support to adaptation activities; and to provide adequate supports to AMS and other developing countries to formulate and implement their National Adaptation Plans and to prepare their adaptation communications, in line with Board decisions on enhancing the GCF readiness program;
 - b. Developed country Parties to strengthen their commitments and to scale-up their contributions by providing adequate and predictable climate finance to the GCF, the GEF and the Adaptation Fund, taking into account the priorities and needs of AMS and other developing countries; and
 - c. Constituted Bodies under the UNFCCC, particularly financial and technology mechanisms and the capacity-building framework, to support Parties in implementing mitigation and adaptation actions in a coherent and concrete manner, including through considering the use of green finance to promote the mobilization of financial support.

17. **URGE** developed country Parties to enhance international cooperation and assistance, on the provision of timely, effective, adequate and predictable support to AMS and other developing countries for financing, the development and transfer of environmentally sound technology, scientific research, and capacity building, for mitigation and adaptation measures, as stipulated under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. We **CALL UPON** developed country Parties to:

- a. Support the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), by providing adequate and sustainable funding, to facilitate developing country Parties' efforts to enhance their national transparency framework;
- b. Support developing countries to update, plan and implement their NDCs through development of tools and long-term modelling of GHG emissions, climate change and hydrodynamics, in order to facilitate the planning of long-term low GHG emission development strategies, assessment of implementation of NDCs, and the implementation and promotion of the necessary adaptation plans;
- c. Support international and regional cooperation for research on the ocean and cryosphere-climate nexus; and the land, , coastal and marine ecosystems in the context of climate change including the aspect of its impact on biodiversity and vulnerable groups; and
- d. Scale up and shift investments towards sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure, including renewable energy and alternative technologies such as low-carbon hydrogen.

18. **RECOGNIZE** that climate change and air pollution issues are closely linked, in particular because short-lived climate forcers directly contribute to both adverse climate change and air pollution impacts to human health and to agriculture; many major sources of air pollution are also major sources of GHGs. We **CALL UPON**:

- a. Parties to consider enhancing climate change mitigation ambition by integrating mitigation and air quality planning into their action plans and scaling-up action to address short-lived climate forcers;
- b. Parties to consider the updated methodology of the IPCC in estimating GHGs and removals and supporting the IPCC decision to develop globally applicable and internationally agreed methodological guidance for emission inventories of short-lived climate forcers; and
- c. International organizations, development agencies, funding and financial institutions, multilateral development banks, businesses and civil society to support AMS in implementing these efforts.

19. **CALL UPON** all Parties, in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, to align economic recovery plans and stimulus packages with the goals of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. **URGE** developed country Parties to intensify their efforts in providing financial, technological, and capacity support to AMS and other developing countries, in fighting both the COVID-19 and climate change crisis in a coordinated, strategic, and long-term sustainable manner.

ACKNOWLEDGE the importance of building back greener while preserving harmonious coexistence between people and nature, and **WELCOME** the ASEAN Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD) and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan that will help ASEAN to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies and disasters, promote green and sustainable growth, and recover and emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

20. We **CALL UPON** Parties to the UNFCCC to consider how to better understand the impact of climate change on oceans, including through the best available science, while respecting the mandate and competencies of other international legal frameworks and processes such as the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Adopted in Brunei Darussalam, the Twenty Sixth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty One.