

2023 ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON DEVELOPING REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE ECOSYSTEM

Adopted in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia on 10 May 2023

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely 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, gathered in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, on the occasion of the 42nd ASEAN Summit, on 10 – 11 May 2023;

RECALLING the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which envisions a resilient, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN Community that contributes to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the region, and the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 which envisages embracing sustainable transport as a new key sectoral focus as it has a vital role to play in the sustainable development of the ASEAN region;

FURTHER RECALLING the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, which under the broad strategy 5 on advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future calls for facilitating the transition to sustainable energy through greater innovation, inclusivity, cooperation, and partnerships to ensure ASEAN's capacity to deploy emerging and inclusive technologies, including those related to electric vehicles;

REAFFIRMING our commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

RECOGNISING the different levels of economic development and the variety of national policies and measures relating to electric vehicles amongst ASEAN Member States;

ACKNOWLEDGING the growing demand of the transportation and automotive sector to support economic growth and the role of electric vehicles in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the decarbonisation agenda, including to integrate electric vehicles with bioenergy for transport to help accelerate energy transition towards achieving Net Zero Emission in each ASEAN Member States and in the region, as well as the role of critical minerals as raw materials supplying the production of these technologies;

REITERATING our commitments to intensifying collective efforts to improve the air and water quality within the ASEAN region through creating regional initiatives to reduce pollution from transportation and to pursue cross-sectoral collaboration in accelerating the development of cleaner, greener, low-carbon, and more sustainable transport fuels and vehicles in innovative approaches by increasing the electric mobility capabilities in the region;

NOTING that various ASEAN initiatives have called for greater support towards sustainable transport and energy transition, including the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan 2016–2025, the ASEAN Fuel Economy Roadmap for the Transport Sector 2018–2025, the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016–2025 Phase II, the ASEAN Regional Strategy for Sustainable Land Transport, the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP-III) Phase 2: 2021-2025, and The Implementation Plan for The Framework of Circular Economy for ASEAN Economic Community 2023-2030;

EMPHASISING the importance of establishing effective supporting policies and regulatory framework that encourages the adoption and use of electric vehicles as well as develop competitive electric vehicle industries to contribute to regional socioeconomic development;

REALISING the immense opportunity that global supply chain development offers to ASEAN Member States in developing a regional supply chain of regional electric vehicle ecosystem through investment diversification, the importance of promoting sustainable investment to create an ecosystem and value chain for electric vehicles, as well as the need to expand the policy space of ASEAN Member States in harnessing their respective comparative advantage in various stages of the electric vehicle industry;

HIGHLIGHTING Indonesia's 2023 Chairmanship's theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth", which underscores ASEAN's commitment to ensuring that ASEAN remains resilient, effective, and responsive to future regional and global challenges, as well as redoubling efforts to strengthen ASEAN's capability as the center of economic growth in the world.

HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **AFFIRM** the significant role of electric vehicle adoption as part of ASEAN's efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, accelerating energy transition, decarbonising the land transport sector in the region, achieving net-zero emission targets, and improving energy security in each ASEAN Member States and in the region.
2. **COMMIT** to develop a regional electric vehicle ecosystem involving all ASEAN Member States that supports the adoption of electric vehicles and the improvement of the electric vehicles industry in ASEAN Member States, and build ASEAN as a global production hub for the electric vehicles industry to support sustainable economic growth in the region take into account ASEAN Member States' policy space in utilising their comparative advantage.
3. **ENCOURAGE** the harmonisation of regional standards for the electric vehicle ecosystem as well as training and certification based on international standards, including but not limited to technology, safety standards including protection of fire risk, product specifications, infrastructure, charging stations including battery swapping, batteries electricity distribution, end-of-life disposal among others, to strengthen the regional value chain for the electric vehicle industry, to enhance trade facilitation, as well as to ensure interoperability and seamless cross-border mobility.
4. **AGREE** on exploring cooperation and collaboration on the development of the electric vehicle ecosystem, such as: improving infrastructures and charging stations; creating an enabling business environment and investment climate to attract investment, including public-private partnership; optimising the production and use of sustainable materials and resources to achieve higher value creation of the electric vehicle supply chain in the region; enhancing the participation of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); collaborating on research and development activities and human capital development; promoting investment opportunities and raising public awareness; properly managing environmental impacts; strengthening regional energy security; promoting the use of renewable energy in the mobility sector; gradual phasing-out conventional internal combustion engine into Zero Emission Vehicle including Electric Vehicle; and addressing the financing agenda to support the development of the electric vehicle ecosystem in the region.
5. **PROMOTE** cooperation and partnerships with ASEAN's external partners through various ASEAN-led mechanisms, international organisations, and engagement with the private sectors and people to advance the regional electric vehicle ecosystem in the region.

6. **TASK** the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council to oversee the overall implementation of this Declaration, provide guidance in formulating a comprehensive regional strategy, and identify the relevant lead sectoral body to coordinate the development of the regional electric vehicle ecosystem agenda.

Adopted on this Tenth Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in a single original copy in the English language.