

# 2023 JOINT DECLARATION OF THE 41ST ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECURITY THROUGH INTERCONNECTIVITY

*Adopted in Bali, Indonesia on 24 August 2023*

The Forty-First ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) gathered in Bali, Indonesia on 24 August 2023.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the energy security and resiliency challenges faced by the region amidst global supply constraints, global geopolitical tensions, and the requirement for economic recovery;

**GUIDED** by the purposes and principles in the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, and the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016 – 2025;

**HIGHLIGHTING** Indonesia's 2023 Chairmanship's theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth", which underscores ASEAN's commitment to ensure that ASEAN remains resilient, effective, and responsive to future regional and global challenges, while at the same time exerting efforts to strengthen ASEAN's capability as the center of economic growth in the region, in which energy security is paramount;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision which encouraged the advancement of a visionary, inspirational, robust, comprehensive, inclusive, and forward-looking vision to address current and future challenges and trends inside and beyond the region within a 20-year timeframe;

**RECOGNIZING** the crucial role of ASEAN energy interconnectivity in pursuing the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 7 (SDG 7), including enhancing international cooperation to expand infrastructure and upgrade the technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all;

**COGNISANT** that energy interconnectivity and market integration in ASEAN are key enablers for ASEAN energy cooperation to address energy security challenges and accelerate just and inclusive energy transition in the region, especially to ensure the resiliency and stability of the power grid and energy supply chains;

**FURTHER PROGRESSING** the Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration of the 39th AMEM on Energy Security and Energy Transition to take concrete actions to develop robust policies and measures, and strengthen national, bilateral and multilateral energy programmes and projects that enhance energy resilience and improve energy security which form the foundation of an inclusive and just energy transition while taking into consideration respective national circumstances, capabilities, and priorities;

**NOTING** the progress and advancements in the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), especially on the 'Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project' (LTMS-PIP), which has been a monumental achievement in advancing the APG, as well as the various bilateral interconnections making some cross-border power transfer possible for eight (8) AMS;

**EMPHASISING** the importance of the continuing role of natural gas in a well-balanced and just energy transition, including the need to enhance the connectivity and accessibility of gas and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplies for the region to tap on its indigenous energy resources and implement measures to ensure gas supply resiliency, through the implementation of the Trans ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP), complemented by initiatives to expand the region's LNG infrastructure including regasification terminals, LNG bunkering and small-scale LNG distribution networks;

**UNDERSCORING** the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding for the ASEAN Power Grid (APG MOU), the Memorandum of Understanding for the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP MOU), and the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) and the continuation of existing mechanisms of cooperation in regional connectivity and emergency response;

**RECOGNIZING** that multilateral energy trading and a more resilient and integrated supply chain within the region would significantly increase the utilization of renewable energy sources and enhance efficiency and conservation;

**RECALLING** the findings and recommendations of the ASEAN Interconnection Master Plan Study III (AIMS III) and the Gas Advocacy White Paper, which have shown the feasibility and potential of energy interconnection in the region;

**REAFFIRMING** our shared commitment and collective responsibility in ensuring sustainable energy security in the region through interconnectivity.

**DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. **Enhance** energy interconnectivity, among others through the expanded implementation of APG and TAGP, by building on the success of existing interconnection projects, to achieve sustainable energy security;
2. **Accelerate** energy transition in accordance with respective national and regional circumstances and capabilities towards just and inclusive energy transitions while ensuring energy security, reliability, accessibility, sustainability, resiliency, and affordability;
3. **Intensify** measures to pursue regional aspirational targets as agreed in the APAEC, by expanding regional and multilateral electricity trading, strengthening grid resiliency and modernization, increasing utilization of renewable energy, deploying other advanced, cleaner, and low-carbon energy technologies, and enhancing energy efficiency and conservation cooperation for power systems and end-users;
4. **Pursue** aspirational regional target for interconnection of AMS through APG and TAGP, including LNG infrastructure, towards 2045, in line with the 20-year timeframe of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision;
5. **Support** the extension and renewal of the APG MOU, TAGP MOU, and APSA, or their successor agreements;
6. **Encourage** the development of detailed studies to support the realization of ASEAN energy interconnectivity, such as feasibility studies on specific power integration projects, including in-land transmission and sub-sea cables, and the update of the TAGP Master Plan;

7. **Welcome** the initiative to pursue the establishment of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines Power Integration Project (BIMP-PIP), as a potential multilateral power trading project under the APG, in addition to the LTMS-PIP, and call for more AMS to initiate new multilateral power trading projects and bridge the gap by connecting the north, south, and east sub-regions based on the recommendations under AIMS III;
8. **Encourage** the possibility of establishing sustainable regional supply chains for solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, bioenergy, waste-to-energy, marine renewable energy, and energy storage systems to accelerate the energy transition in the region;
9. **Further** enhance cross-pillar cooperation under the ASEAN Community, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, International Organisations, as well as external partners, to address challenges in pursuing energy interconnectivity to support ASEAN's longterm energy security, while ensuring energy resilience and accessibility, and a just and inclusive energy transition agenda;
10. **Deepen** cooperation with the private sector, international financial institutions and donors, as well as standards-setting bodies, to facilitate and support the deployment and financing of innovative energy technologies in fostering energy interconnectivity;
11. **Emphasize** the importance of addressing ASEAN long-term energy security and interconnectivity in the development of the APAEC 2026–2035 and ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision;
12. **Task** the ASEAN Senior Officials on Energy, in close consultation with the Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities and the ASEAN Council on Petroleum, to take coordinated action to implement this Declaration.

**ADOPTED** in Bali, Indonesia, on this Day of August Twenty Fourth in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.