

2024 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE 14TH ASEAN-UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT

Adopted in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 11 October 2024

1. The 14th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was held on 11 October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and attended by the ASEAN Member States, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, as well as the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as Observer. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.
2. We reiterated our support for the Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience," which aims to ensure ASEAN collective efforts in the strengthening of the ASEAN Community to seize opportunities as well as address present and emerging challenges effectively.
3. We underlined the significance of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership towards ASEAN Community-building efforts as well as in our collective efforts in addressing global and regional concerns, while pursuing shared goals and promoting peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. We reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to upholding multilateralism, the rule of law, and a rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law with ASEAN at the centre in responding to increasingly complex global challenges. We welcomed the outcomes of the Summit of the Future in September 2024 and looked forward to the forthcoming COP29 in November 2024 as multilateral platforms led by the UN to address pressing global issues with deep interlinkages to the work of regional organisations. The UN Secretary-General welcomed the progress made in the development of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plans, which are expected to be adopted in 2025. The UN Secretary-General appreciated ASEAN's partnership with the UN and its commitment to international peace and security, multilateralism, and regional cooperation. The UN Secretary-General encouraged ASEAN to help operationalize the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, including the Pact for the Future that includes a Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.
4. We also reiterated our commitment to further strengthening our Comprehensive Partnership by ensuring the effective implementation of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action (2021-2025). In this spirit, we noted with satisfaction that significant progress has been made in the fourth year of the implementation of our Plan of Action (2021-2025). We shared the significance of refocusing our strategies on key issues as well as ensuring the visibility and long-term impact of programmes implemented to realise our Plan of Action. We also looked forward to working together in promoting ASEAN regional work in international fora, including relevant UN bodies/platforms, as well as through ASEAN's existing mechanisms/processes. Looking ahead, we looked forward to the development of a successor Plan of Action (2026-2030), which will continue to guide our partnership in the years to come.
5. We noted the importance of collaboration with the UN and ASEAN Centres, including the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to enhance capabilities on disaster management and emergency response especially in light of climate change and increasing natural disasters, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) for coordination with regional and international organisations in the conservation of ecosystems and the sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as the UNESCAP, UNEP, UN Women, and UNOPS to collaborate with ASEAN Centre of Energy (ACE) to promote regional interconnectivity, multilateral power trade, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and gender responsive climate change policies. The UN looked forward to cooperating with ASEAN on the operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre on Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam and the ASEAN Coordinating Center

for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCHAZ) in Malaysia, including by providing global comparative lessons and technical support and building on the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (ARF-PGI) jointly developed by ASEAN and UN Women. ASEAN also encouraged the UN to continue extending support for Timor-Leste's capacity-building programmes in the country's efforts to become a full member of ASEAN.

6. We were pleased with the advancement in our cooperation in health, including through: (i) the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2021-2025); (ii) the collaboration between ASEAN Health Clusters and the World Health Organization (WHO) in promoting healthy lifestyles and responding to all hazards and emerging threats; (iii) the ASEAN Strategic Framework to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance through One Health Approach (ASF-AMR) (2019-2030) in cooperation with FAO, UNEP, WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH); and (iv) the Revised ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy in cooperation with WOA and WHO; and (v) a series of ASEAN-OSHNET events to protect and promote workers' safety, health and welfare, addressing traditional and emerging risk factors to physical and mental health. We looked forward to further cooperation in the operationalisation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health (OH) Initiatives, following its adoption last year, with the support of Quadripartite Collaboration (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) and ASEAN-UN partnership in supporting the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED).
7. We welcomed the Policy Brief on "Enhancing Gender-Responsive Approach in ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), developed collaboratively by the ASEAN Secretariat and the UN Women last year as pathways to integrate a gender-mainstreamed approach in ASEAN's initiatives across various dimensions.
8. The UN Secretary-General appreciated ASEAN's contribution of 5,052 military and police peacekeeping personnel from the ASEAN Member States, including through the provision of a growing number of women peacekeepers, which have been deployed in 10 UN peacekeeping operations worldwide. We commended the efforts of ASEAN Member States to promote a more meaningful participation and leadership of women in peacekeeping operations, including Cambodia's launch of the report on Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operation, in July 2024, supported by the UN Elsie Initiative Fund and UN Women. We also commended the strengthened collaboration through the Triangular Partnership Programme on peacekeeping engineering training for troop-contributing countries in the region as well as expert inputs at the 8th ASEAN Regional Forum Peacekeeping Experts Meeting in June 2024. We welcomed continued support from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in strengthening the humanitarian civil-military coordination in the region. We also noted that the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and UNDP were invited to the 2nd High-Level Regional Dialogue on Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation Capacity in Mine/Explosive Remnants of War Action in ASEAN, organised by the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) and China in Nanjing, in September 2023.
9. We commended our strong cooperation on peace and security issues through continued engagement with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR). We committed to further enhancing cooperation in preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and confidence building, including through collaboration with the ASEAN-IPR. We shared the importance of broadening our collaboration, as manifested by the ASEAN-IPR – UN Track 1.5 Regional Dialogue on Advancing Climate, Peace and Security (CPS) Agenda in ASEAN, held in November 2023, in Jakarta, with the support of DPPA-DPO, UNDP, UNEP, and UN Women.

10. We also looked forward to intensifying youth empowerment in the region, building upon the ASEAN-IPR – UN Workshop on Advancing the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda in ASEAN in December 2022, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, with the support of DPPA-DPO, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women. We looked forward to future efforts to advance YPS in ASEAN, including through the launch of the ASEAN-IPR Study on YPS.
11. We commended the convening of the ASEAN Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Summit: High-Level Dialogue to advance the Implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action (RPA) on WPS, on 5-7 July 2023, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which created momentum for various ASEAN Member States to localise the RPA through the development and implementation of National Action Plans. The UN welcomed ASEAN's efforts in promoting and empowering women's participation and leading roles in conflict prevention, resolution, and recovery in the region, including through the Joint Statement on WPS by the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in November 2023. We commended the ongoing partnership and technical assistance to support the implementation and localisation of the RPA on WPS through the Regional Programme "Empowering women for sustainable peace: preventing violence and promoting social cohesion in ASEAN" (2021-2025). We reaffirmed the need to further implement the priority action areas under ASEAN RPA on WPS.
12. We acknowledged the importance of collaborative efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region including through capacity-building initiatives and sustained engagement between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the UN. We appreciated the support from ESCAP, UNEP, and OHCHR in the development of the draft declaration on the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. We welcomed the convening of the 1st AICHR-UN Human Rights Dialogue in September 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland, and the 5th AICHR-UN Interface in November 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia, respectively.
13. We acknowledged the expanding collaboration on Sustainable Digital Transformation and Universal Meaningful Connectivity, including through the endorsement of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – ASEAN Priority Cooperation Areas document for 2024-2026, in line with the ASEAN Digital Master Plan (ADMP) 2025. We took note of efforts to promote gender mainstreaming in ICTs. We took note also of the importance of Digital Government Infrastructure to promote economic integration in ASEAN. We acknowledged efforts to build capacities in harmonizing the digital policy action areas in ASEAN. We looked forward to the Regional Cyber Drill for Asia and the Pacific Region planned from 19 to 21 November 2024 in Brunei Darussalam to deepen the cyber security capabilities in the ASEAN region.
14. We agreed to deepen our collaboration in the area of border management as well as in combating transnational crime in the region, including terrorism and illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber (ITWT), such as through: (i) the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s briefings at the Open Sessions of the 44th ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and the 6th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on ITWT, held virtually in July 2023 and May 2024, respectively, as well as at the Open Session of the 24th SOMTC held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 26 June 2024; and (ii) the implementation of the cross-sectoral Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) (2019-2025). The UN Secretary-General confirmed the readiness of the UN to provide technical support in response to both traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the region.

15. We were encouraged by our cooperation on labour and labour migration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) through the implementation of the ILO-ASEAN Work Programme (2022-2025), including key activities in the areas of protection and promotion of the rights of workers, including migrant workers, in particular in fishing and care work, social protection, skills development and skills recognition, promotion of inclusive employment, effective labour migration pathways, strengthening labour inspection, employers' education, fair recruitment and realizing a safe and healthy working environment in the region. In the area of labour migration governance, we took note in particular of the ASEAN Declaration on Skills Mobility, Development and Recognition for Migrant Workers, jointly supported by ILO and IOM; the ASEAN Guidelines on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers; and the ASEAN Guidelines on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Workers; as well as of the support to the yearly ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour.
16. We were also encouraged by the deepening of collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through the implementation of initiatives pertaining to labour migration in the Proposed Areas for ASEAN-IOM Collaboration (2022-2025), including the ASEAN Migration Outlook (2nd edition) which was published and launched in September 2024. We also appreciated the collaboration with UN Women through their capacity building support of civil society and women's organisations on the regional policy dialogue on labour migration at the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML).
17. The UN appreciated ASEAN's longstanding commitment to curbing the rate of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths and to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030, through the sustained implementation of the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS: Fast-Tracking and Sustaining HIV and AIDS Responses to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 adopted in 2016, and the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2021-2025); while also updating the ASEAN Health Sector Work Plan on HIV and AIDS (2021-2025) to reflect the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 adopted in 2022. We commended the strong cooperation of ASEAN, WHO, and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in continuing to advance regional efforts to end AIDS by 2030.
18. We remained committed to ensuring rapid action on food security and nutrition in response to crises and strengthening preparedness for long-term resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems. We looked forward to the development and implementation of an Action Plan for the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture and Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices Volumes 1-3. We welcomed the support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the cooperation under the purview of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL), including to reduce the risk of animal health threats to protect people's health, livelihoods, and food security, and towards the implementation of the ASEAN Carbon/GHG Neutrality Strategies for Agriculture. We appreciated the cooperation between ASEAN and UN agencies, including UNICEF, FAO, WFP and WHO, in ending all forms of malnutrition and in the implementation of the multi-sectoral ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Nutrition (2018-2030), which engages stakeholders from health, food and agriculture, education and social welfare and development. We welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Guidelines and Minimum Standards on key nutrition priorities, which reinforced our joint commitment to ending all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

19. We also remained committed to upholding the rights of children in the context of migration and appreciated the joint support of UNICEF, IOM, and UNHCR in accelerating the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration (ASEAN RPA on CCM) through regional dialogues and the development of an e-learning module on case management of children in the context of migration. We looked forward to prioritising the implementation of the RPA at the country-level.
20. We recognised the pivotal role that early childhood care and education (ECCE) plays in building a strong foundation for lifelong learning, socio-economic and sustainable development, and social cohesion. We noted with appreciation the contribution of UNESCO and UNICEF in the formulation of the Vientiane Statement on Equity, Access, and Environment: Advancing Climate Resilience in Early Childhood Settings and looked forward to their continued support in the implementation of the Declaration. We welcomed the pipeline project “Catalyzing Change: ASEAN’s Path to Early Childhood Care and Education Financing” co-developed by the ASEAN Secretariat and UNESCO to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste in expanding quality inclusive early childhood care and education. We noted with appreciation the upcoming ASEAN Forum on Higher Education, in November 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, co-organized by ASEAN and the UN. We reaffirmed our commitment to working with UNICEF and other partners to improve foundational learning. We noted the necessity to promote evidence-based education policies and planning, and expressed our commitment to continue supporting the regional Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM). Given the importance of lifelong learning and against the backdrop of the aging society phenomenon that our region faces, we welcomed the upcoming ASEAN+3 Regional Learning Cities Conference in Bangkok from 29-30 October 2024, co-organised by UNESCO.
21. We noted the adverse impacts brought by climate change and reaffirmed our commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement through the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to UNFCCC COP29 and the ASEAN Joint Statement on Biodiversity to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the UN’s continued collaboration for ASEAN’s vision for a climate-resilient Community, including the Project on Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) in ASEAN Member States along with the Programme on Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia for the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution as well as the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation and the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre. We welcomed the commitment of the ASEAN Negotiating Group for Agriculture (ANGA) to negotiate policies that impact on food security at UNFCCC, and commended its preparation to engage on agriculture and food systems at COP29 and other future COP meetings. We also encouraged collaboration with relevant UN specialised agencies, including the World Meteorological Organisation to further support ASEAN’s efforts in mitigating climate-induced risks. The UN Secretary-General called for strong political commitment and concrete actions by all countries Parties at the upcoming COP29 in November 2024. We welcomed the support offered by UN Women, FAO, and UNEP to ASEAN Member States to develop and implement a joint programme on gender-responsive climate action.

22. We acknowledged that cooperation in disaster risk reduction and management remains our priority as it aims to build a safer and disaster-resilient Community through the implementation of the agreed priorities under the Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2021-2025 (JSPADM IV), which includes the principle of gender and social inclusion as reflected in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2021-2025. We appreciated the UN's continued cooperation in strengthening ASEAN-UN collaboration, including through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to strengthen ASEAN's disaster response capacities, including capacity building to integrate protection, gender, and inclusion with the support of UN Women. We encouraged the UN to further collaborate on building disaster resilience in the region, particularly through the preparation for the JSPADM V as well as on the implementation of ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience.
23. We shared the significance of deepening collaboration between ASEAN and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on key areas of tourism competitiveness, capacity building, and sustainable tourism. We noted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) and UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), outlining priority areas was endorsed at the 27th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting (M-ATM) in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in January 2024.
24. ASEAN Leaders welcomed the support of ESCAP and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) towards implementing the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) and promoting dialogue to advance the sustainability agenda in ASEAN. We noted that various initiatives have been undertaken, including: (i) the ASEAN Side Event at the SDG Summit 2023 – Panel Discussion: “Fostering Partnerships for our Common Future: Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Accelerate the SDGs in ASEAN”, held on 20 September 2023, in New York; and (ii) the annual High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Promoting Complementarities Initiatives (HLBD) organised in collaboration with ESCAP, with the eighth iteration scheduled tentatively from 31 October – 1 November 2024. We looked forward to leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation to broaden partnerships for SDG acceleration in the region.
25. We commended the collaboration between ASEAN and UN Women to build capacity to advance gender mainstreaming across all three ASEAN community pillars, as well as gender data collection and analysis to track progress on the SDGs, including the launch of the second edition of the ASEAN Gender Outlook 2024 to support evidence-based policy and decision-making and to inform the Post-2025 ASEAN Community Vision on 10 September 2024 led by Malaysia, the Chair of ACW, and the global release of the ASEAN Gender Outlook at the side event of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly: Learning from ASEAN: Achieving the SDGs for All and Leaving No Woman or Girl Behind, jointly organised by Thailand and UN Women on 27 September 2024. We looked forward to the 7th ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on SDGs, proposed tentatively to take place in the first quarter of 2025.
26. We remained committed to strengthening social work and the wider social service workforce in the region, including through collaboration between the Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASCW) and UNICEF in convening a regional dialogue on the role of the social service workforce in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. The joint support from UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women has been pivotal in developing the ASEAN Regional Guidance on Empowering Women and Children: Delivering Quality Social Work Services for Those at Risk of or Affected by Violence. We commended the launch of the ASEAN Guidelines for Developing National Standard Operating Procedures for a Coordinated Response to Violence Against Women and Girls, jointly produced by ASEAN and UN Women.

27. We noted the collaboration between ASEAN and UN's relevant agencies, including UNESCO, IOM, UNHCR, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, and UN Women in promoting the development and participation of youth and children in the region. We welcomed: (i) the finalisation of the RPA on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration; (ii) the 2nd ASEAN-ICT Forum on Child Online Protection held in November 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand, and the 2024 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection held in September 2024, in Bali, Indonesia; and (iii) the convening of Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: "ASEAN Regional Dialogue on Young People's Skills, Employability, and Transition to Decent Work," held in October 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia.
28. We commended the strong support of UN Women and UNFPA for the conduct of the ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit and Pre-Summit Events that were held on 21-24 August 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Guided by the theme, "Strengthening Care Economy and Resilience Towards ASEAN Community Post-2025", the Summit is one of the Lao PDR's priority key deliverables during its term as ASEAN Chair, highlighting the strong connection between addressing the care economy, women's economic empowerment, and resilience in the region. We likewise commended UN Women, UNFPA, ESCAP, ILO, and IOM for supporting the development of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Care Economy and Fostering Resilience in ASEAN Community Post-2025.
29. We welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Blue Economy Innovation project under the auspices of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME), with the support of UNDP, as a concrete step to implement the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework.
30. We welcomed our joint efforts in mobilising support for the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) through the implementation of the Siem Reap Declaration on Promoting a Creative and Adaptive ASEAN Community to Support the Cultural and Creative Economy. We looked forward to potential collaboration in the protection of cultural properties as well as between the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Sports (SOMS) and UNESCO in implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Fostering ASEAN Identity through the Safeguarding of Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) in the Modern World.
31. We commended the collaboration to enhance the economic competitiveness, inclusiveness, and resilience of ASEAN through the promotion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for sustainable development spurred by the region's efforts to attract investments in sectors crucial for ASEAN's green transition and post-pandemic recovery. We looked forward to promoting ASEAN as a unified investment destination across key sector value chains through the organization of the ASEAN Investment Forums and the launch of the ASEAN Regional Investment Promotion Action Plan.
32. We reiterated our commitment to supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. We were encouraged with the continued collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in accelerating the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) and synergising the efforts under ASUS with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. We looked forward to having strengthened technical support for more cities in ASEAN, the convening of the second iteration of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum, and the development of the second iteration of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Report. We noted collaboration between ASEAN and ESCAP in implementing the project on "Leveraging Trans-Asian Railway for efficient and resilient transport network in ASEAN and beyond", with the deliverables to be finalised by 2026.
33. We recognised the importance of promoting media and digital literacy in the age of rapid digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). We encouraged ASEAN and UN to

collaborate in promoting information accessibility and in fostering exchanges of best practices and lessons learned on initiatives to accelerate agrifood system transformation and to minimise the harmful effects of disinformation, misinformation, and hate speech as well as in promoting the responsible development of new technologies. We looked forward to exploring future cooperation with UN Global Pulse Asia Pacific on the intersection of digital innovation and human sciences to strengthen capabilities to adapt to future challenges.

34. We highlighted the importance of ASEAN-UN Cooperation in promoting sustainable energy cooperation through best practices exchanges in energy regulatory frameworks, technology adoption and technical standards on alternative, clean, and renewable energy, energy efficiency, regional energy connectivity and experiences in the implementation of SDG7. We also encouraged the UN to support ASEAN's green energy transition, including through the establishment of the ASEAN Power Grid. We also underscored the importance of this work to accelerate and inclusive energy transition in the region.