



## **ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP23)**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of 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 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**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);

**WELCOMING** the commitment by the Parties to the UNFCCC to enhance the implementation of the Convention as reflected in the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November 2016;

**NOTING** that ASEAN Member States have proactively undertaken substantive actions to address climate change in a timely manner by:

- Submitting Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs);
- Signing the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016 in New York, USA;
- Implementing the ASEAN Community Roadmap 2009-2015 including ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC), the ASEAN Forging Ahead Together 2025, and developing the ASEAN Post-2015 Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN), and ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2016-2020;
- Promoting sustainable management of forests that will contribute towards reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and also the enhancement of carbon sink capacity, carbon stocks as well as social and other environmental benefits through domestic efforts, and international cooperation;
- Promoting the use of sustainable energy sources and green technology; and
- Engaging actively in the post-COP21 UNFCCC negotiations on the modalities, rules, procedures, and guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

**GRAVELY CONCERNED** about the multi-faceted impacts of climate change throughout the ASEAN region as outlined in the Assessment Reports (AR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and their disproportionate and adverse effects on vulnerable and marginalized groups namely women, children, older persons, persons with disability, farmers, fisher folk, persons in conflict-affected communities and those parts of basic sectors.

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the UNFCCC, and its principles and provisions, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), and its centrality in the Paris Agreement;

**FURTHER REAFFIRMING** that effort to address climate change should be consistent with the broader outcomes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and national development priorities;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of enhanced pre-2020 ambition and provision of the means of implementation by developed country Parties that will underpin effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and to serve as lessons learned for achieving post-2020 actions;

**UNDERSCORING** that adequate, predictable, transparent and needs-based technology development and transfer, capacity building and financial support in accordance with long-standing commitments by developed country Parties, as enhanced under the Paris Agreement, are needed to further scale up in a balanced manner, adaptation and mitigation efforts, and enhance awareness in the ASEAN region to contribute to global efforts led by developed country Parties to hold the average temperature rise to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level by the end of the century;

**EMPHASISING** that the ability of the developing country Parties to access readiness and implementation support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) should be facilitated and ensured, given the important role the GCF plays in supporting the enhanced implementation of the Paris Agreement under the Convention;

**NOTING** the operationalisation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) aimed at strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of developing country Parties to meet the enhanced transparency requirements in the Paris Agreement, as well as the progress made by the Paris Committee on Capacity Building;

**DO HEREBY:**

1. **CALL UPON** developed country Parties to provide the means of implementation to ASEAN Member States and other developing country Parties to enhance on-going protection and sustainable management as well as conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes including its vulnerable terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems through an ecosystem and landscape-based approach to build climate resilience and enhance adaptation of ecosystems as well as communities and livelihoods to the adverse effects of climate change, and to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and the conservation and restoration of forests, including rain forests, mangroves and peatlands;

2. **STRENGTHEN** the ASEAN rapid response capacity in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction to be more efficient and effective through existing mechanisms under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), given the extreme vulnerability of ASEAN Member States to climate change;
3. **STRESS** the need to strengthen support for ASEAN and other developing country Parties to implement adaptation measures in the agricultural sector recognising the important role of agriculture in ensuring food security and providing adaptation co-benefits, and the consideration of agriculture in the relevant UNFCCC work streams;
4. **CALL UPON** developed country Parties to honour and fulfil their existing mitigation commitments as well as financial support commitments of USD100 billion per year under the Convention during the pre-2020 period in order to support ASEAN and other developing country Parties in further enhancing sustainable development, mitigation and adaptation efforts under the CBDR-RC principles as entrenched in the Convention;
5. **CALL UPON** developed country Parties, to enhance ambition on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and transparency of support during the pre-2020 period; in particular through the ratification by all Parties of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, and the implementation of the outcome of the Bali Action Plan;
6. **ENCOURAGE** Parties concerned to expedite their respective ratification of, or accession to the Paris Agreement in accordance with their domestic procedures;
7. **CALL UPON** developed country Parties to expedite the provision of the means of implementation in accordance with the Paris Agreement under the Convention, consistent with the principles of CBDR-RC, to enable ASEAN and other developing country Parties to pursue mitigation and adaptation efforts that support the implementation of NDCs and their Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV);
8. **URGE** GCF to facilitate and promote direct access of the fund by ASEAN and other developing country Parties and to accelerate the operationalisation of predictable and equitable results-based payments for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in ASEAN, and to enhance organisational rapid response capacity, and technology transfer, noting that this assistance, together with the implementation of NDCs, can contribute significantly to the achievement of sustainable development and the global goals of the Paris Agreement;
9. **CALL FOR** the operationalisation of the Adaptation Fund (AF) under the Paris Agreement in order for it to continue providing direct access funding for the adaptation efforts of ASEAN and other developing country Parties;
10. **CALL UPON** developed country Parties to enhance support for on-going efforts to promote low-carbon and climate resilient cities in ASEAN and other developing country Parties such as the implementation of sustainable energy technology and early warning system to reduce impact of climate-related disasters;

11. **CALL UPON** all Parties to the UNFCCC to continue working effectively and in good faith on developing mechanisms, modalities, procedures and guidelines towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, taking into account the principles of CBDR-RC, the need for a balanced outcome, and the provision of appropriate flexibilities to ASEAN and other developing country Parties as provided for under the Paris Agreement.

Adopted in Manila, the Philippines on the Thirteenth day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen.