



NATIONAL STATEMENT OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**YANG BERHORMAT DATO SERI SETIA
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**MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT
&
CO-CHAIR OF THE BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF UNFCCC COP 26 / CMP 16 / CMA 3

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Mr. President,

The current global pandemic has much to teach us about an even more existential threat – the climate crisis.

Brunei Darussalam is a small country. 72 percent of our area is still forested, currently absorbing 97 percent of our domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

Two years ago, we celebrated a milestone - 90 years of our oil and gas industry. But really, for us, it was a celebration of 90 years as a carbon-negative oil and gas producing and exporting country. We have held this title long enough to continue to call nature as our number one ally. Not just for climate mitigation, but equally important, for climate adaptation.

As a small country located along the coast, our exposure to climate change is very high. We hear the science. We understand the devastating impacts. We know that majority of our key strategic areas across the country, could be under water as early as 2050. This has urged us to look beyond our current efforts, in keeping the 1.5 degrees target alive.

Last year we launched our National Climate Change Policy, outlining ten key strategies that would shape our low carbon and climate-resilient future. We have also communicated our NDC at the end of last year, with a commitment to reduce 20 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

In further enhancing our climate ambition, Brunei Darussalam is moving towards net zero by 2050, that will be driven mainly through energy transition and forests preservation. It will not be an easy task ahead for us, but it is necessary.

We have done this for almost a decade, and we will continue to maintain it, and this time around, we would be unlocking huge opportunities for green growth and green jobs. Our country only contributes to about 0.025 percent of the global greenhouse emissions, but we believe with our small actions, will make a huge positive difference.

Progress, however, require action from many others.

As ASEAN Chair this year, Brunei Darussalam is honoured to present the ASEAN Joint Statement to COP 26. ASEAN has reaffirmed the region's collective commitment on climate action, both to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

ASEAN calls upon developed country parties to strengthen support and cooperation to accelerate climate action in the region. Under the theme "*We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper*", ASEAN this year saw, among others:-

Firstly: Communication of enhanced NDCs;

Secondly: Support in principle the establishment of an ASEAN Center for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam;

Thirdly: The creation of the ASEAN Youth on Climate Action platform programme;

Fourthly: The development of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance.

This includes the launching of the ASEAN Green Initiative, renewed regional renewable energy, and energy efficiency and conservation targets in accelerating climate action.

Lastly, I wish to thank the UK for the hospitality and arrangements for this COP26. **Let's act now, and let's act now, together.** Thank you.