



## THE BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN DECLARATION ON ASEAN YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

We, the delegates of the 1st ASEAN Youth on Climate Action, have gathered via teleconferencing in our call for urgent action on the transboundary crisis of climate change, hosted by Brunei Darussalam on the 17th of October 2021.

***Hereby,***

PP 1. ***Stresses*** that ASEAN is at a critical junction in the global fight against climate change, and face heightened and specific risks due to the impacts of climate change, that these impacts such as extreme weather events are already occurring and disproportionately impacts vulnerable and marginalised groups such as minority groups, indigenous communities, rural communities, women and persons with disabilities;

PP 2. ***Acknowledges*** the regional leadership and calls of youths for urgent and immediate climate action, as well as their role as agents of change in driving climate change;

PP 3. ***Acknowledges*** that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has hindered climate action progress due to the diversion of resources away from green energy transition and adaptation to tackle current public health challenges, however, stresses the importance of ensuring that climate change remains a key priority for nation states;

PP 4. ***Acknowledges*** that ASEAN possesses a rich array of biodiversity and ecosystems, providing the region with natural carbon sinks that absorbs greenhouse gases and buffer communities from extreme weather events, which is crucial to the region's resilience against climate change, however, climate change also has a detrimental effect on the region's biodiversity which will have far reaching consequences;

PP 5. ***Deeply concerned by*** ASEAN's high level of Brown Energy (conventional fossil fuels) in the region's current power mix and current "business-as-usual" practices, which may inhibit the region's commitment, specifically the Nationally Determined Contributions in fulfilling the Paris Agreement 2015 target in limiting global warming to well below 2°C;

PP 6. ***Deeply concerned by*** the mismanagement of waste in ASEAN, and the lack of initiatives surrounding the development of clean and eco-friendly waste management to ensure sustainable resource management in the region;

PP7. ***Alarmed by*** the disproportionate level of awareness and involvement across ASEAN, noting the disparity between climate literacy awareness, especially in the formal education sector, and involvement through collaborative platforms. Further, this is compounded by the lack of infrastructure especially in



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rural and isolated communities, hindering access to reliable and accessible sources of climate-related information and data;

PP 8: **Recalling** the Paris Agreement 2015 commitment by States to respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, and intergenerational equity, when taking action to address climate change and its intersectionality with the 17 Sustainable Development goals;

PP 9: **Emphasise** the extreme risks in life and well-being of environmental activists and defenders in conducting their activities and protecting the basic rights of all humanity;

PP 10: **Recognise** the universal right to a clean, healthy environment, as declared by the UN Human Rights Council;

PP 11: **Recognise** that the vast majority of global emissions are being committed by global corporations, whose actions not only accelerated climate change, but also bring harm to the life, health, and well-being of vulnerable populations;

PP 12: **Recognise** the significant contribution of the animal-industrial complex in carbon emissions, expanding deforestation, and risks of future pandemics due to the close proximity of the animals and excessive use of antibiotics;

PP 13: **Acknowledges** that BaseLine Reports are crucial in curating Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans (EMMP), Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and other equivalent measures of greenhouse gases, to ensure sustainable development;

PP 14: **Welcome** the various initiatives by ASEAN leaders in promoting the role of youths in climate action.

***Hereby, proposes the following:***

OP 1. **Strengthen** collaborative, integrative and meaningful approaches in combating the dual problem of climate change and COVID-19, by including a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to the government, private sector, non-governmental organisations, indigenous community groups, and youths with enabling environment, and to realise the opportunity to reshape current “business-as-usual” practices in a post-pandemic setting to develop sustainable and green principles;



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OP 2. **Further emphasise** the role of youths in climate-action, and the need for greater participation and integration of youths in the development, implementation and evaluation of climate change policies, such as through creating a climate council for ASEAN youths as a permanent platform;

OP 3. **Call upon** ASEAN Member States to implement climate literacy skills to hone critical skills for climate action, such as digital skills, language, advocacy, leadership, communication, and equivalent in the respective educational systems, with an emphasis at primary-level education to enable long-term transformative and sustainable change contributing to future systematic change in the region, and at tertiary level to foster green innovation accessible for all;

OP 4. **Recommend** ASEAN Member States to adopt regional market mechanisms to reduce carbon emissions such as a carbon tax, green contracts, supply chain management or equivalent, and implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure timely and equitable transition away from brown energy;

OP 5. **Call upon** ASEAN Member States to set up a centralised climate fund for climate-related research and development, whilst ensuring that accountability and monitoring mechanisms are in place and the inclusion of youth constituents, to ensure the equitable distribution of funds;

OP 6. **Call upon** ASEAN Member States to make use of innovative market based incentives such as the use of financial institutions and green bonds, private-public partnerships, to promote green investment and innovation within the private sector, and to promote bottom-up initiatives from the local communities;

OP 7. **Urges** ASEAN member states to develop and create green jobs and roles in climate-relevant sectors such as transportation, logistics, built environment and agriculture with a focus on capacity building, infrastructure, financial aid and subsidies;

OP 8. **Encourage** governments, private sector, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, and local communities to embrace nature-based solutions such as the use of mangrove trees, coral reefs and enhancement of biodiversity in climate action strategies of adaptation and mitigation, and to increase engagement with existing stakeholders such as indigenous groups;

OP 9. **Encourage** governments, private sector, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, and local communities to maximise the use of digital technologies and digitalisation, emphasising the role of youths to develop innovative solutions to climate change challenges;



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OP 10. **Emphasise** the need for clear lines of cooperation and communication between the government sector and youth non-governmental organisations, and for the decentralisation of climate related policy to include a wide cross-section of society that is relevant to multilateral policies and targets;

OP 11. **Emphasise** the need for the democratisation of climate change actions, and the development of integrative design method for localised and contextualised climate action projects, that is participatory, bottom-up and inclusive in engaging with stakeholders to accommodate sustainability, technology, and socio-economic challenges;

OP 12. **Further urge** regional, national and local governments to consider the use of creative and innovative green spaces that integrates ecological knowledge from indigenous groups for implementation in urban areas, which considers sustainable and eco-friendly principles, noting the influential role of cities as model green cities in respective member states;

OP 13. **Call upon** influential community organisations such as faith-based groups and individuals to contribute in raising greater awareness of climate change, and sustained effort in climate action;

OP 14. **Call upon** regional, national, and local media organisations, and institutions, to provide adequate, transparent and simplifying coverage of climate and environment issues to increase public awareness and mobilize stakeholders towards adaptation and mitigation actions;

OP 15. **Affirms** the importance of constructive climate action dialogue that is inclusive of all stakeholders such as the government, private sector, non-governmental organisations, youths, vulnerable and marginalised groups such as minority groups, indigenous communities, rural communities, women and persons with disabilities, the outcomes of which will be meaningfully integrated into implemented strategies in a manner that upholds social justice and human rights;

OP 16. **Further affirms** the importance of meaningful lifestyle change by individuals to contribute to meaningful large-scale impact in combating climate change, with an emphasis on youths as “agents of change”, including collaborative policies from government agencies to reduce waste, mindful eating and reducing carbon footprints;

OP 17. **Call upon** ASEAN Member States to implement policies and strategies to transition into circular economies, including enhancing solid waste management, establishing clear targets and timelines for phasing out single-use plastics, and empowering local communities for data-driven sustainable waste management projects;

OP 18. **Urges** ASEAN Member States to further enhance regional, national and local resilience of



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systems involving agriculture, water, energy, health care, environmental health, public transport and other infrastructures to extreme climate-related disasters and slow onset events, as a means of adaptation to worsening impacts;

OP 19. **Recommends** ASEAN Member states to represent the voices of vulnerable groups, including the youth, and marginalised groups such as minority groups, indigenous communities, rural communities, women and persons with disabilities, in global and regional climate dialogues and call for enhanced science-based support for averting or minimizing loss and damage, adequate and balanced climate finance for adaptation and mitigation, technology transfer, and capacity-building mechanisms;

OP 20. **Urges** ASEAN Member States to hold corporations responsible for any environmental degradation activity that affects local communities or indigenous group in their localities through monetary reparations and development projects;

OP 21. **Recommends** ASEAN Member states to further protect frontliners and environmental defenders, especially in isolated communities;

OP 22. **Urges** the need for a significant reduction of the animal-industrial complex for its massive carbon emissions, costly and unsustainable land use, and risk of pandemics; concurrently with the promotion and mainstreaming of plant-based diets and other alternatives to animal meat;

OP 23. **Recommends** the adoption of ethnographic research practices, social design and other humanistic approaches to include local communities and marginalised groups such as minority groups, indigenous communities, rural communities, women and persons with disabilities, in climate conversations while better understanding the circumstances of these communities;

OP 24. **Call Upon** ASEAN Member states to pursue higher ambition in mitigation and adaptation under their current and succeeding Nationally Determined Contributions, including clear decarbonization pathways and definitive net-zero targets aligned with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

OP 25. **Urges** ASEAN member states to accelerate a just, accessible and affordable energy transition from a reliance on fossil fuels towards green and renewable energy and to prioritize diversified and inclusive energy efficiency and conservation.