

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S STATEMENT

'Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development'

Bismillahir Rahmaa Nir Rahiim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning/afternoon.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Madam Executive Secretary,

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

- ESCAP has long been a valuable platform for regional conversations and cooperation, and as we move towards 2030, our gathering at this year's ESCAP shows our continued commitment to achieve our sustainable development goals.
- I am pleased to note that through this year's theme "Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development", ESCAP has decided to focus on our efforts towards accelerating climate action.
- Being a small nation on the island of Borneo, Brunei Darussalam is not exempted from the adverse socio-economic impacts of climate change. We too, encounter the struggles and hazards that come from floods, forest fires, strong winds and landslides; and this has unfortunately, become increasingly frequent in the past few years. On this note, Brunei Darussalam joins other member states in pushing forward ESCAP's agenda and furthermore, places great value on its international commitments to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to share some information on what we are doing:

- **First, I would like to reiterate Brunei Darussalam's commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the goals of the Paris Agreement**, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in light of different national circumstances. Brunei Darussalam has also announced our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to a reduction in total national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20 per cent relative to Business-As-Usual levels by 2030.
- To achieve this, Brunei Darussalam has stepped up efforts in driving energy transition and facilitation of our climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. To help meet the net zero

target, it is crucial to know where we currently are; a robust monitoring mechanism is one way to find out. Therefore, Brunei Darussalam plans to launch a Mandatory Reporting Directive with the objective to enhance the transparency of our emissions reporting and further help to substantiate our actions to achieve our net zero ambition. Brunei Darussalam places great importance to adaptation efforts thus, we are also in the process of developing a National Climate Change Adaptation Plan to coordinate adaptation efforts for a climate-resilient and adaptive nation.

- **Second, addressing climate change in our region has become a collective ASEAN effort. In 2021, ASEAN Member States have agreed to establish the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC) in Brunei Darussalam. The Centre aims to strengthen ASEAN's climate change coordination and cooperation by becoming a hub for climate research and climate change-related policy-making recommendations. The Centre has since garnered support from ASEAN Dialogue Partners as well, and I sincerely hope that this is merely the beginning of a long and very beneficial platform for multilateral cooperation on a common cause.**
- His Majesty the Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in his Titah during the opening of the 19th Legislative Council, stated that Brunei's hosting of the ACCC is in line with the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy (BNCCP) and that a centralized inventory system will be introduced as part of the country's efforts to monitor and verify data accurately. The information will be included in the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan by the end of the year.
- Alongside regional cooperation, His Majesty the Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam frequently highlights climate change as a pressing issue in other international platforms such as the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the World Government Summit in 2022, whereby, among other things, His Majesty brought attention to the criticality of the UAE's stewardship of COP28 this year, and suggested that governments need to work more closely together to urgently tackle the threat of climate change.
- We are pleased to also share that, Brunei Darussalam is co-leading the development and implementation of an ASEAN Climate Finance Strategy with the Philippines and in collaboration with UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres (RCC) and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

- While we are here to address one problem, let us not undermine our priority for other problems. As we continue working towards reducing the effects of climate change, we must also explore the possibilities of new areas of cooperation for economic development. It is equally important that our efforts to reach net zero target does not hamper our long-term objective in sustaining the development goals.

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- It is hoped that Brunei Darussalam's efforts through NDC, BNCCP, as well as through our long-term international commitments, will not only contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, particularly SDG 13, but will also enable us to explore newer and more innovative economic opportunities that come from the global drive in addressing climate change.
- To conclude, shared goals require shared efforts. In this view, I would like to commend the ESCAP in continuing its crucial role as a collaborative platform for us to work towards our common goal in protecting the global climate for our present and future generations.

Thank you.
