

**COUNTRY INTERVENTION
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AGENDA ITEM 2 (B)
STRENGTHENING SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION**

16 MAY 2023

*Honorable Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,*

Firstly, I would like to thank ESCAP for providing a comprehensive report about climate change challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. The report highlights the progress made and challenges faced by countries in our region. Indonesia notes with concern that despite progress, several countries in our region still face significant challenges. We also note with appreciation the recommendations put forth by ESCAP on how to address these challenges.

Indonesia would like to draw attention to the challenges faced by Southeast Asian countries. We are one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change-related shocks, including floods, droughts, urban heat, biodiversity, and habitat losses, with significant economic consequences. Climate change adds great complexity and uncertainty to the global environment. To achieve full recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, sustainable development strategies that include climate- and environment-related considerations and policy options are required.

Second, Southeast Asia's economic growth has been significantly influenced by urbanization, particularly in megacities such as Jakarta, Manila, and Bangkok, which contribute to most of the GDP. Nevertheless, urbanization has brought about various difficulties such as climate change and environmental pollution, economic efficiency, cultural heritage, and health. Moreover, unrestrained urbanization has a substantial impact on global warming.

Climate change not only poses a threat to the health of the planet, but also presents a major risk to public health for the most susceptible populations, such as older individuals, children, and those living in poverty. These groups remain at the highest risk amidst the interrelated challenges of disaster, climate change, and health.

To maintain the progress of commerce and industry and offer equitable access to energy services, as well as cope with the effects of climate change already mentioned before, urban development strategies are necessary for Southeast Asian

cities. The implementation of supportive financing and regulatory frameworks could aid in the reduction of clean energy project expenses.

It is crucial to expedite climate action by enhancing the resilience of countries and populations. Cooperation mechanisms at the regional and subregional levels, including the partnership between the UN and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), can create approaches to establish systemic resilience.

Finally, Indonesia would like to emphasize the importance of international cooperation to accelerate climate action and to achieve full recovery from the pandemic. We must work together to build resilience, reduce emissions, and transition to a sustainable future. In this regard, our G20 document on the Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience in Developing countries could also become our guidance, and Indonesia is ready to share and to work together with all ESCAP members.

I thank you.