Proposed Statement of The Secretary General of Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) during the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

In light of the recent COP28 warnings about the slow and inadequate global climate action, it is more crucial than ever to focus on the need for ambitious climate action and SDG transitions, especially in the field of sustainable energy.

Over the last two decades, we have witnessed an extraordinary ten-fold increase in global demand for biofuels. This growth, crucial in the context of sustainable energy transition, has been primarily driven by Asia's resilience and innovation, notably through a significant boost in biodiesel production.

In 2020, biodiesel accounted for 77% of biofuels in the Asia-Pacific region, with Southeast Asia's palm oil-based biodiesel playing a pivotal role. Indonesia and Malaysia, as leading producers, have contributed to nearly one-fifth of global biodiesel production, using palm oil as the primary feedstock.

I wish to highlight Indonesia's mandatory biodiesel program, a significant step in Asia's biofuel production growth. Implementing a B35 biodiesel blend, this program is a beacon of sustainable energy initiatives, consuming 13.15 million kiloliters of biodiesel in 2023, surpassing the United States. Malaysia is also making strides, consuming 1.1 million tonnes of biodiesel in 2023 across various sectors.

Considering our commitment to achieving Net-Zero emissions, the role of biodiesel is fundamental. From reducing 6.88 million tons of CO2 equivalent in 2017, reaching over 37 million tons in 2023, significantly advancing Indonesia and Malaysia towards their Net-Zero targets. This progress is vital against the backdrop of the current NDC targets, which remain off-track compared to IPCC emission reduction trajectories.

Biodiesel leads the way in bioenergy, contributing to Indonesia's 12.3% renewable energy mix, with a target of 23% by 2025, alongside geothermal energy. The high yield of palm oil, producing 6,000 liters of biofuel per hectare annually, is essential for sustainable energy transition, particularly in regions still dominated by fossil-fuel economies and rising coal emissions.


The biodiesel program's success results from collaborative efforts involving government, industry, research bodies, and strategic financing, a model that can be replicated across Asia-Pacific. We face challenges, particularly with the shift towards second-generation biofuels and the need for investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
To realize these goals, regional collaboration is paramount. We must set clear blending mandates, diversify production, ensure sustainability standards, incentivize biofuel development, and implement cross-sector sustainability targets. Strengthening cooperation in R&D will drive innovation in biodiesels.

Enhanced cooperation among biofuel producing countries is essential to align regional and national biofuel policies with the SDGs and fast-track our progress towards Net-Zero emissions.

Thank you for your commitment to these critical global challenges.

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