

COMMUNIQUE

2nd CSO Regional Convening on Just Energy Transition in the ASEAN

August 27-29, 2024

Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia



“We, civil society organization (CSO) representatives gathered at the “2nd CSO Regional Convening on Just Energy Transition in the ASEAN” in Phnom Penh extend our support to the ASEAN, its member states, and stakeholder groups in urgently setting ambitious targets that will enable a just energy transition (JET) across the region.

For this purpose, we propose the following for the consideration of the 42nd ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting:

- *A clear collective and time-bound definition of just energy transition that will be able to comprehensively address climate impacts across sectors beyond energy (i.e. agriculture, transportation, etc.). This will facilitate the identification and role of all stakeholders that needs to be involved and define the coordinating mechanisms required between relevant ministries, and will also evolve a defined timeline in urgently retiring coal and fossil fuel production and use while ensuring equitable solutions and addressing the*

displacement of workers, both formal and informal, and communities that are dependent on fossil fuel-based energy production.

- *Establishment of financing mechanisms, including grants and subsidies, that will enable the redirection of public and private finance and investments from fossil fuels to renewable energy development and other required energy transition support that uphold the rights and wellbeing of vulnerable groups across the region. The ASEAN Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance can provide guidance on how to steer financial flows at the regional and national levels to support the aligned environmental and social objectives of ASEAN member states and their partners.*
- *The energy transition should recognize the disproportionate social and economic impacts of climate change on women and girls (i.e. unpaid care and domestic work that are borne mostly by women and girls, women receiving lesser remuneration than men, women and girls being more at risk of gender-based violence) and must have a gender-responsive framework that will meaningfully engage with women as participants.*
- *Address the transboundary impacts of energy transition, including its environmental and social impacts, through the ASEAN's regional mechanisms and/or platforms.*
- *Engage China as a dialogue partner to ensure that its energy production projects, both coal-based and renewables (including hydro-power particularly within the Mekong Region), are socially and environmentally sustainable.*

Towards this end, we CSOs from across the ASEAN offer our support to the ASEAN and its member states in enabling a just energy transition in the region through the generation of evidence-based research, the facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogues, and enabling the meaningful participation of communities and marginalized sectors in formulating energy policies. And for us to effectively contribute, ASEAN member states should ensure CSOs' access to transparent and inclusive consultation mechanisms, and provide safe spaces that will enable CSOs and communities to substantially and effectively participate in various levels of policy development and implementation.

We CSOs across the region are ready to work with the ASEAN and its member states, especially in supporting the transition of impacted communities, including those that might be displaced by the transition, through capacity enhancement

interventions, and the piloting, modeling and promotion of sustainable just transition solutions that will safeguard livelihoods and futures to ensure that no one is left behind.”

Who are We?

We are CSO representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines who gathered together in Phnom Penh on August 27-29 to collectively understand the energy transition outlook in the ASEAN region and offer our recommendations for consideration in the development of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation APAEC (Phase 3 2026-2030).

We undertake evidence and narrative-based research to contribute in developing local and national JET policies, strive to enable the representation and participation of marginalized stakeholders, host convenings and dialogues for CSOs to promote JET by sharing knowledge and best practices and engaging with duty bearers; facilitate collective action and cooperation among CSOs, account financial institutions and energy in upholding their commitments to social standards, and encourage and support an inclusive policy development process.

What We Do?

We strive to promote a common understanding on what JET means, emphasizing on defining the scope, parameters, and timeline for implementation. To this end, we recommend for consideration a JET Policy Toolkit that serves as a dynamic platform for sharing information on JET and compiling a database on community-based renewable energy initiatives: <https://www.justenergytransitionhub.com/>

We engage with financial institutions including Central Banks and national financial regulators to encourage their funding decisions and supervisory roles in the region to respect the social and environmental well-being of local communities. We engage with the ASEAN Taxonomy Board in its development of the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance as a tool in ensuring the sustainability of energy transition projects in the ASEAN and its member states, and advocate for developed countries to support the just energy transition of ASEAN member states through polluters' tax and by shifting financial flows to renewable energy solutions.

We promote a just energy transition that will support the well-being and sustainability of communities, incorporate gender-responsive policies, and enable decentralized community and women-led renewable energy projects.

We urge the ASEAN and its member states to address the transboundary impacts of energy transition through a regional mechanism, and to formulate regional policy frameworks that will provide just transition guidance in agriculture, transportation, mining of critical minerals, and other sectors aside from energy generation.

We advocate for the creation of institutionalized mechanisms for multi-stakeholder engagement; the retirement of fossil fuel production and use; a shift from erroneous solutions like carbon capture utilization and storage, nuclear power, and ammonia co-firing; the capacity development of communities and support for community-led solutions; and the mainstreaming of gender equality, disability, and social inclusion.

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