



OPENING REMARKS

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**DIALOGUE SESSION BETWEEN UNFCCC COP30 PRESIDENCY
AND ASEAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS**

**18th ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(AMME-18)**

**Date : 4 September 2025
Time : 1615 - 1800
Venue : Langkawi International
Convention Centre**

**Your Excellency Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago,
UNFCCC COP30 President,
Distinguished Environment Ministers from ASEAN Member States,
Esteemed Delegates and Partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamualaikum and good afternoon.

It is my distinct honour to welcome you all to this important dialogue session between the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency and ASEAN Environment Ministers. As Malaysia assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025, we stand at a critical juncture where our collective climate action will define the future of Southeast Asia and contribute meaningfully to global climate resilience.

Southeast Asia represents one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions. Our shared challenges, from rising sea levels threatening our extensive coastlines to extreme weather events disrupting our agricultural communities. Demand now are not just individual responses, but coordinated regional action that amplifies our collective voice on the global stage.

ASEAN's Strategic Climate Priorities

Under Malaysia's Chairmanship, we have prioritized strengthening ASEAN's climate diplomacy through enhanced coordination and unified positioning. The urgency of climate action as underscored by the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report and the concerning reality that 2024 was recorded as the hottest year on record, compels us to move beyond fragmented approaches toward strategic regional solidarity.

Our region faces an estimated financial need of USD 422 billion by 2030 for climate action, a staggering figure that highlights the scale of support required from the international community. Yet, this challenge also presents an opportunity to showcase Southeast Asia's potential as a driver of innovative climate solutions, from nature-based approaches rooted in our rich biodiversity to pioneering carbon market mechanisms.

As we approach COP30, ASEAN enters the negotiations with a strong and unified agenda. Our priorities reflect the urgent realities facing our region and the collective responsibility we share in advancing global ambition. These include:

- i. **Climate Finance:** Addressing the inadequacy of the proposed New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) of USD 300 billion per year by 2035, which falls far short of ASEAN's estimated needs of USD 422 billion by 2030. We call for scaled-up, predictable, accessible, and needs-responsive finance flows, including support for both mitigation and adaptation efforts;
- ii. **Adaptation and Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):** Prioritizing the urgent conclusion of negotiations on the GGA and advancing the Baku Adaptation Roadmap, to strengthen resilience across our communities, ecosystems, and economies;
- iii. **Loss and Damage:** Ensuring the swift and full operationalisation of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, with timely and adequate support reaching vulnerable communities, while upholding its complementarity with existing mechanisms under the UNFCCC;
- iv. **Carbon Markets and Decarbonisation:** Supporting the timely operationalisation of Article 6 mechanisms, advancing the ASEAN Common Carbon Framework and accelerating carbon pricing instruments to drive deep decarbonisation. ASEAN also emphasizes the need for just and inclusive energy transitions, supported by regional cooperation through the ASEAN Power

Grid and deployment of emerging technologies such as Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) and low-carbon hydrogen;

- v. Equity and CBDR-RC: Reaffirming the principle of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, while ensuring flexibility for developing countries under the Enhanced Transparency Framework and access to climate technologies through the Paris Agreement's Technology Mechanism.

Together, these priorities underscore ASEAN's determination to ensure COP30 delivers outcomes that are ambitious, balanced, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable developing regions.

Malaysia's Key Deliverables as ASEAN Chair 2025

As ASEAN Chair, Malaysia is committed to delivering two transformative initiatives that will fundamentally strengthen ASEAN's climate diplomacy:

First, the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to UNFCCC COP30. This comprehensive statement represents our unified regional perspective on critical climate issues. It articulates our collective position on adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, and the urgent need for enhanced means of implementation. The statement emphasizes our unwavering commitment to the Paris Agreement while calling for greater recognition of developing countries' needs and the

principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

The Joint Statement highlights our deep concern over the inadequacy of the proposed New Collective Quantified Goal of USD 300 billion per year by 2035, which falls far short of our region's documented needs. We call for scaled-up, predictable, and accessible climate finance that enables ambitious climate action across all ASEAN Member States.

Second, and perhaps most significantly, Malaysia proposed the establishment of the Southeast Asia Alliance negotiation bloc under the UNFCCC framework (Group SEA). This negotiation bloc will provide ASEAN with a dedicated platform for coordinated climate negotiations, ensuring our regional priorities receive the attention and support they deserve in international climate discussions.

While we value our participation in the G77 and China, Southeast Asia's specific vulnerabilities, from transboundary haze to monsoon variability and maritime boundary climate impacts require focused attention that only a dedicated regional bloc can provide.

The establishment of Group SEA is not about replacement but enhancement. It complements our existing mechanisms while providing the operational framework necessary for effective real-time negotiation coordination. Through Group SEA, we will develop detailed technical positions, coordinate negotiation tactics, and maintain adaptive strategy capabilities throughout complex multi-year negotiation cycles.

The Importance of Today's Dialogue

Your Excellency Ambassador do Lago,

Your presence here today represents more than diplomatic courtesy. It embodies the spirit of South-South cooperation and multilateral partnership that must underpin effective climate action. Brazil's leadership in forest conservation, renewable energy development, and climate policy offers valuable lessons for our region's sustainable development journey.

This dialogue provides a strategic opportunity to:

- i. Align ASEAN's climate priorities with COP30's ambitious agenda;
- ii. Explore concrete collaboration opportunities between our regions;
- iii. Enhance our understanding of negotiation dynamics and strategic priorities; and
- iv. Strengthen the foundations for ambitious climate outcomes that serve both regional and global interests.

Our Shared Responsibility

As we prepare for COP30 in Belém, we must recognize that climate action is not just about reducing emissions or adapting to change. It is about ensuring a just and inclusive transition that leaves no one behind. ASEAN's commitment to nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based

approaches and community-led initiatives reflects our understanding that effective climate action must be rooted in local contexts while contributing to global objectives.

We call for enhanced support for developing countries like ASEAN Member States to not only adopt climate technologies but to innovate and develop solutions suited to our unique circumstances. The Technology Mechanism under the Paris Agreement must be leveraged to amplify our capacity for locally-led innovations.

Looking Forward

Today's dialogue marks the beginning of a strengthened partnership between ASEAN and the COP30 Presidency and serves as a vehicle for sustained engagement, ensuring Southeast Asian perspectives are not just heard but actively integrated into the global climate agenda.

We look forward to productive discussions on how our regions can work together to address the climate finance gap, enhance adaptation capacity, operationalize loss and damage mechanisms and accelerate the just transition our communities desperately need.

Closing

Your Excellency and distinguished colleagues,

In the spirit of ASEAN's motto "One Vision, One Identity, One Community," we stand united in our commitment to climate action. ASEAN is ready to contribute meaningfully to COP30's success while

advancing our regional resilience and sustainable development objectives.

The challenges before us are immense, but so is our collective capacity to address them. Let today's dialogue be the foundation for a partnership that transforms challenges into opportunities and ensures that Southeast Asia emerges as a beacon of climate resilience and sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention, and I now invite Your Excellency Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago to share your opening remarks.

Terima kasih. Thank you.