

Brunei Darussalam High Level National Statement

Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement

New York, United States of America | 22 April 2016

Your Excellency Chair,

On behalf of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Brunei Darussalam, we are very honoured to be here today to be part of this historic event that marks a new level of global action towards combating climate change based on the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”.

Today’s signing of the Paris Agreement does not just symbolise political commitment, but it is a global plea for each and everyone of us to play our individual but important role in addressing climate change and bringing the impending threat towards humanity to an end.

At the outset, I must acknowledge the relentless effort of His Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC in establishing a global action mechanism through the Paris Agreement which has culminated to today’s high level event.

Your Excellency Chair,

Brunei Darussalam accounts for 0.016 percent of total global emissions annually, which equates to about 7.244 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. Regardless of this relatively low output, our commitment stands strong as part of our own national agenda to combat climate change, which is reaffirmed by our presence here today to sign the Paris Agreement.

Our Vision 2035 (*Wawasan 2035*) places a strong emphasis on the highest quality of life for our people and therefore a clean environment without the adverse effects of climate change is a national priority. For an economy which is highly dependent on energy like Brunei Darussalam, it is imperative that we pledge and continue to be responsible for our actions and thus pursue our national measures on climate change by utilising our natural resources in the most efficient and sustainable manner. We believe that our efforts will be far-reaching and will contribute towards a collective positive difference.

In moving forward, we aim to implement the following actions :-

- 1) Firstly, to cut down our total primary energy consumption by 63 percent by 2035 from the Business as Usual case with 2009 as base year. This corresponds to an annual reduction of 6.95 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2035.**

A number of efforts are being taken towards this, including electricity pricing reform, introduction of energy labeling and standards legislation, energy efficiency building codes as well as education and awareness programmes on inculcating an energy conscious culture.

- 2) Secondly, to increase the total share of our power generation mix from renewable energy to 10 percent in 2035 that will allow us to avoid producing emissions of about 720 thousand tonnes of CO2 equivalent annually.**

I am pleased to share that there are plans to build a solar power plant in our pristine Temburong district by 2019 to replace its current diesel-generated power station that currently emits about 33 thousand tonnes of CO2 equivalent. With growing consumption, this emission is also expected to increase if the fuel source is not replaced by a less carbon intensive one.

3) And thirdly, to maintain and enhance our carbon sinks stock by increasing our forest reserves from 44 percent to 55 percent of our total land area.

75 percent of Brunei Darussalam's land area is still covered by tropical rainforests with pristine peat swamps which acts as a carbon sink to counter emissions. On top of that, we are committing to allocate 58 percent of our land area to the "Heart of Borneo" forest conservation initiative.

Your Excellency Chair,

With the commitment of over 170 countries here today, Brunei Darussalam stands here today as one of the smallest, but equally as important, partners in this Agreement. It is here that I re-affirm His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's speech in 2014 on the importance for all countries, including developing nations, to be properly equipped to face climate change and its adverse effects. In this regard, we look forward to working together with countries that have more advanced technology in this area for affordable and accessible capacity building and knowledge transfer.

Brunei Darussalam will continue to work to meet our international commitments for climate change including submitting the Initial National Communications and pursue the practical actions and measures set out in our Intended National Determined Communications in a timely and effective manner.

Finally, I would also like to support and applaud the countries that have come together to sign and commit to the Paris Agreement.

Rest assured, Brunei Darussalam is honoured to stand side by side with you in commitment and ready to play its part in this important global issue. Together we can take action for a collective and shared sustainable future for the world.

Thank you.

Delivered by:-

The Hon. Pehin Dato (Dr) Mohammad Yasmin Umar

Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office

Brunei Darussalam