



**Message by
H.E. Le Luong Minh
Secretary-General of ASEAN
At the High Level Segment of UNFCCC COP21
8 December 2015, Paris**

***Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Southeast Asia is among the most vulnerable regions to climate change with increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and environmental degradation.

Against the backdrop of its strong economic growth and development, rebalancing economic growth toward sustainability remains a critical challenge and priority for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In this connection, ASEAN is committed to addressing the impacts of climate change by building environmentally-sustainable cities and resilient communities.

We are encouraging and working with all stakeholders to institutionalize disaster risk management and climate change adaptation from local to regional levels.

In strengthening a people-oriented, people-centred Community with enhanced capacity to address existing and emerging environmental and climate change challenges, we will continue to strengthen human and institutional capacity in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities.

As a common position toward a global solution, ASEAN is committed to enhancing collective capacity to address climate change.

ASEAN remains committed to the UNFCCC as the primary international collaboration instrument to address climate change in a manner consistent with broader sustainable development goals.

All ten ASEAN Member States have submitted their INDCs ahead of COP 21.

Post-2020, ASEAN hopes to see enhancement in the provision of means of implementation in capacity building, technical assistance, technology development and transfer and financing. These would enable ASEAN to implement our ambitious adaptation and mitigation actions.

We will facilitate the development of a comprehensive and coherent response to climate change, through multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches.

This includes strengthening global partnerships and support for relevant international frameworks such as the UNFCCC.

We look forward to adoption at this Conference of a new comprehensive, balanced, and legally-binding UNFCCC agreement and a successful outcome of COP 21.

Thank you!