

His Excellency, President of COP 28
Honourable Heads of State and Government,
Secretary General of the United Nations,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, the Government and people of the U.A.E. for hosting this summit.

Excellency,

Climate change has emerged as our generation's most urgent challenge, threatening our existence.

Unfortunately, initial results from the first Global Stocktake have revealed that we are not on track to limit global temperature rise not beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to prevent a global disaster.

This underscores the need for a renewed sense of urgency to fulfil our Paris Agreement obligations.

It also demands that developed countries honour past commitments and provide adequate resources and affordable technology to combat the impact of climate change.

Despite accounting for a mere 0.017 per cent of global emissions, Brunei Darussalam takes serious heed to this call for action.

We are committed to balancing national development and environmental protection while pursuing sustainable growth for our economy.

We have also maintained over half of our land area in pristine natural rainforests, with our mangrove ranked third largest in Borneo.

In addition, we aim to plant half a million permanent trees by 2035, expanding our carbon sink further.

Through our Climate Change Policy, we are actively diversifying our energy mix, by emphasising on renewables.

Collaborating with all stakeholders, including youth and the private sector, we are on track to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030, as outlined in our N.D.C., paving the way to achieving Net-zero by 2050.

Two years ago, Brunei Darussalam took the lead in elevating climate action at the regional level. This is why we will be hosting the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.

It will facilitate enhanced climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts across Southeast Asia through research, analysis, data exchange, and policy recommendations.

Therefore, we welcome support and cooperation from all interested Member States and international organisations to make this centre meaningfully contribute regionally and to our global efforts.

Thank you.