

Dialogue Session between UNFCCC COP30 Presidency and ASEAN Environment Ministers during the 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME-18)

Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) represents one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, with member states facing increasing threats from sea-level rise, extreme weather events and shifting precipitation patterns. As the global community prepares for the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP30) in 2025, ASEAN's collective voice and coordinated climate action become increasingly critical.

Under Malaysia's leadership as both ASEAN Chair 2025 and Chair of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC), there is a strategic opportunity to strengthen the partnership between ASEAN and the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency. This initiative aligns with ASEAN's commitment to enhanced climate cooperation and its role as a constructive partner in multilateral climate negotiations.

The proposed dialogue session with H.E. Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, who serves as the UNFCCC COP30 President represents a pivotal moment to advance ASEAN's climate priorities and ensure regional perspectives are effectively integrated into the global climate agenda.

PURPOSE AND BENEFITS OF THE DIALOGUE SESSION

Strategic Alignment

The dialogue addresses several critical imperatives:

- **Regional Coordination:** ASEAN Member States (AMS) require enhanced coordination mechanisms to present unified positions on key climate issues such as adaptation, loss and damage, climate financing, carbon market and just transition pathways. Direct engagement with the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency provides an avenue for articulating these collective priorities.
- **Capacity Building:** The session offers opportunities for knowledge transfer and technical cooperation particularly in areas where AMS can benefit from Brazil's experience in climate policy, forest conservation and renewable energy development.
- **Enhanced Negotiating Position:** By engaging directly with the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency, ASEAN can better understand negotiation dynamics and strategic priorities, enabling more effective participation in multilateral climate discussions.

Anticipated Benefits

For ASEAN:

- Strengthened collective bargaining position in international climate negotiations.
- Improved understanding of the UNFCCC COP30 priorities and negotiation strategies.
- Opportunities for South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing.

For the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency:

- Better understanding of Southeast Asian climate vulnerabilities and priorities.
- Enhanced support for the UNFCCC COP30 objectives through ASEAN's diplomatic networks.
- Strengthened foundations for ambitious climate outcomes.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Dialogue Session Details

- **Date:** 4 September 2025 (Thursday) – Day 3 of AMME 18
- **Time:** 4.00 – 5.30 pm
- **Duration:** 90 minutes
- **Venue:** Langkawi International Convention Centre (LICC)

Agenda

- **Opening:** 4.00 – 4.15 PM (15 minutes)
 - Welcome remarks by Malaysia as ASEAN Chair 2025
 - Opening statement by H.E. Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago
- **Discussions:** 4.15 – 5.15 PM (60 minutes)
 - ASEAN's climate needs and priorities
 - ASEAN's role in the UNFCCC COP30 preparations and negotiations
 - ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the UNFCCC COP30
 - Collaboration opportunities between ASEAN and the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency
 - Logistical arrangement during the UNFCCC COP30
 - Other matters
- **Conclusion and Closing:** 5.15 – 5.30 PM (15 minutes)

PARTICIPATION MEMBERS

- **ASEAN Representation**

- Environment Ministers from all AMS (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)
- ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) National Focal Points from all AMS
- ASEAN Secretariat

- **UNFCCC COP30 Presidency**

- H.E. Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, the UNFCCC COP30 President
- Brazilian delegations

- **Observer Participation (if appropriate)**

- Relevant ASEAN Dialogue Partners and international organisations

CONCLUSION

This proposed dialogue represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen climate cooperation between ASEAN and the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency at a critical juncture in global climate action. By facilitating direct dialogue between ASEAN Environment Ministers and Brazil's COP30 leadership, the session aims to enhance regional coordination, advance climate finance access and strengthen ASEAN's voice in international climate negotiations.

The dialogue aligns with Malaysia's leadership priorities as ASEAN Chair 2025 and AWGCC Chair, demonstrating the region's commitment to proactive climate diplomacy and multilateral cooperation. Through this engagement, ASEAN can better position itself to contribute meaningfully to the UNFCCC COP30 outcomes while advancing the region's climate resilience and sustainable development objectives.

The success of this initiative will be measured not only by immediate outcomes but by its contribution to strengthening long-term partnerships between ASEAN and key international climate actors, ultimately supporting more ambitious and effective global climate action that addresses the specific needs and priorities of Southeast Asian nations.

This concept note is submitted for consideration and approval by ASEAN Secretariat, with implementation subject to logistical coordination and confirmation of participation by the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency.