Advancing Sustainable Climate Finance Policies and Action

A Toolkit for Parliamentarians

APHR ASEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Sweden Sverige

APHR is a regional network of current and former parliamentarians who use their unique positions to advance human rights and democracy in Southeast Asia. We seek to help create a region where people can express themselves without fear, live free from all forms of discrimination and violence, and where development takes place with human rights at the forefront.

Our members use their mandate to advocate for human rights inside and outside of parliaments, regionally and globally. They work closely with civil society, conduct fact-finding missions, and publish recommendations and opinions on the most important issues affecting the region.

APHR was born out of the recognition that human rights issues in Southeast Asia are interconnected, and from the desire of progressive legislators to work together across borders to promote and protect human rights.

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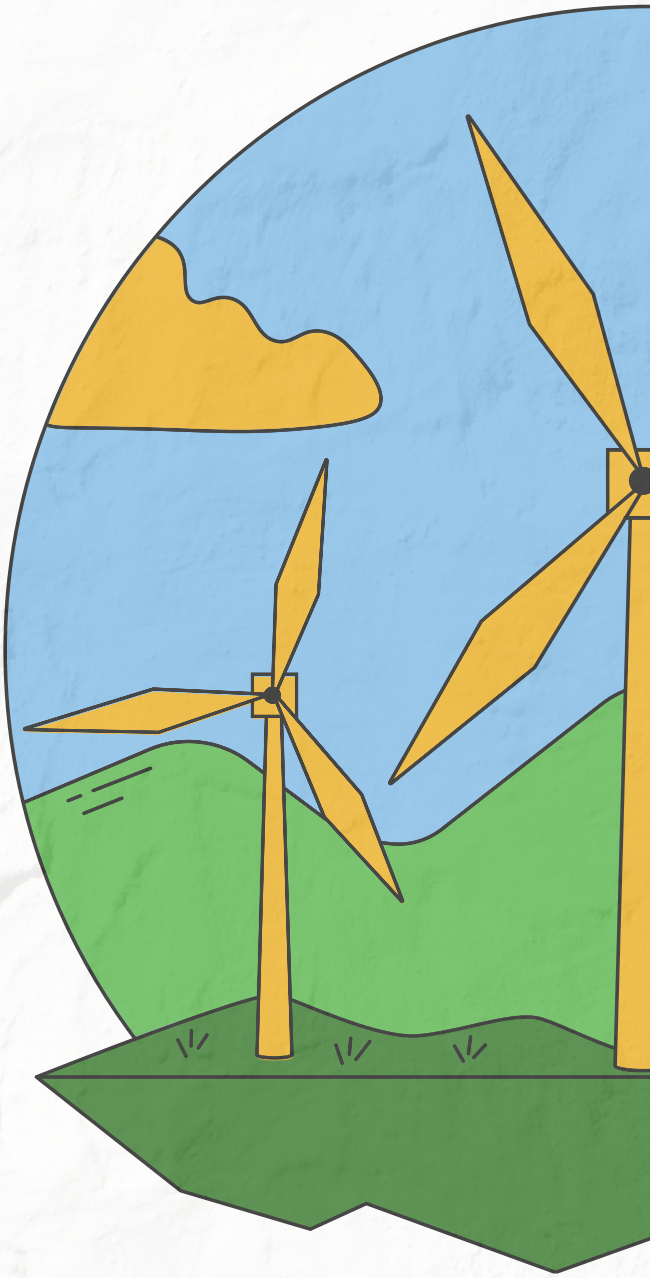
Introduction

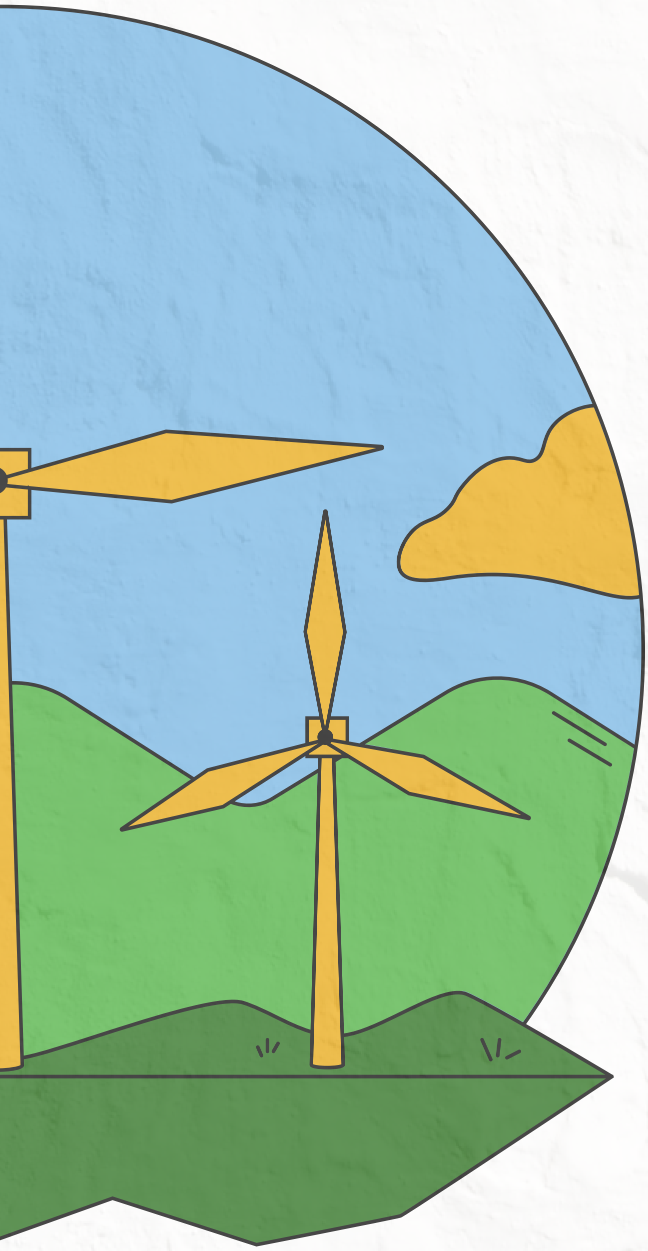
Legislators hold an important role in shaping their countries' responses to climate change through policy and regulation.

Climate financing is more than just an economic issue; it is inextricably tied to the well-being and resilience of communities, economies, and ecosystems. Recognizing the urgency and significance of climate financing, legislators must make use of their pivotal position to catalyze the transition to a low-carbon economy, create green jobs, and push innovation in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure.

This toolkit aims to empower legislators in Southeast Asia with the knowledge and tools necessary to drive transformative action in the fight against climate change. At its core, it is designed to equip parliamentarians to effectively advocate for, allocate, and oversee financial resources dedicated to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building efforts across the region.

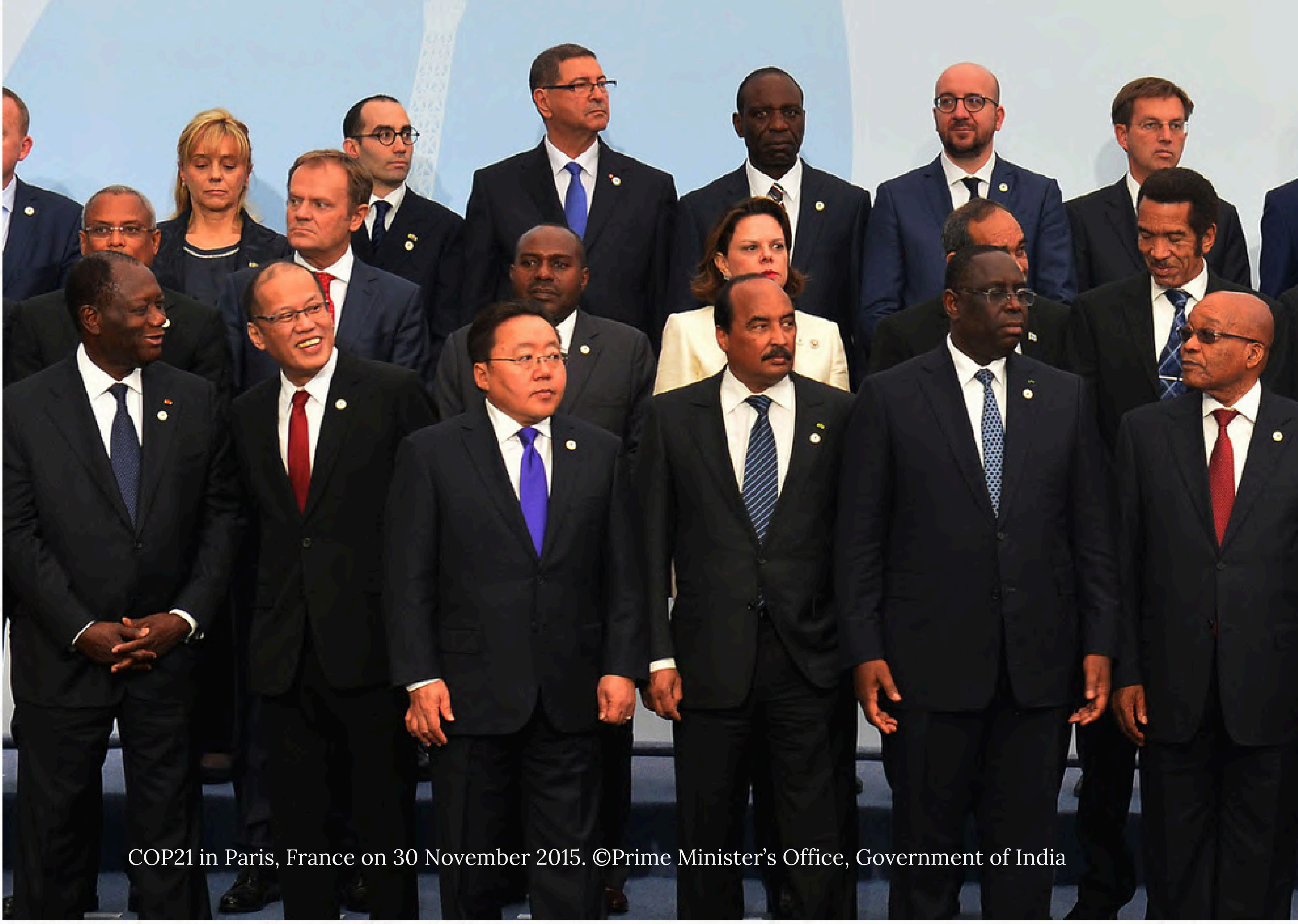
This toolkit serves as an indispensable companion for legislators committed to advancing effective climate action within their respective jurisdictions and as a guide to empower legislators in navigating the complex landscape of climate finance.





To enable legislators to understand climate finance within the unique context of the region, this toolkit also discusses the intricate relationship the topic has with colonialism and human rights. It delves into how colonial legacies continue to shape patterns of resource extraction, economic disparity, and vulnerability to climate change in Southeast Asia and highlights the fundamental importance of upholding human rights principles in climate finance initiatives. Hence, this toolkit also aims to empower parliamentarians to advocate for equitable and rights-based approaches within climate finance networks, fostering transformative change that respects human dignity and promotes environmental justice.

As the global community grapples with the urgent need to address climate change, it is important for legislators to fully understand their responsibility in shaping and adopting legislation that can drive sustainable and resilient economies. By championing climate financing mechanisms that prioritize the needs of their countries and marginalized communities, legislators in Southeast Asia can uphold the principles of environmental justice and human rights, fostering a more equitable and sustainable world for current and future generations.


COP21 in Paris, France on 30 November 2015. ©Prime Minister's Office, Government of India

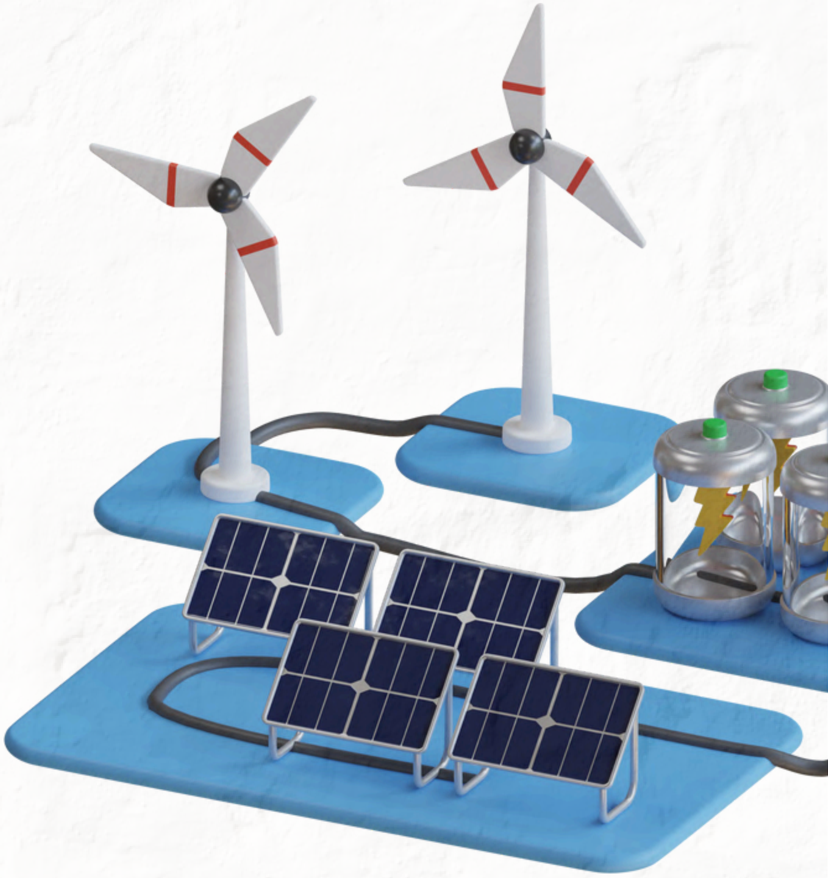
Why Is It Important to Address Climate Change?

Global temperatures are rising fast. To address the pressing challenges of climate change on a global scale, countries have entered into several climate agreements that embody their collective commitments to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of a changing climate, and foster resilience in vulnerable communities and ecosystems. These agreements have evolved in scope, ambition, and inclusivity over time, reflecting the growing urgency and complexity of the climate crisis.

Most relevant to the issue of climate financing is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This is a global treaty that provides the overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to address climate change. Conferences of the Parties (COP) are held annually to discuss and negotiate climate-related issues. ASEAN Member States are active participants in COP discussions.

In 2015, during COP21 in Paris, France, countries adopted the Paris Agreement, a global instrument aimed at limiting the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. All ASEAN Member States are parties to this global agreement.

Under the Paris Agreement, world leaders agreed on limiting the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. By limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, it is believed that the world will suffer fewer negative impacts and adaptation for humans will be less difficult. To meet this target, investments must be made towards tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.



What is Climate Finance?

Definition

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Standing Committee on Finance offers the following definition: "*Climate finance aims at reducing emissions and enhancing sinks of greenhouse gasses and aims at reducing the vulnerability of, and maintaining and increasing the resilience of, human and ecological systems to negative climate change impacts.*"[1]

1. **UNFCC Standing Committee on Finance**, *2014 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows Report (2014), page 5, available at https://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/standing_committee/application/pdf/2014_biennial_assessment_and_overview_of_climate_finance_flows_report_web.pdf*

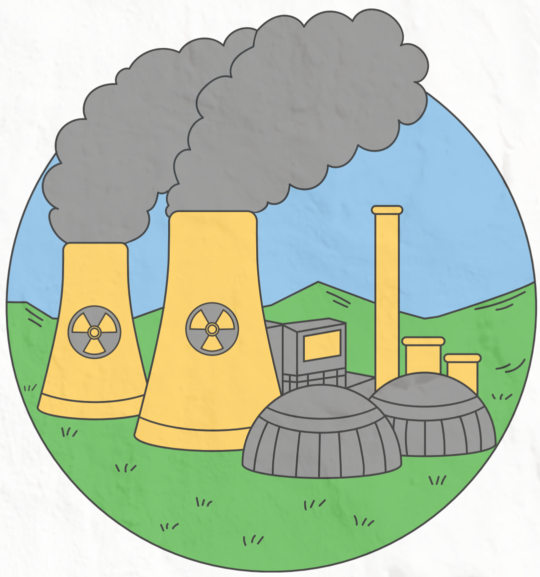
Frequently encountered terms in climate change narratives:

1 Mitigation and Adaption

Mitigation and adaptation are two key strategies for addressing the impacts of climate change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), adaptation efforts focus on building resilience and enhancing the ability of individuals, communities, and ecosystems to withstand and recover from the adverse effects of climate change. On the other hand, mitigation efforts focus on reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions.

Examples of mitigation measures include transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, implementing sustainable land-use practices, and adopting cleaner technologies. Examples of adaptation measures are building climate-resilient infrastructure, implementing early warning systems for extreme weather events, enhancing agricultural practices to withstand changing climatic conditions, and developing sustainable water management strategies.

2 Loss and Damage



Initially emerged in 1991 during UN climate change negotiations when the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and developing countries began exploring avenues of seeking compensation for "the most vulnerable island and low-lying coastal developing countries" for loss and damage caused by sea level rise. Over the years, this term has been used to refer to the adverse effects of climate change (e.g. economic losses and displacement of populations) that cannot be prevented through mitigation or adaptation measures.

Loss and Da
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Climate F

The Loss and Damage Fund and Climate Financing serve distinct purposes within the broader context of addressing climate change impacts. While **Climate Financing** focuses on supporting mitigation and adaptation actions to reduce the overall impacts of climate change, the Loss and Damage Fund specifically addresses the unavoidable losses and damages incurred by vulnerable communities and countries, providing financial assistance for recovery and resilience-building efforts.

The Loss and Damage Fund serves as a mechanism for addressing the justice and equity aspects of climate change, particularly for those who are disproportionately impacted but have contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions.

In November 2022, at the Conference of Parties (COP) 27, countries agreed to establish a transitional committee to determine the structure and financial commitments for a loss and damage fund (LDF).

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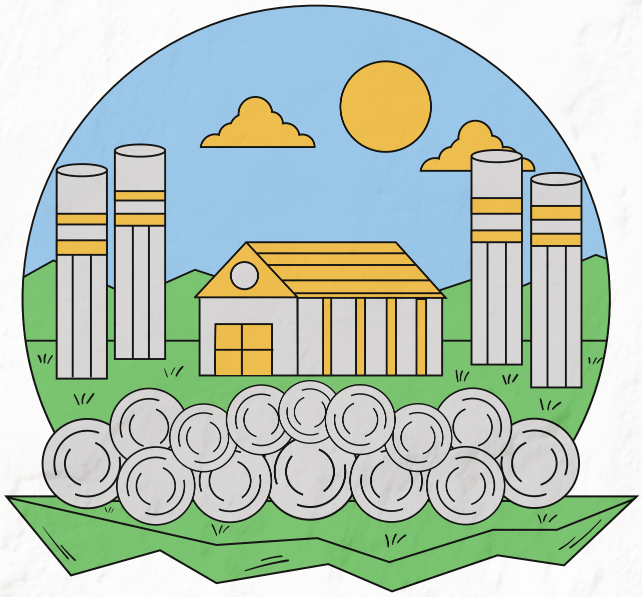
Financing

In 2023, at COP 28, countries agreed to formally establish a loss and damage fund. Although it may look like a positive step towards supporting vulnerable countries in dealing with the effects of climate change, many observers raised critical issues in this decision to operationalize the loss and damage fund. For example, the decision to appoint the World Bank as the interim fund host for the first four years was met with unease by some groups because of its history of charging unjust interest on loans to developing countries.

Furthermore, the six major shareholders of the World Bank (United States, Japan, China, Germany, United Kingdom, France) do not create the impression of impartiality. More significantly, at COP 28, only US$700 million was pledged by several countries to the fund, which falls short of the US$400 billion in losses developing countries face each year because of climate change.

Why is Climate Finance Important?



Below are key reasons why climate financing is important:

Climate finance allows countries, particularly developing nations, to implement the actions outlined in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The NDCs are a key component of the Paris Agreement. They are individual commitments made by each country to outline their efforts in reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. These contributions are "nationally determined" because each country decides for itself the level of ambition and specific actions it will take based on its national circumstances, capabilities, and priorities. NDCs may be targets for reducing emissions, as well as policies, measures, and actions that countries intend to undertake to achieve those targets. NDCs may also include information on adaptation efforts, finance needs, and support required for implementation.

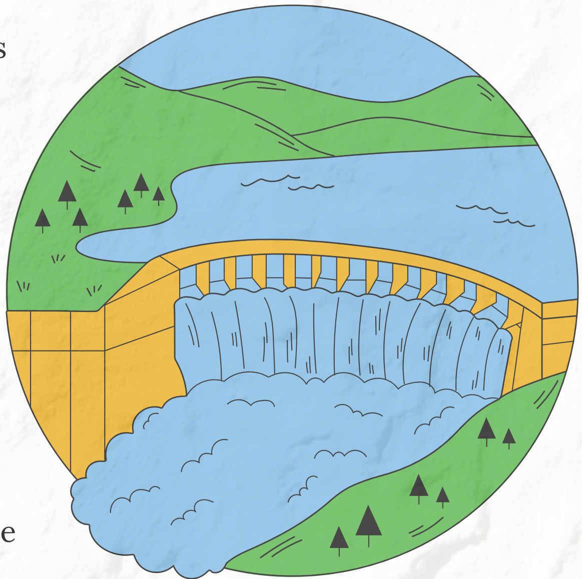
Many countries, especially developing nations, need climate financing to support the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as capacity-building efforts. Thailand, for example, when it communicated its updated NDCs to the UNFCC in 2020, it emphasized the importance of international cooperation and support in achieving its NDC targets. It highlighted the need for financial resources, technology transfer, capacity building, and technical assistance to support the implementation and mitigation of adaptation actions.

Climate financing efforts are therefore often aligned with priorities and objectives outlined in countries' NDCs. This alignment helps maximize the effectiveness and impact of climate finance investments, ensuring that resources are directed towards priority areas identified by countries themselves.

Climate financing accelerates climate action and safeguards the environment.
Climate financing enables the implementation of projects and initiatives that reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, promote renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, protect ecosystems, and build climate resilience.

It may also support conservation and restoration efforts, sustainable land-use practices, and initiatives to protect biodiversity, helping to safeguard the environment and preserve vital ecosystems for future generations.

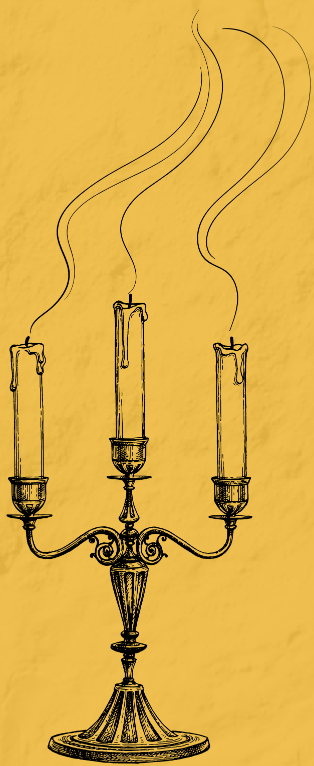
Climate financing supports vulnerable communities.
Vulnerable communities are those that are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change because of factors such as geographical location, socio-economic status, and lack of adaptive capacity. They are, for example, the low-income households, indigenous peoples, women, children, elderly populations, rural communities, coastal settlements, and marginalized groups. These groups either have limited access to resource services or are not able to fully participate in decision-making processes.



Climate financing is important to these communities because it could help them build resilient infrastructure (e.g., flood barriers and levees along waterways and low-lying areas to help contain floodwaters), early warning systems, and agricultural innovations (e.g., developing drought-resistant crop varieties).

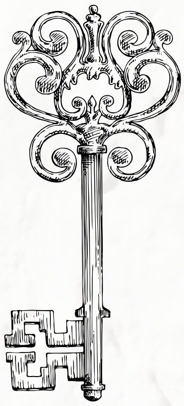
Climate financing promotes equity and justice.
Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities and injustices, with the most vulnerable populations often bearing the brunt of its impacts despite contributing the least to global emissions. Climate financing helps address these disparities by providing financial assistance to developing countries and marginalized communities that lack the resources and capacity to respond effectively to climate change.
Climate finance therefore plays an important role in supporting initiatives that promote sustainability, resilience, and the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Climate finance is crucial to facilitate the necessary transitions toward a more climate-resilient future, fostering global collaboration and equitable distribution of resources to combat the many challenges posed by climate change. It is crucial for implementing mitigation and adaptation measures as they generally require large-scale investments.



Climate Financing and Colonialism

The relationship of climate finance with colonialism is complex and relates significantly to historical injustices, economic disparities, and power dynamics in international relations. When ensuring that there is equitable and just climate financing, it is important to consider historical legacies and work towards a more inclusive and fair global response to climate change.



Key Factors

to consider when examining the relationship between climate finance and colonialism

Historical context

Colonialism has a lasting impact on many countries around the world, including Southeast Asia. The exploitation of natural resources and imposition of economic structures during the colonial period contributed to the current economic disparities between former colonizers and colonized nations.

Economic inequality

The economic challenges faced by many countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (e.g., extreme weather events, rising sea levels, disruptions to agriculture, etc.) are exacerbated by the historical economic exploitation and unequal distribution of resources during colonial times. Climate finance aims to address these inequalities by providing financial support to developing countries to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Note however that the distribution of climate finance (i.e., who gets how much) can sometimes be influenced by the power dynamics that mirror colonial relationships.

“Carbon colonialism”

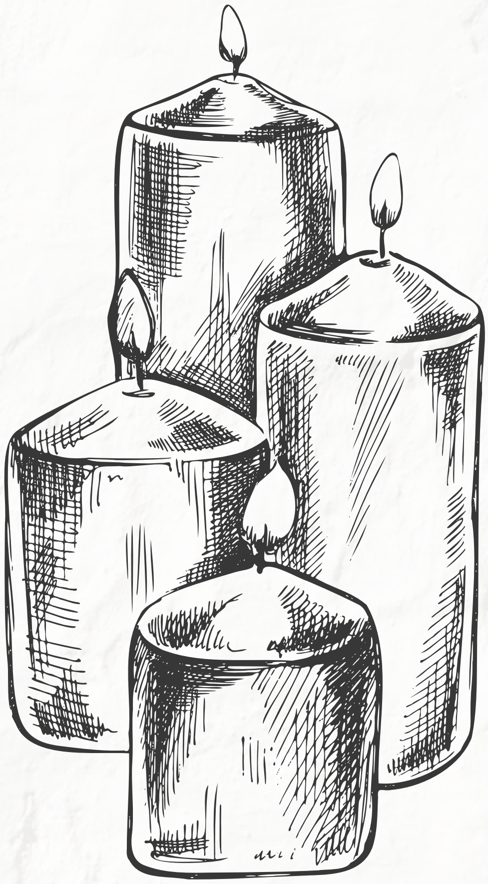
This term refers to the idea that some climate mitigation strategies of developed countries may disproportionately impact communities of developing countries. For example, the dumping of waste in Cambodia and other Global South countries by industries from the Global North.[2]

Global Governance and Decision Making

International institutions and agreements related to climate change such as the UNFCCC involve negotiations where the power dynamics may reflect historical colonial relationships. There is currently a strong push from developing countries to have a fairer distribution of resources and decision-making power in global climate governance.

2. ***Parsons, L.*** *(29 June 2023), Lifting the Curtain on Carbon Colonialism, available at: https://atmos.earth/where-global-north-sends-its-carbon-emissions/*

Climate Financing and Human Rights



Climate financing and human rights are interconnected through the shared goal of promoting human well-being, dignity, and justice. Effective climate financing strategies should prioritize the protection and fulfillment of human rights, such as the right to life, health and livelihood, right to food and water, right to a healthy environment, women's rights, indigenous peoples' rights, etc. Effective climate financing should also recognize the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations and ensure an inclusive and participatory approach in decision-making processes.

Essentially, a human rights-based approach in climate finance would indicate that the human rights framework is at the core and inception of various financing policies and mechanisms that are a means for emissions reduction and climate adaptation. At every stage of the climate-related process, respect for human rights and human rights-based principals are pivotal and should be maintained. This includes planning, the formulation of policies, finance, implementation and evaluation.

One of the necessary requirements to the long-term prevention of climate change and contributions to climate adaptation for vulnerable communities is the assurance of a human rights perspective applied to the design and mechanisms for climate finance distributions. A human rights-based approach means that one starts out with the international human rights framework, which includes five basic normative principles known as the **PANEL principles**. These principles should always guide the development of, and control over, the mechanisms and institutions that manage policies and implementation linked to climate finance.

PANEL PRINCIPLES

Participation - The principle of participation is about the right of people to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them.

Accountability - Efforts financed through climate finance need to have structures that ensure clear lines of accountability and opportunities for affected groups to appeal decisions that adversely affect them.

Non-Discrimination - Vulnerable groups, especially women, children and indigenous peoples, often suffer more than other groups from climate changes as well as negative aspects of climate change adaptation and energy conversion efforts.

Empowerment - Climate finance should help to strengthen people's empowerment and ability to deal with climate change.

Legality - A human rights-based approach should be grounded in legal rights set out in relevant domestic and international laws.

Climate Finance Instruments and Investments
in the Southeast Asian Region

Climate Finance Instruments
Climate financing can originate from a variety of sources, whether public or private, national or international, bilateral or multilateral. It can also be in the form of various instruments, such as:

1

Grants
These are funds that do not need to be repaid and typically used to support capacity-building initiatives, research and development, and community-based adaptation projects in vulnerable regions.

2

Concessional Loans
These loans offer financing with favorable terms, such as below-market interest rates or extended repayment periods to support climate-related projects and investments in developing countries.

3

Equity Investments
These types of investments involve purchasing ownership stakes in companies or projects involved in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, or climate-resilient agriculture. These investments can provide financial returns while promoting environmentally sustainable practices.

4

Debt Financing
This type of instrument involves providing loans or issuing bonds to finance climate-related projects and initiatives. For example, green bonds are debt instruments specifically earmarked for investments in climate-friendly projects.

5

Risk Mitigation Instruments
Examples of these instruments are insurance products and guarantees, which are aimed at managing climate-related risks for investors and project developers. These instruments can provide protection against weather-related disasters, regulatory changes, or project failure. These instruments may increase investor confidence and attract private investment.

6

Carbon Finance Mechanisms
These include carbon markets, carbon taxes, and carbon offset programs. These mechanisms create financial incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and investing in carbon sequestration projects.

7

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
This instrument's main aim is to provide knowledge transfer, training, and expertise to help countries develop and implement climate-related policies, strategies, and projects effectively.

8

Innovative Financing Mechanisms
These may be climate bonds, green funds, and impact investing platforms which mobilize capital from diverse sources, whether public or private.

By employing a combination of these instruments, climate finance can support a wide range of activities and initiatives intended to help address climate change: for both mitigation and adaptation, in all economic sectors, anywhere in the world.

Salient investments made to tackle climate change in the ASEAN

The ASEAN region is increasingly recognized as a pivotal player in the global fight against climate change, with its diverse member states collectively taking significant strides towards sustainable development and environmental stewardship. The ASEAN Member States have shown a growing commitment to investing initiatives that address the complex challenges posed by climate change. These investments cover a wide range of sectors, e.g., renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, climate adaptation, and environmental conservation. Some notable investments are:

Mitigation Investments

Renewable Energy Projects
There have been several investments in Southeast Asian countries in solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal projects. These projects are aimed to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

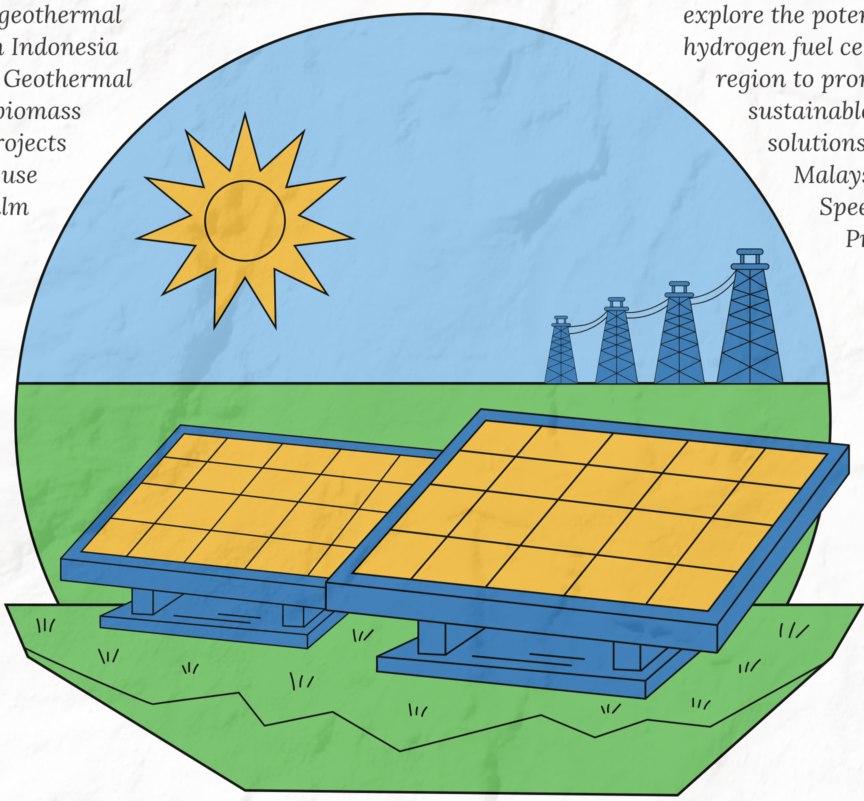
Examples: Solar power in Thailand (B. Grimm Power Plant in Rayong), wind power in the Philippines (Bangui Wind Farm in Ilocos Norte), geothermal energy project in Indonesia (Wayang Windu Geothermal Power Station), biomass and bioenergy projects in Malaysia (the use of waste from palm oil plantations).

Forest Conservation and Restoration
Investments have been made in reforestation projects and sustainable forestry practices to preserve biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration.

Examples: Heart of Borneo Initiative (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei), Million Hectare Reforestation Project (Thailand)

Clean Transportation
Investments have been made in electric vehicles, public transportation infrastructure, and sustainable urban mobility projects to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector.

Examples: ASEAN-Korea Transport and Logistics Cooperation Forum – South Korea has collaborated with ASEAN Member States to explore the potential of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in the region to promote clean and sustainable transportation solutions. Thailand and Malaysia - High-Speed Rail (HSR) Projects.



A power plant operated by B.Grimm Power in Laem Chabang, Chon Buri. **©B.Grimm Power**

The Danum Valley Conservation Area in Sabah provides a sanctuary for the Borneo Pygmy Elephants. **©Craig Ansibin**

A power plant operated by B.Grimm Power in Laem Chabang, Chon Buri. ©B.Grimm Power

CRRC Fuxing Series EMU proposed for Northeastern high-speed rail line passenger services. **©Wei Kakurai**

Adaptation Investments

Climate Resilient Infrastructure
There have been investments made towards building climate resilient infrastructure, particularly in areas vulnerable to extreme weather events. This includes investments in flood defenses, sustainable urban planning, and resilient transportation systems.

Examples:

Singapore *– The emphasis of the country's urban planning is on green spaces and sustainable urban design to manage water runoff, reduce the urban heat island effect and enhance overall climate resilience.*

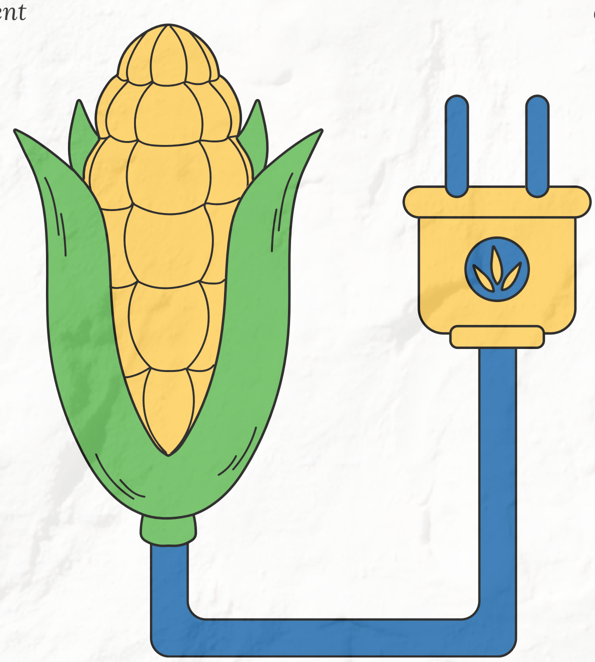
Cambodia *– The "Climate-Resilient Water Resources Management Project" aims to enhance water security in rural areas. It includes the construction of climate resilient water infrastructure, such as small-scale irrigation systems and water storage facilities to cope with drought conditions.*

Climate Smart Agriculture
This is "an integrated approach to managing landscapes (e.g., cropland, livestock, forests, fisheries) that address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change."[3] This includes using methods to increase food security while minimizing environmental impacts.

Examples:

Vietnam *– The "Vietnam Sustainable Agriculture Transformation Project" promotes the adoption of smart technologies, including climate resilient crop varieties and precision agriculture techniques to improve the efficiency and sustainability of farming practices.*

Malaysia *– There are ongoing efforts to promote crop diversification to reduce vulnerability to climate risks. This includes encouraging the cultivation of diverse crops that are resilient to changing climate conditions. Thailand – The "Thailand Organic Agriculture Project" encourages farmers to adopt organic farming practices to enhance soil health, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, and promote environmental sustainability.*



3. **World Bank,** *Climate Smart Agriculture, available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climate-smart-agriculture*

Singapore's Supertree
©Luca Locatelli

9 Key Sources
of finance for the Southeast Asian Region:

Securing climate financing is important and for ASEAN Member States, there are a variety of sources for climate finance that they can utilize. Some of these are:

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
The ADB provides climate finance to support sustainable development projects in the Asia-Pacific region. It funds initiatives related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate-resilient infrastructure, and other climate-related activities in the ASEAN region.

Climate Investment Funds (CIF)
The CIF includes programs like the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Forest Investment Program (FIP), which contribute to climate finance projects in the region. The CIF aims to promote transformational change in countries' development trajectories toward low-carbon and climate-resilient pathways.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)
The GEF provides financial assistance to address global environmental issues, including climate change. It funds projects related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and climate mitigation and adaptation in Southeast Asia.

Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements
ASEAN Member States may receive climate finance through bilateral agreements with developed nations or multilateral agreements involving multiple countries. These agreements often include commitments for financial assistance to support climate-related projects and programs.

Private Sector Investments
The private sector plays a crucial role in providing climate finance through investments. Public-private partnerships and investments from commercial banks contribute to financing climate-related projects in the region.

3. **World Bank**, *Climate Smart Agriculture, available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climate-smart-agriculture#:~:text=Climate%2Dsmart%20agriculture%20(CSA),food%20security%20and%20climate%20change.*

International Development Banks

Aside from the ADB, other international banks such as the World Bank, also provide climate finance to ASEAN Member States. Funds from the World Bank support projects such as clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and resilient infrastructure.

Multinational Climate Initiatives

ASEAN Member States may also benefit from multinational initiatives and partnerships that allocate climate finance to the region. These initiatives may involve collaboration between multiple countries, organizations, and stakeholders to address climate challenges collectively.

Carbon Markets and Offsetting Mechanisms

Participation in international carbon markets and offsetting mechanisms may allow ASEAN Member States to generate funds by selling carbon credits or participating in emissions trading schemes. The European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is an example of a regional emissions trading system. The EU has established a regulatory framework that allows it to limit the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions (cap) and create a market where entities/companies can buy or sell emissions allowances or credits. Countries can set emission reduction targets, and industries can buy or sell allowances based on their emissions.

Climate/Green Budget Tagging

Some Southeast Asian countries already allocate funds from their national budgets to finance climate-related initiatives. Establishing national climate funds allows countries to mobilize domestic resources for climate mitigation and adaptation projects.

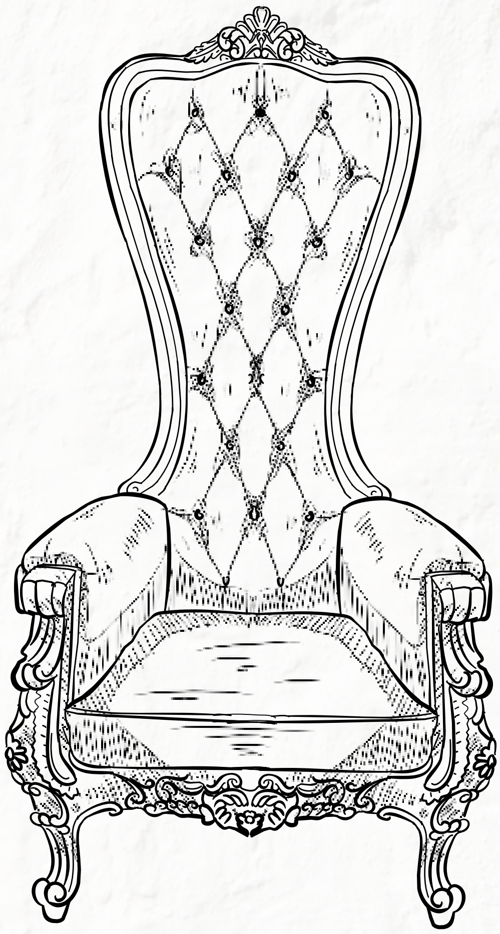
Malaysia's House of Representatives, Kuala Lumpu, 26 July 2021. ©Malaysia's Department of Information

The Role of Parliamentarians in Climate Financing

Lawmakers have an important role to play in climate financing. They can enact legislation and policies that shape the financial landscape for climate-related initiatives. They have the responsibility to create an enabling environment that attracts investments in sustainable practices, renewable energy, and climate resilience.

What is the role of parliamentarians in green budget tagging?

'Green budget tagging' refers to the process that involves identifying, categorizing, and tracking government expenditures related to environmental sustainability and climate action within the national budget. Basically, it offers a range of tools and techniques for governments seeking ways to bring green perspectives to bear on the budget process. One of the central green budgeting tools in many countries is green budgeting tagging. This tool involves assessing each individual budget measure and giving it a "tag" according to whether it is helpful or harmful to green objectives. Green objectives may relate to climate or other areas of the environment, such as biodiversity, air and water challenges (quantity and quality).



This is very important as green budget tagging helps improve transparency around government policy relating to the environment and climate change and aims to improve decision making on public policies. Parliamentarians are especially important in this process specifically on:

Policy advocacy and formulation
Advocating for the integration of environmental and climate considerations into national budgets.

Legislation and oversight
Enacting legislation that mandates the incorporation of green budgeting principles. Establishing legal frameworks that guide government agencies in tagging and reporting on expenditures related to environmental and climate objectives.

Budget and scrutiny approval
Reviewing and scrutinizing government spending proposals during the budgetary process, inquiring about the inclusion of green budget tags, ensuring that funds are allocated to projects and programs that contribute to environmental sustainability and climate mitigation and adaptation.

Capacity building
Engaging in efforts to build their own understanding of environmental and climate issues. This knowledge will equip them to effectively assess and influence budgetary decisions to align with NDCs.

Public engagement
Facilitating public discourse on green budgeting, engaging civil society organizations, environmental experts, and the public to gather insights and their perspectives. This will contribute to informed decision-making during the budgetary process.

Monitoring and evaluation
Monitoring and implementing green budgeting initiatives. Establishing mechanisms (or parliamentary committees) for regular reporting by government agencies on the progress and impact of environmental expenditures.

Advancing international commitments
Participating in international forums (e.g., COP) to ensure that national budget priorities reflect commitments made at forums where climate change and NDCs are discussed.

Cross-Party Cooperation
Fostering bipartisan support for green-budgeting initiatives and creating long-term policies that withstand changes in government.

What is the role of parliamentarians in accessing global climate funds?

Parliamentarians are important in accessing the global climate funds mentioned in the previous section by shaping domestic policies, enacting legislation, and facilitating the necessary frameworks that enable their countries to secure and effectively utilize climate finance. Some key aspects of this role are:

- **Legislation and Policy Frameworks** – Lawmakers are responsible for creating and updating legal frameworks that govern the access and utilization of global climate funds. They can establish national policies that align with the eligibility criteria and objectives of international climate finance mechanisms.
- **Approval of International Agreements** – Lawmakers can play a role in approving international agreements that facilitate the country's access to global climate funds. Ratifying agreements such as the Paris Agreement and other relevant treaties demonstrates a country's commitment to climate action and enhances its eligibility for climate finance.
- **National Designated Authorities (NDAs)** – Many global climate funds require countries to designate an NDA or an equivalent entity responsible for coordinating climate finance activities. Lawmakers may enact a law that establishes an NDA, defining its roles and responsibilities.
- **Capacity Building** – Lawmakers can support capacity building efforts within government agencies by providing resources for training and expertise in their budgets.
- **Budget Allocations** – Lawmakers are vital in allocating national budgets to climate-related projects and activities.
- **Advocacy at International Forums** – Lawmakers, particularly those included in parliamentary delegations at international forums, can advocate for their country's access to global climate funds. They may participate in negotiations, highlight national commitments, and seek support for climate finance during international gatherings.
- **Institutional Coordination** – Lawmakers can promote inter-ministerial coordination to ensure that different government agencies work together effectively in accessing and utilizing global climate funds. Clear lines of communication and cooperation are essential for the success of climate finance initiatives.
- **Promotion of Investment-Friendly Policies** – Lawmakers can enact legislation and policies that create an investment-friendly environment for climate projects, encouraging private sector participation and leveraging additional funding sources.

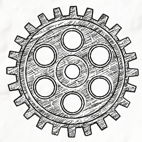
Overall, the legislative branch holds the power to drive systemic change and create the necessary financial mechanisms to address climate change effectively and promote sustainable development.

Recommendations for Parliamentarians

Parliamentarians play a crucial role in shaping policies and legislation related to climate financing.

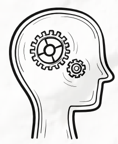
Below are recommendations that may be adopted by parliamentarians in the ASEAN so that they can contribute to creating an enabling environment for climate financing, fostering sustainable development, and ensuring that ASEAN Member States are better equipped to address the challenges posed by climate change.

Establish clear legislative frameworks
Develop and update national laws and policies that provide a clear and supportive framework for climate financing and ensure alignment with international agreements and commitments to facilitate access to global climate funds.



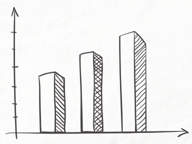
Establish National Designated Authorities (NDAs) and Coordination Mechanisms
Enact laws that designate and empower NDAs or equivalent entities responsible for coordinating climate finance activities. Facilitate coordination among relevant ministries and agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to climate financing.

Incorporate climate considerations in budgetary processes
Advocate for the integration of climate considerations in national budgets. Encourage the allocation of funds to climate-resilient and low-carbon initiatives and prioritize investments that contribute to sustainable development goals.

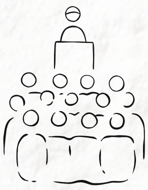


Enhance Institutional Capacity
Allocate resources to build the capacity and expertise of government officials involved in climate financing. Ensure that relevant ministries can prepare, implement, and monitor climate projects.

Promote transparency and accountability
Advocate for a robust reporting mechanism on the use of climate funds and enact laws that ensure transparency, public disclosure, and accountability in the management of climate finance resources.

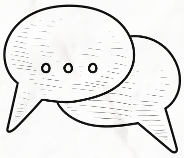


Support research and data collection
Ensure that funds are allocated for research initiatives that assess the impact of climate change on the country and identify priority areas for investment. Champion the availability of reliable data to inform climate change financing decisions.



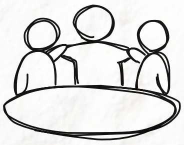
Facilitate public participation and awareness
Engage actively with the public and raise awareness about climate change and the importance of climate financing. Encourage public participation in decision-making processes related to climate projects, fostering a sense of ownership and support among the people.

Consider gender-responsive climate financing
Integrate gender considerations into climate financing policies and projects. These considerations should recognize and address the different impacts of climate change on men and women, ensuring that climate funds contribute to gender equality and empowerment.



Leverage private sector engagement
Facilitate the creation of policies that attract private sector investments in climate projects. Consider financial incentives, regulatory frameworks, and partnerships to encourage businesses to contribute to climate financing efforts.

Advocate for international cooperation
Engage and actively participate in international forums to advocate for increased financial support for climate projects. Use this opportunity to collaborate with international partners, donor agencies, and development banks to access global climate funds and enhance the country's resilience.



Prioritize adaptation and resilience
Prioritize funding for projects that enhance climate adaptation and resilience, particularly in vulnerable areas. Ensure allocation of resources to safeguard communities against the impacts of extreme weather events and long-term climate change.

Evaluate and update legislation periodically
Periodically review and update climate-related legislation to reflect evolving climate challenges, technological advancements, and international agreements. Verify that legal frameworks remain adaptive and effective in addressing current and future climate needs.