

Cleaning the Archipelago: SDG7 in Indonesia's Broader Climate Context

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Good afternoon,

Honored participants and guests present here today in this uplifting forum.

First of all, I would like to convey my gratitude to all the parties who have made it possible for me to deliver a few points of reflection at today's important event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At COP 21 in Paris, a global consensus was reached for the adoption of an Agreement to collectively tackle climate change, and to ensure a habitable and prospering world for our future generations to live in. Not long after, the Indonesian House of Representatives, through Commission VII—the Energy and Environmental Commission, of which I am proud to contribute to as vice-chairman—ratified in record-time the Paris Agreement as officially a part of our national legislation. Thus, Indonesia now has a Paris Agreement Law, which serves as the legislative backbone for our Nationally Determined Contribution or NDC.

The essence of the Paris Agreement parallels and furthers a kindred global commitment: the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG number 13 or Climate Action. Based on the interwoven targets and goals set by both SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement, Indonesia's NDC is our spearhead for integrating climate action into national policy framework, and the bridge that connects global commitments and local measures.

Indonesia's NDC covers 5 sectors: (1) Energy, (2) Waste, (3) Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), (4) Agriculture, and (5) Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry. It is at this point that SDG 7—“**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**”—comes into the equation. As you can see, it is a logical consequence that if Indonesia commits to all the targets and indicators within SDG 13, through our NDC this will then automatically encompass the targets and indicators within SDG 7, as Energy is a significant part of our NDC.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I go further, it is imperative to note what exactly we are fighting against. Indonesia is the 6th largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world, and contributes 4.5% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Out of our total 1,334 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e), the energy sector contributes roughly 34% or 453.2 (MTCO₂e), whereas 48.5% or 647 MTCO₂e comes from Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry or LULUCF. Our NDC aims to unconditionally reduce Indonesia's total emissions by 29% by 2030, or 41% with international assistance.

What actions are needed to achieve this massive target? Cleaner energy is definitely on the list. For the record, Indonesia is in the middle of finishing a national 35GW

electrification project. Due to intensive parliamentary pushback, what was originally almost entirely coal-based is now down to 50% coal and 50% clean and cleaner energy, such as geothermal and natural gas.

Geothermal is one of Indonesia's most precious and potential natural gifts. We have 29,543.5 MW of potential geothermal resources; that is 40% of the entire world's geothermal. In March, our newest geothermal power plant, Power Plant Sarulla in North Sumatera, will be operational with a capacity of 110 MW. With Sarulla in place, Indonesia will have overtaken the Philippines in geothermal energy production, and will be 2nd only to the United States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Converting gasoline to natural gas is also one of our top priorities. Indonesia is aiming to implement the Euro 4 standard nationwide by 2021, and Euro 5 by 2025. This is sorely needed to mitigate the current pollution from octane-88 gasoline. In Jakarta, for example, 90% of transportation emissions comes from road transportation. This is not merely an inconvenient figure, but has devastating implications for public health.

In 2010, 57.8% out of Jakarta's 9,607,787 inhabitants suffered from various air pollution-related diseases. 1,210,581 people suffered from asthmatic bronchiale; 173,487 people with bronchopneumonia; 2,449,986 people with ARI; 336,273 people with pneumonia; 153,724 people with COPD; and 1,246,130 people with coronary artery diseases. The total health cost is around 38.5 trillion rupiah, or 54 billion USD.

A similarly devastating case is found in the LULUCF sector. On October 2015, daily estimated greenhouse gas emissions from fires in Indonesia surpassed average daily emissions from the entire US economy (approximately 15.95 million tons of CO₂ per day). More than 75,000 people suffered from upper respiratory infections as a result of these fires. At that time, greenhouse gas emissions from 1 week of fire on 1.6% of Indonesia's land area contributed 5–10% of Indonesia's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Last but not least, I shall turn my attention to the issue of electrification. Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,500 islands, and you can see how overcoming material disparity has historically been one of our largest challenges. Unfortunately, we currently still have 2,510 unelectrified villages spread out in 20 provinces, of which Papua has the largest share of 2,111 villages. However, the government is pushing at breakneck speed to electrify our population, as it is a constitutional right and a fundamental function of the state. We hope that by 2025 we will have electrified 99.7% of our country, and will not stop until every inhabited island or village is electrified.

That is all that I have to contribute today. May we all have the best of luck in ensuring the survival and wellbeing of our society and planet, and in resisting that strange force which is separating the mother from her unborn child of a generation away, and is tearing apart the living from their motherland.