

ED MARTIN TABI
AED MAJA SVERDRUP

Canada / Denmark / Finland / Ireland / The Netherlands / Norway / Sweden
Asian Development Bank

Dear ED Tabi & AED Sverdrup,

Good day!

As you may know, the Asia region is currently in a critical period, experiencing overlapping crises on political, economic, and ecological fronts. Countries in the region are navigating deep political upheavals and economic instability while also bearing the brunt of intensifying climate impacts. Rising sea levels threaten entire coastal communities, stronger typhoons devastate livelihoods, prolonged droughts undermine food security, and haze pollution from deforestation and land-use change. These realities are compounded by extractive development models and fossil fuel dependence that lock us into vulnerability, while our future is extracted and burned at the expense of the profit and consumption patterns of the rich countries.

Asian Development Bank, being one of the biggest financiers in Asia, is now undertaking policy changes in its Energy Sector. In several submissions made by the Civil Society Organizations and affected communities, we raise serious concerns about the Energy Policy Review, given the contentious amendments put on the table. We strongly reiterate our calls and demands that ADB must:

- **Strengthen its prohibition on nuclear energy financing**, including support for new technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), instead of lifting it, given their high risks, prohibitive costs, and long development timelines, veering away from the 1.5°C climate goal.
- **Reject extractive-centered approaches** like Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing (CM2CET) and “climate-smart mining” and instead prioritize sustainable, rights-respecting pathways for a just energy transition.
- **Adopt clear and enforceable criteria to ensure methane-reduction projects** do not prolong the life of oil and gas fields or enable fossil fuel expansion. These must include partner company commitments to a fossil fuel phase-out date aligned with IEA net-zero scenarios and a ban on expanding fossil fuel operations.
- **Address the structural flaws of the Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM)** by ensuring transparency, community participation, debt safeguards, and just transition plans. With its current trajectory, the ETM risks becoming a tool for fossil fuel expansion rather than a pathway to a just and equitable energy transition.
- **Reject false solutions such as retrofitting coal and gas plants for hydrogen, ammonia, or biofuel co-firing**, which prolong fossil fuel use, drive deforestation, waste resources, and create new social and environmental risks.
- **End all financing for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)**, including technical assistance, piloting, and project development, given its consistent failure to deliver real emission reductions and its serious social and environmental risks

As the Board of Directors, we believe that your vote against the dangerous amendments to the ADB Energy Policy stated above is a big win in championing a just and equitable transition in the region. We urge the ADB and your constituency to ensure that the Energy Policy delivers a just transition that upholds human rights as strongly as climate goals. A zero-emissions future must also mean zero human rights abuses, with enforceable safeguards that guarantee meaningful community participation, labor rights, and Indigenous Peoples’ rights, including free, prior, and informed consent. The policy must also establish strong protections for environmental and human rights defenders, along with gender-responsive grievance mechanisms and accountability measures in fragile or militarized contexts.

To end, we urge you to stand with communities and uphold an energy future that is sustainable, equitable, and rights-respecting. You can also access our collective submission [here](#).

Thank you very much, and we look forward to your commitment.

Organization

Country