

Board of Directors**Asian Development Bank**

6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila

Philippines

Dear ADB Board of Directors,

We write with deep concern regarding the Asian Development Bank's ongoing Energy Policy Review, specifically the proposal to lift its long-standing prohibition on nuclear energy financing. Such a reversal would undermine ADB's credibility as a climate leader and derail its commitments to the Paris Agreement and to climate justice.

Nuclear energy is not a viable pathway for Asia's just transition. Its prohibitive costs, long development timelines, and unresolved issues around waste management make it incompatible with the urgent need to limit warming to 1.5°C. In a region already marked by seismic risks, fragile governance, and constrained civic space, nuclear development would amplify existing dangers while locking countries into debt and high-risk technologies. Far from accelerating decarbonization, new reactors, including so-called "Small Modular Reactors", would arrive far too late to address the climate crisis, while diverting scarce resources away from proven, sustainable, and people-centered energy solutions.

The Energy Policy Review must not open the door to nuclear expansion. Instead, ADB should strengthen its ban and reaffirm its commitment to safe, equitable, and rights-based energy pathways. Lifting the prohibition risks legitimizing false solutions that compromise public safety, human rights, and environmental integrity. It would also contradict the Bank's stated commitment to climate resilience, sustainability, and just transition principles.

We therefore call on ADB's Board of Directors to:

- Retract any proposal in the Energy Policy Review that lifts the nuclear energy financing ban and maintain a strict prohibition.
- Prioritize investment in renewable, decentralized, and community-led solutions that advance energy access while respecting rights and ecosystems.
- Ensure that all policy revisions align with Paris goals, human rights obligations, and the principles of equity and intergenerational justice.

Nuclear energy is not the future Asia needs. The Energy Policy Review is a critical moment for ADB to stand with communities, uphold its responsibility to deliver a safe and just transition, and avoid repeating the mistakes of unsustainable, high-risk energy development.

You can also access our collective submission [here](#).

Thank you very much. We look forward to your commitment to safeguarding both climate goals and human rights by keeping nuclear energy off the table.

Sincerely,

Organization

Country