



## MEDIA BRIEF

### **THE INDONESIAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION POSITIVELY WELCOMES THE INITIATIVE TO FORM A JOINT TASK FORCE: EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY, PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

*Jakarta, 12 October 2023* - Indonesian coalition on EUDR consisting of CSOs, smallholders unions, palm oil labour unions, Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) organisations, women and youth associations, representing the most vulnerable stakeholders who will be affected by the implementation of the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) in Indonesia, welcomes the joint initiative between Indonesia, Malaysia and the European Union to form a Joint Task Force (JTF).

Coalition believes that initiative to form a JTF will have a positive impact in increasing dialogue regarding traceability and transparency of agricultural commodity supply chains that are at risk of causing deforestation and forest degradation as regulated in the EUDR. Directly or indirectly, the future fate of smallholders, palm oil labourers, and IPLCs in Indonesia, will be greatly influenced by the agreement and action plan that will be formulated by the JTF.

However, as Coalition has been actively involved in monitoring, engaging and responding to the EUDR from the start, we deeply regret that the first consultation process carried out by the JTF parties on 4 August 2023 was held behind closed doors and was not inclusive. This action goes against the basic principles of democracy.

The Coalition also regrets that there is not enough information available to the public, which can be used by vulnerable stakeholders who will be affected, such as smallholders, plantation labourers, IPLCs, as well as by the independent monitoring groups to ensure that the processes and stages taking place at the JTF are not going to discriminate against the affected stakeholders.



In the Coalition's view, formulating an agreement that has a broad impact without involving all stakeholders, including stakeholders who will be vulnerable to being affected, not only violates the principles of democracy and human rights but could also affect the quality of achieving the JTF's goals regarding the implementation of the EUDR.

To ensure that the agreements reached and action plans agreed upon by the JTF in the future do not have a negative impact or harm the vulnerable stakeholder groups affected, the Coalition calls for all stages taking place within the JTF to be based on the values and principles of transparency, participation and inclusion and accountability. The implementation of these values and principles are intertwined and cannot be separated from each other, so that the JTF does not only represent the interests and benefits of certain stakeholders.

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Notes:

1. Indonesia, Malaysia and the European Union have agreed to form a Joint Task Force (JTF) which aims to strengthen cooperation in implementing the European Union Deforestation-Free Commodity Regulation. The three parties held their first JTF meeting in Jakarta on Friday, August 4 2023, where they agreed to focus on strengthening dialogue regarding two things, namely supply chain traceability and transparency.
2. The Indonesian Coalition for EUDR is a combination of various representations of stakeholder groups in Indonesia, totaling 44 organisations. Consisting of CSOs, smallholder and palm oil labour unions, Indigenous Peoples and local communities organisations, which were formed to respond to the developments of the regulatory framework in the European Union regarding commodities at risk of deforestation which on



May 16 2023 were ratified and are known as the EU Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR ).

3. EUDR is aimed at ensuring that products imported or placed on the European Union market come from legal sources and do not cause deforestation and forest degradation. The types of commodities regulated in this regulation include beef, chocolate, coffee, palm oil, soybeans, rubber and wood, including several derivative products, such as leather, chocolate and furniture.
4. The Coalition has submitted a request for face-to-face dialogue with the parties involved in the JTF process, as well as sending a joint statement from the National Coalition regarding EUDR, addressed to the Indonesian Government, the Representative of the Malaysian Government in Indonesia and the Representative of the European Union Delegation in Indonesia on 6 October 2023.

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**Joint Statement of the Indonesian National Coalition Regarding Joint Task Force**

We the undersigned are the coalition of civil society movements in Indonesia consisting of CSOs, smallholder unions and palm oil plantation labour, Indigenous Peoples and local community (IPLCs) organisations, women and youth, representing stakeholders who will be affected by the implementation of the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR ) in Indonesia, welcomed the joint initiative between Indonesia, Malaysia and the European Union to form a Joint Task Force (JTF).

We believe that the initiative to establish a JTF will have a positive impact on improving dialogue regarding traceability and transparency of supply chains for agricultural commodities that are at risk of causing deforestation and forest degradation as regulated in the EUDR. In our view, directly or indirectly, the future of smallholders, palm oil plantation labourers, Indigenous groups and local communities in Indonesia, will be greatly influenced by the agreements and action plans that will be formulated by the JTF.

However, as a national coalition that has been actively involved in monitoring and responding to the EUDR since the beginning, we deeply regret how the first consultation process of JTF carried out on 4 August 2023 was held behind closed doors and was not inclusive, which is against the basic principles in democracy.

We regret that there is not sufficient and publicly available information that can be used by vulnerable stakeholders who will be affected, such as smallholders, plantation labourers, IPLC communities, as well as independent monitoring groups to ensure that the processes and stages taking place at the JTF will not discriminate the affected stakeholders.

In our view, formulating an agreement that has a broad impact without involving vulnerable stakeholders who will be affected not only violates the principles of democracy and human rights but can also affect the quality of JTF to achieve its objectives.

To ensure that the agreements reached and action plans agreed upon by the JTF will not have a negative impact or harm the vulnerable stakeholder groups affected, the National Coalition calls for all stages taking place within the JTF to be based on the values and principles of transparency, participation and inclusion



and accountability. The implementation of these values and principles is interdependent and cannot be separated from each other, so that the JTF does not only represent the interests and benefits of certain stakeholders.

We propose the adoption of the following principles and steps so that the JTF can optimally carry out its mandate:

1. Transparency

- a. We propose JTF to have a dedicated media platform that displays all relevant information accessible to the public. This media platform will be a learning space for the public regarding the vision, mission and implementation of the JTF mandate. This is crucial considering the impact that the JTF action plan will have in the future.
- b. We consider it important for the JTF to have periodic written reports (e.g. every six months) which aim to inform the public about the development of the ongoing processes. This report should be open to the public and displayed on JTF's dedicated media platform. It is important that the periodic reports have official copies written in the official languages of all three parties involved in the JTF.
- c. It is important that all information regarding the JTF is conveyed in language that is easily understood by various stakeholder groups, especially affected groups such as smallholders, plantation labourers, and IPLCs. Avoid using complicated terminology, and have explanatory attachments if needed for the affected stakeholders.
- d. We also propose that JTF have a permanent secretariat in Indonesia with clear address and contact numbers. The Secretariat should be open and accessible to affected stakeholder groups who wish to carry out face-to-face consultations and dialogue.
- e. In every decision making process, JTF must ensure the presence and involvement of all stakeholder groups. Decision making should, as far as possible, be based on collective consensus and avoiding voting models that could provide opportunities for rights violation of certain stakeholder groups such as smallholders, plantation labourers, IPLCs community, independent monitoring groups and/or civil society organisations.

2. Representation

- a. We propose that representatives of the various stakeholder groups who will be involved in JTF are not appointed unilaterally by the Government. We



strongly believe that JTF needs to have clear indicators and criteria regarding the competence and relevance of each stakeholder group representative who will be involved. These indicators and criteria must be announced to the public and provide opportunities for complaints if JTF members who are deemed incompetent or irrelevant are involved.

- b. We propose that JTF have representatives from affected groups, such as plantation labourers, smallholders unions, IPLC groups, independent monitoring institutions and civil society organisations. Involving representatives of affected groups in JTF is a strategic step to ensure full and meaningful participation for all stakeholder groups, especially for affected groups.

### 3. Participation and Inclusivity

- a. We propose that JTF involves all interest groups, both those who benefit from the EUDR and those who are affected by this regulation. The involvement of representatives of plantation labourers and smallholder unions, IPLC groups, independent monitoring institutions and civil society organisations is an important indicator that JTF is not intended to benefit one particular group and ignores the risks/impacts on other groups.
- b. We also consider that JTF needs to accommodate women's representation from various affected stakeholder groups in the five agricultural commodities in focus. The involvement of women is not symbolic, so JTF should have a mechanism that ensures women feel safe from physical and verbal harassment and discrimination during the JTF action/work plan.
- c. We also propose that the Indonesian Government actively ensure and facilitate the involvement and participation of stakeholders, especially representatives of affected groups as mentioned above.

### 4. Accountability

- a. We propose that every decision making in the JTF be carried out in a participatory and accountable manner. If a deadlock occurs that must be resolved through voting, the voting must be carried out openly and recorded in a meeting attachment that can be accessed by the public. We consider this important so that the wider public can monitor all processes taking place within the JTF.
- b. We consider it important for JTF to have a complaints mechanism that can facilitate the submission of complaints based on field findings by



stakeholders who are disadvantaged by practices that are not in accordance with values and principles. This complaint mechanism needs to be structured in a simple way, easy to access and can be followed up by JTF. The public and stakeholder groups who are disadvantaged can also monitor the extent to which complaints have been handled.

- c. We also propose that JTF has a clear and measurable road map and indicators for the work programs and agenda that needs to be consulted to the wider public and not limited to stakeholder representatives who are part of the task force.

We, the undersigned organisations as part of the national coalition, also request the opportunity for face-to-face dialogue with the parties involved in JTF to directly convey matters of concern to us. This face-to-face meeting is important as a measure of commitment to the principles and values we mentioned above.

#### List of coalition members

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN)</li> <li>2. Barisan Pemuda Adat Nusantara (BPAN)</li> <li>3. Coaction Indonesia</li> <li>4. Deling Kuning</li> <li>5. FIAN Indonesia</li> <li>6. Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI)</li> <li>7. Global Geografi Indonesia (GRID)</li> <li>8. Green of Borneo</li> <li>9. Independent Forest Monitoring Fund (IFM Fund)</li> <li>10. Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ)</li> <li>11. Jaringan Pemantau Independen Kehutanan (JPIK)</li> <li>12. Jurnal Celebes</li> <li>13. Komunitas Masyarakat Desa - Sulawesi Tenggara (KOMNASDESA - SULTRA)</li> <li>14. Komunitas Teras</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Lembaga Papua Konservasi – Manokwari, Papua Barat</li> <li>16. Lembaga Studi &amp; Advokasi Masyarakat (ELSAM)</li> <li>17. Link-AR Borneo</li> <li>18. PADI Indonesia</li> <li>19. Pantau Gambut</li> <li>20. Pengurus Daerah (PD) AMAN Sorong Raya</li> <li>21. Perhimpunan Bantuan Hukum Keadilan dan Perdamaian (PBHKP) Sorong, Papua Barat</li> <li>22. Persekutuan Perempuan Adat Nusantara (Perempuan AMAN)</li> <li>23. Perkumpulan Alam Hijau (A-HI)</li> <li>24. Perkumpulan Belantara</li> <li>25. Perkumpulan Kaoem Telapak</li> <li>26. Perkumpulan HuMa</li> <li>27. POKJA Pesisir</li> <li>28. Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan</li> </ol> |
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## Hidup (PPLH) Mangkubumi

29. Relawan Untuk Orang & Alam (ROA)
30. Sawit Watch
31. Serikat Petani Kelapa Sawit (SPKS)
32. The Institute for Ecosoc Rights
33. Trend Asia
34. Uno Itam
35. Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI)
36. WALHI Papua
37. Yayasan Auriga Nusantara
38. Yayasan Etnika Kosmologi Katulistiwa
39. Yayasan FORTASBI (Forum Petani Sawit Berkelanjutan Indonesia)
40. Yayasan Kaharingan Institute
41. Yayasan Peduli Nanggroe Atjeh (PeNA)
42. Yayasan Pusaka Bentala Rakyat
43. Yayasan Sangga Bumi Lestari (Aidenvironment Asia)
44. Yayasan SETARA, Jambi