

Call of Belem for the Climate

Thirty-three years ago, in 1992, world leaders met in Brazil, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, to seek ways to address the threats to the planet and to the various forms of life.

The great legacy of the Earth Summit was to show that, with negotiation, mutual understanding, and hard work, it is possible to overcome differences, acknowledge the reality of the facts, and find solutions. We approved the Climate, Biodiversity, and Desertification Conventions and the principles that established a new paradigm and direction for preserving the planet and humanity.

More than three decades later, we meet again in Brazil, this time in Belém, in the heart of the Amazon.

The challenge is no less significant. We have made progress, but not enough. Climate change is no longer a threat of the future. It is a tragedy of the present. From hurricanes, cyclones, and floods that threaten the existence of small island developing states to droughts, fires, and inundations affecting all countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe, rising global temperatures are spreading pain and destruction, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

As if the inequalities of race, gender, income, and living conditions that mark our planet were not enough, climate change has increased the exposure of the poorest to natural disasters.

We need to accelerate the fight against global warming and strengthen multilateralism in combating climate change. The goals we set in the Climate Convention and its instruments will only be achieved if the world embarks on an accelerated path of transformation.

Ten years after the Paris Agreement, we are beginning a new decade focused on implementation. We must urgently address the shortcomings: in our climate commitments (the ambition gap); in what we are actually doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (the implementation gap); and in the necessary financial, technological, and capacity-building support for developing countries to carry out their transition (the means-of-implementation gap).

Rich countries have developed unsustainably over the past few centuries, at the cost of greenhouse gas emissions, as recognized in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Therefore, they have a material and historical obligation to help other countries develop sustainably and in a way that is less harmful to the planet. We cannot repeat the mistakes of the past.

We need to strengthen global climate governance and promote structural adjustments in the international financial architecture. To refound multilateralism on fair and inclusive bases.

This is the moment of truth. Before our populations and future generations, we are and will be put to the test regarding our respect for science and our ability to act for the good of humanity.

I call on world leaders to do more for the planet and to reaffirm their commitment to climate multilateralism. We must restore mutual trust and the spirit of collective mobilization that, right here in Brazil, inspired us to make the union between cooperation and action the only possible path.

For the commitment to multilateralism

Nationally Determined Contributions – ambition and opportunity

The presentation of NDCs is an essential part of our commitment to multilateralism. I urge countries to maintain a level of ambition in their emissions reduction targets compatible with the effort needed to limit the increase in the average global temperature to 1.5°C, through:

- a. The urgent presentation of all NDCs, with the maximum possible ambition, considering common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances; and
- b. Strengthening regulatory frameworks, including national or subnational laws, as well as the institutional arrangements necessary for their implementation, such as councils or other independent bodies that encourage and monitor the implementation of national climate policies.

Means of implementation – financing and accountability

Without adequate financial, technological and capacity-building support, developing countries lack the necessary conditions to effectively implement climate goals. We need to ensure adequate means of implementation, by:

- a. Scaling up climate finance through new and additional resources from developed countries to developing countries, as per Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement;
- b. Designing and implementing debt swap mechanisms for developing countries capable of simultaneously addressing over-indebtedness and accelerating climate action;
- c. Adapting the international financial architecture to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, including by revising prudential rules and risk assessment mechanisms to incorporate the costs of climate inaction; adjusting the cost of capital to reflect the urgency of mitigation and adaptation; and expanding support to developing countries with fair financing, grants, and innovative instruments without increasing indebtedness;
- d. Adopting and implementing the “Baku-Belem Roadmap for 1.3 T”, prepared jointly by the presidencies of COPs 29 and 30, to expand climate finance to developing countries to at least US\$1.3 trillion annually by 2035;

e. Tripling, by 2030, the volume of disbursements made in 2022 through the operational entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Fund for Climate Change; and significantly increase contributions to the Fund to Respond to Loss and Damage;

f. Accelerating the transfer and joint development of technologies related to climate mitigation and adaptation;

g. Integrating digital transformations into the implementation of climate commitments, through solutions such as digital public infrastructure (DPI) and open data interoperability, given their potential to provide unprecedented scale and speed in the provision of public services; and

h. Establishing and strengthening technical assistance platforms and capacity building to support developing countries in implementing climate action.

Adaptation – resilience and solidarity

Adaptation is an essential pillar of climate action. Its insufficiency reveals the most immediate and unequal impacts of global warming. I urge countries to integrate adaptation into the core of climate policy, for the protection of populations, ecosystems and economies, through:

a. Submitting National Adaptation Plans as soon as possible; and

b. Significantly increasing in funding for adaptation, potentially tripling available resources, to respond to the urgent and growing need to accelerate the reduction of vulnerabilities and the building of resilience in developing countries, considering the need for public and concessional resources, as well as other sources.

For the acceleration of implementation

Accelerating climate action – the legacy and the new decade

The Climate Convention (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and other multilateral instruments developed in recent years offer the path for the collective action needed in the face of the climate emergency. I call on all countries to accelerate the implementation of climate action by all available means and to inaugurate the next decade with ambition, cooperation and a sense of urgency. Among the concrete paths, I highlight:

a. Creating a UN Climate Change Council, to aggregate means of implementation, processes, actors and climate-related mechanisms, with a view to accelerating the implementation of decisions adopted under the Climate Convention and the Paris Agreement;

b. Exploring the synergies between climate, biodiversity, desertification and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, recalling the Rio Conventions, the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21;

- c. Expanding financing channels for forests, via sustainable and large-scale mechanisms based on measured results-based payments, such as: increasing green investment options through the capitalization of the Tropical Forests Forever Fund (TFFF), which remunerates countries for the conservation of forests; strengthening REDD+ to reduce deforestation, under the regulatory framework established in the Convention; mobilizing all available sources of resources for forest restoration, including high-integrity carbon markets;
- d. Strengthening international cooperation in integrated fire management, prioritizing fire prevention, capacity building, cross-border cooperation, and the resilience of ecosystems and communities;
- e. Mobilizing ocean-based climate action, anchored in a robust financial architecture and dedicated and predictable technological resources;
- f. Combating all forms of energy poverty, ensuring universal access to reliable, sustainable, modern and affordable energy, as well as clean cooking;
- g. Implementing the commitment to transition away from fossil fuels in a fair, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, in order to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, in accordance with science;
- h. Defining roadmaps to fairly and systematically reverse deforestation, overcome dependence on fossil fuels and mobilize the resources needed for these objectives;
- i. Promoting clean energy sources, doubling renewable energy in the electricity sector and tripling energy efficiency by 2030, and quadrupling the production and use of sustainable fuels by 2035;
- j. Urgently adopting and implementing the global regulatory framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in international shipping, approved by the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- k. Preventing unilateral commercial actions with environmental justifications, so that trade once again unites nations, instead of dividing them;
- l. Participating in the Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade, to build concrete solutions that combine climate action and sustainable development; and
- m. Coordinating and harmonizing carbon markets and carbon accounting standards, with the possibility of expanding cooperation through the Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets.

For the connection with people's lives

People at the center – against hunger, poverty and inequalities

There is no way to combat climate change without taking care of people. I call on countries to redress injustices and build a prosperous and sustainable future for all, through:

a. Aligning climate action with measures to eradicate poverty and hunger, and to combat inequalities;

b. Guaranteeing opportunities for all in the transition to a low-carbon economy;

c. Addressing environmental racism, ensuring that people of African descent, indigenous peoples and local communities are at the center of the climate response; and

d. Recognizing the role of indigenous territories and traditional communities and of protection policies as climate mitigation policies.

I therefore call upon leaders to reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism, to the Climate Convention, to the Paris Agreement, and to the success of COP 30.