

Belem Declaration on Hunger, Poverty, and Human-Centered Climate Action

Preamble

1. On November 7, in the city of Belem, Brazil, the Leaders and Heads of Delegation of the subscribing countries have gathered at the outset of the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to recognize that, in spite of all past and future mitigation and adaptation efforts, climate change is already impacting and will continue to impact all of humanity, but that those impacts are already, and will continue to be, profoundly unequal.
2. Climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are already exacerbating hunger, poverty, food insecurity, jeopardizing access to water, worsening health and increasing mortality, exacerbating inequalities, and threatening livelihoods, with disproportionate impacts on those already poor and in vulnerable situations.
3. Addressing the unequal distribution of climate impacts requires a fundamental shift in our approach to climate action. We commit to placing the unequal impacts of climate change as a central tenet of our climate action, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's principle to give full consideration to the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, particularly those most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
4. We affirm that working to address the unequal impacts of climate change and promoting a strong, human-centered climate response will contribute to just transitions and the progressive realization of the human right to adequate food and the human right to social security, amongst other human rights. This will require social dialogue and the participation, engagement and empowerment of those most affected by climate change and by climate-related policies.
5. We reaffirm the importance of aligning social, economic and environmental goals. We build on the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Outcome Document of the Second World Summit on Social Development, and the Compromiso de Sevilla, adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which underlined the centrality of eradicating poverty and hunger through the integrated financing for sustainable development. We also highlight the important connections and synergies between the goals of the present Declaration and the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action; and the Baku Guiding Principles on Human Development for Climate Resilience.

Our Commitments

I. Make Social Protection a Foundation of Resilience

6. Almost half the world's population lacks access to social protection, and many of those excluded are also the most exposed to the impacts of climate change. Social protection systems are weakest where they need to be strongest: in communities facing poverty, hunger, and high exposure to climate change.
7. We recognize that inclusive social protection systems that can adapt to changing needs, prepare for future risks and respond quickly during crises are one of the most efficient and effective strategies to build resilience, reduce vulnerability, and protect human life and dignity.

8. We will work to:

- (i) Expand climate-responsive social protection and emergency assistance systems.
- (ii) Integrate social protection systems with early warning, disaster preparedness, anticipatory action, and loss and damage response, as well as with the natural resource and environmental sectors.
- (iii) Link social protection to nutrition, school feeding, livelihoods, health, agricultural extension and education services, and other interventions to promote long term resilience and adaptation in the face of adverse climate impacts;
- (iv) Use social protection to support just transitions and address adverse social and economic impacts resulting from transition policies by connecting income support with skills development and access to decent work;
- (v) Promote research, build evidence and promote innovation in social protection as a key policy area for a just transition, enabling inclusive adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage response.

II. Support Small-Scale Food Producers as Agents of Resilience

9. Smallholder and family farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, rural workers and other groups whose livelihoods rely on natural resources are among the most vulnerable to climate change - yet they are also key to sustainable food systems, water use, ecosystem stewardship, economic development and social stability when properly supported by appropriate investment, access to finance, and targeted policies that promote resilience, adaptive capacity and climate-risk management under a just transition approach.

10. We will invest to improve their resilience by working to:

- (i) Scale up solutions that enable climate-vulnerable households and small-scale producers in rural areas to manage climate risks, increase resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, including insurance, guarantees, de-risking mechanisms, production-linked social protection and funding to avert, minimize and address loss and damage;
- (ii) Expand access of the most vulnerable peoples in rural areas to climate-resilient infrastructure and services, including safe and resilient water, sanitation and hygiene, smart and efficient irrigation, drought and flood management water, sustainable energy, adequate financial instruments, skills, market information, tools, and rural advisory and extension services;
- (iii) Support small-scale food producers in adopting climate-resilient and sustainable practices to enhance adaptation, resilience and sustain nutritious diets, and to contribute to mitigation by reducing emissions and contributing to increase carbon sequestration.
- (iv) Leveraging local, regional and global markets to enable sustainable livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and climate resilient food systems transformation.
- (v) Promote re-orienting policies and public support towards those that incentivize sustainable agriculture and food systems, and resilience of small-scale producers.

III. Enable Just Transitions for peoples in regions of Forests and Sensitive Ecosystems

11. High-forest cover areas and other ecologically critical regions are under intense pressure from deforestation and degradation. Sustainably managing and expanding forest coverage is critical for climate change mitigation and biodiversity, as well as agriculture, due to forests' crucial ecosystem services, while also contributing to adaptation.

12. There is no lasting way to fight deforestation without actively promoting vibrant and sustainable social and economic development and livelihood alternatives for the peoples living in such regions, as a critical component of a just transition.
13. We therefore will work to:
 - (i) Pilot, deploy and scale up inclusive, sustainable solutions, including diversified agroforestry models, that generate decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods for local populations, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, while promoting the sustainable management of biodiversity, soils and water and contributing to climate adaptation and mitigation
 - (ii) Expand sustainable livelihood alternatives through bioeconomy, agroforestry, rural services, ecotourism, and land and ecosystem restoration and conservation,
 - (iii) Support the development of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) and encourage climate action and climate finance projects through other global, regional and national funds and facilities to deliver projects can deliver positive combined outcomes for people, nature and the climate.
 - (iv) Protect forest tenure rights and other rights of Indigenous Peoples, and of local communities as an effective strategy to enhance resilience, combat illegal forest activities and promote effective stewardship of forests and biodiversity, and integrate indigenous and ancestral knowledge systems in viable livelihood and development opportunities for peoples and communities.

Means of Implementation

I. Delivering Scaled and Equitable Finance for Human Centered Climate Action

14. As part of a global effort, we call on all Parties to deliver on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, agreed at COP29 in Baku, by mobilizing at least USD 300 billion annually for developing country Parties by 2035 with developed country Parties taking the lead, and as part of a collective efforts of all actors to work together to enable the scaling up of financing to developing countries for climate action, from public and private sources, to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035. We advance that the effective implementation of the NCQG must recognize the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, in line with the Paris Agreement¹.
15. We will therefore work to encourage the scale up of sustainable investments in climate-responsive social protection systems, small-scale food producer resilience, and inclusive, sustainable livelihood solutions for peoples in areas of high forest cover and other sensitive ecosystems - drawing from the provision and mobilization of climate finance, development banks, multilateral climate funds, bilateral and multilateral development partners, domestic resources, and the private sector, including by:

¹ Paris Agreement Preamble: *"Recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change"*

- (i) Encouraging multilateral climate and nature funds and other financial entities to enable more financing proposals that utilize those mechanisms as a key instrument for inclusive climate action and ensure long-term capacity building and institutional strengthening.
- (ii) Strengthening country-level and local capacities to access and use climate finance efficiently for such strategies.
- (iii) Linking national social protection systems, anticipatory action and early response systems to the evolving loss and damage funding landscape and financing instruments, as well as the disaster risk reduction mechanisms under the Sendai Framework.
- (iv) Enhancing equitable access to climate finance for smallholder and family farmers, fishers, foresters, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, and others working in the small-scale food production sector who are underrepresented in climate finance investment.
- (v) Removing barriers and addressing "disenablers" faced by developing country Parties in financing climate action, including high costs of capital, limited fiscal space, unsustainable debt levels, high transaction costs and conditionalities for accessing climate finance.

II. Integrating Human-Centered Action into National Strategies

16. We encourage countries to consider embedding an explicit and clearly defined role for human - centered climate action strategies centered at the most vulnerable when reviewing their national climate commitments, particularly in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as in their strategies or plans, particularly in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long Term Strategies (LTS), National Action Programmes to Combat Desertification, Programmatic Approaches to Loss and Damage, and in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
17. These human-centered climate action strategies include, among others, the previously highlighted areas of a) social protection systems and programs, particularly those serving the most vulnerable to climate impacts; b) strategies to promote small-scale food producer adaptation and resilience; and c) inclusive, sustainable livelihood solutions to preserve forests and ecosystems and promote a just transition.

III. Human-Centered Climate Action in Fragile Situations and Protracted Crises

18. By 2030, projections indicate that nearly 60% of the world's extreme poor, or around 435 million people, will live in economies affected by conflict or instability. Hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty are driven or aggravated by climate change impacts and related environmental degradation. Climate and humanitarian action, in synergy with development assistance and social protection systems, should strengthen national and local capacities by investing in anticipatory approaches and preparedness before crises occur, enabling effective response during extreme weather events and other climate related impacts, and supporting resilience building, recovery and long-term adaptation.
19. We call on climate, humanitarian and development partners to urgently deliver better coordination between humanitarian assistance, climate, and development action in countries in fragile situations or in protracted crises, and act more effectively together towards creating the conditions for government-led and locally led development, working with national systems, programs and policies when possible, and towards rebuilding them when necessary, while respecting traditional and positive coping strategies, humanitarian principles and conflict sensitivity. We call on climate finance actors to enable accessible, flexible and multi-year funding for these contexts, increasing the availability of resources to undertake human-centered climate action in a timely manner.

Tracking progress

20. Committed to accountability and decisive action, we will support the following quantifiable goals:

- (i) Noting the outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development ("Compromiso de Sevilla") and the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 on supporting developing countries to expand social protection coverage, including those that aim to do so, by at least 2 percentage points per year, we will seek to do so with greatest priority and speed in countries marked by high levels of poverty, hunger, and exposure to climate change impacts and least covered by social protection.
 - (ii) Social protection climate readiness: we will work to increase the number of countries among those most vulnerable to climate impacts that have national and local capacity to assess and anticipate climate vulnerability to short- and long-term impacts, and that have adapted their social protection systems to address the impacts of shocks and long-term climate stressors.
 - (iii) Climate finance for social protection: responding to country needs, we will work to mobilize more climate finance from all sources for strengthening national social protection systems, increasing their adaptability to climate risks and their ability to contribute to inclusive climate action and just transition pathways.
 - (iv) Small-scale agriculture climate finance: we will work to scale-up the share of climate finance from all sources to reach directly smallholder farmers, small scale agri-food enterprises, cooperatives, fisherfolk, workers associations, and other small-scale producers involved in primary production and domestic food and bio-based product processing and trade.
 - (v) Sustainable livelihoods for just transitions: we will work to mobilize climate finance from all sources promoting projects to promote sustainable and decent jobs and livelihood opportunities for the poor and vulnerable people in regions of high-forest cover and sensitive ecosystems.
 - (vi) Climate strategy: we will work to increase the number of countries that include specific actions in the areas of social protection, resilient agri-food systems, and promotion of sustainable livelihoods and just transitions in their NDCs, National Climate Plan/Strategies, Nature Strategies and/or NAPs.
 - (vii) Research: we will work to increase investment from all sources in research, data and evidence collection, analysis and dissemination in areas related to human-centered climate action
21. We call on CGIAR, FAO, IFAD, ILO, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO, WMO, the World Bank and other relevant international organizations in the social development, food security and nutrition, and climate action spaces to coordinate and establish relevant baselines and track progress across the above seven target areas, with a view to a stocktaking by 2030, with interim progress to be assessed by 2028.
22. We recognize and support the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, as a flexible, action-oriented initiative that can help bring structured support, shared learning and better integrated finance to country-led, program-level implementation across these domains, in synergy with several other initiatives.
23. As we undertake our strengthened commitment to a human-centered climate response and the need to address the unequal impacts of climate change, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, we will review our collective progress in 2030, and in the interim call on those supporting international development cooperation, finance, and climate finance, to work more effectively together, share experiences and accelerate national and collaborative

action in support of our countries to achieve the objectives of this Declaration.

Endorsing Entities (chronological order of endorsement):

1. Brazil
2. Saint Kitts and Nevis
3. Colombia
4. Sudan
5. Belarus
6. Slovenia
7. Guinea-Bissau
8. North Korea
9. Ecuador
10. Uruguay
11. Republic of the Congo
12. Germany
13. Myanmar
14. Rwanda
15. Slovakia
16. Austria
17. Spain
18. Portugal
19. China
20. Denmark
21. Cape Verde
22. Kyrgyz Republic
23. Zimbabwe
24. Chile
25. Seychelles
26. Dominican Republic
27. Mauritania
28. Republic of Guinea
29. Panama
30. UK
31. The Netherlands
32. Cuba
33. Mozambique
34. Kazakhstan
35. Haiti
36. European Union²
37. Norway
38. Mexico
39. Malaysia
40. Zambia
41. Ethiopia
42. Indonesia
43. Peru
44. France
45. Ireland
46. Morocco
47. Andorra
48. United Arab Emirates

² "The Declaration does not, nor is it intended to, create any legal obligations under domestic or international law. It furthermore does not entail any financial commitment from the EU's budget".