

# **Informal High-Level Meeting of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change**

**21 September 2022**

## **Chair's Summary**

1. On 21 September 2022, the Secretary-General and the President of Egypt convened an Informal High-Level Roundtable on Climate Change ahead of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh. Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Chile, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Samoa, Senegal, South Africa and Viet Nam took part. Representatives from the European Commission, the United States, and the President of COP 26 also participated, along with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Leaders discussed the state of the global response to the climate challenge and what must be delivered at COP 27 to demonstrate seriousness and commitment to addressing this existential crisis.
2. Leaders agreed that the climate crisis is the defining issue of our time and must be a top priority on the global agenda. Leaders expressed frustration and concern that despite worsening climate disasters and overwhelming scientific evidence for immediate and ambitious action, the global response to the climate crisis has stalled at all levels. Leaders emphasized that COP 27 must reignite momentum, build on progress at COP 26, and accelerate action and close gaps on mitigation, adaptation, finance and loss and damage.
3. Specifically, leaders identified how they intend to deliver on the Paris Agreement and Glasgow pledges and commitments through individual and collective action and just transition pathways.
4. On mitigation, leaders expressed firm commitment to keep the 1.5-degree Celsius goal within reach while acknowledging that current emissions reduction commitments are far off-track. The pivotal need for leadership by the G20 was highlighted, given that they are collectively responsible for 80% of the global emissions. Some leaders committed to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP 27. All countries were encouraged to review and revise their NDCs as agreed at COP 26. Many leaders expressed support for the Secretary-General's call for a renewables revolution. They also pointed to the Just Energy Transition Partnerships as a concrete tool to support developing countries accelerate their transition from coal and towards a renewable energy future. In addition, leaders also highlighted the need to urgently address the cost of capital for renewable energy investments in developing countries and access to technology to accelerate the energy transition.
5. On adaptation, leaders called for the prioritization of adaptation given increasing and more severe climate shocks. Leaders called on developed countries to provide clarity on how they intend to double adaptation finance to US\$40 billion a year, in line with the COP 26 outcomes, including the Glasgow Pact, and how support will be provided

for implementing the national adaptation plans. Leaders expressed support for the initiative of the Secretary-General to provide universal access to early warning systems within five years.

6. On finance, leaders stressed the imperative for the credible delivery of the US\$100 billion goal. Many leaders called for concrete actions to remove barriers and simplify access to climate finance and for improving the quality of climate finance, particularly for highly indebted developing countries. Many leaders recognized the critical role of Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions in supporting developing countries to accelerate their transition to a renewable energy and climate-resilient future. Many leaders called for meaningful reforms to ensure that these institutions take more risk across their operations, substantially increase private finance mobilization, and deliver adaptation support to all developing countries.
7. Leaders emphasized that loss and damage from the climate crisis are already occurring, and that COP 27 must demonstrate concrete and meaningful action to address this urgent, life-or-death issue. Some leaders indicated that the time for discussions without outcomes has passed and that this issue must be acted upon.
8. Leaders also agreed that COP 27 must be a milestone for the delivery of concrete progress and outcomes, and strong forward momentum. Leaders emphasized the centrality of a multilateral response to the climate crisis that ensures inclusivity and transparency. After months of division, inaction and even backtracking, and as the window to secure the 1.5 degree goal narrows, the world needs to urgently come together as one. Governments – as well as civil society, cities and regions, the private sector and finance community – must deliver ambitious, credible and meaningful climate action now. People and planet cannot afford to wait. Leaders called for concrete frameworks on international cooperation to support increased climate investments in capacities and transitions.
9. Leaders committed to work closely with the Egyptian COP 27 Presidency to ensure a successful outcome at COP 27.