

Chairs' Summary of the Leaders' Session on Climate and the Just Transition convened by the President of Brazil and the United Nations Secretary-General

23 April 2025

On April 23rd, 2025, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, convened a small but representative group of Heads of State and Government to galvanize efforts to accelerate climate action and climate justice ahead of the UNFCCC COP 30 in Belém.

Heads of State and Government from Angola (Chair of the African Union), Barbados (Chair of the Caribbean Community), Chile, China, European Union, France, Kenya, Malaysia (Chair of ASEAN), Nigeria, Palau (Chair of AOSIS), Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Spain, Tanzania, Türkiye, and Viet Nam participated in the virtual meeting.

President Lula opened the meeting by calling on world leaders to take immediate and concrete action to address the climate crisis. He stressed that multilateralism and international cooperation remain the cornerstones of the global response to climate change and noted that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) should combine ambitious targets with each country's development needs. He further noted that just transitions must include the perspectives of historically marginalised groups, including women, black communities, and Indigenous Peoples, while addressing the specific challenges faced by the Global South. President Lula called on the international community to join COP 30 in the global “mutirão” for climate action and highlighted the unprecedented Global Ethical Stocktake towards a new pact with the planet. He also announced that the Tropical Forest Facility Forever (TFFF) will be launched at COP 30, and highlighted the Global Alliance to Fight Hunger and Poverty's guidance on integrating social policies and food system transformation into NDCs.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General highlighted how the mounting human and economic costs of intensifying climate impacts, combined with the unprecedented rollout of and cost declines in renewable energy technologies, now make the economic case for accelerating the clean energy transition irrefutable. He urged leaders to leverage this round of NDCs to lay out ambitious, economy-wide, and 1.5 °C-aligned plans that are consistent with the COP 28 guidance and send clear signals to policymakers and investors on how they intend to speed up a just transition away from fossil fuels to renewables. Furthermore, he asked leaders to support developing countries in their energy transition and adaptation efforts through finance, technology, trade, and investment, and to turbocharge innovative models of cooperation. The Secretary-General emphasized that the engagement of leaders throughout this year will be vital as leadership, solidarity, and cooperation are needed now more than ever.

Leaders welcomed the initiative of President Lula and the Secretary-General to bring them together at this critical time. They reaffirmed that addressing the climate crisis remains a key priority despite multiple global crises and a challenging geopolitical situation. The discussions focused on four key areas:

Multilateralism and the Paris Agreement

1. All leaders underscored their unwavering commitment to multilateralism, the international rules-based system, and the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as the cornerstones of international climate action. They reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen multilateralism and discussed ways to work together to strengthen both domestic and international efforts to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach and to ensure climate justice. They noted that climate change can no longer be viewed solely as an environmental issue and that mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts are essential for sustainable development, economic growth, job creation, poverty alleviation, as well as national security.

Priorities for 2025

2. Leaders reflected on the progress that has been made over the past 10 years since the adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement. Nevertheless, they recognised the significant ambition and implementation gaps that need to be closed to keep 1.5 °C in reach and to protect lives and livelihoods from increasingly more intense and frequent climate impacts, particularly those on the front lines. Towards these ends, leaders agreed to make 2025 and COP 30 a turning point in the fight against the climate crisis, including by turning pledges and commitments into concrete policies and actions. Many leaders emphasized that the emerging clean energy economy is beneficial for both reducing emissions and driving socioeconomic development and reiterated their commitment to accelerate the pace of the just and people-centred global energy transition. Leaders stressed that despite geopolitical headwinds they will not slow down the pace of the energy transition as renewables now offer the surest path to energy security, sovereignty, access, and affordability for all countries, especially for developing countries.
3. In addition to accelerating the pace and scale of the clean energy transition, leaders set out a number of other priorities ahead of COP 30, including the delivery of ambitious, 1.5 °C-aligned, and economy-wide NDCs, increased climate finance for the adaptation and resilience-building needs of developing countries, and the delivery of a credible Baku-to-Belém roadmap to mobilize \$1.3 trillion per year for developing countries by 2035. Some leaders stressed the importance of implementing carbon pricing, increased action to protect natural ecosystems including forests and oceans, and to reduce methane emissions. Others emphasized the political priority of increasing action on and support for adaptation, loss and

damage, and to protect island states from the looming threat of disappearance. Delivering on clean energy access, including clean cooking, for all by 2030 especially for Africa were also identified as key priorities.

Preparations of Nationally Determined Contributions

4. Leaders outlined the steps and actions they are taking to strengthen and implement domestic plans and policies. For countries that have yet to submit their new NDC, leaders emphasized that they are working to bring them forward before COP 30, with some committing to do so ahead of or at the Secretary-General's special climate event in September. Leaders provided updates on their country's NDC preparations, which are still ongoing due to the importance of robust technical and inclusive processes to deliver ambitious, economy-wide emissions reduction targets covering all greenhouse gases and all sectors.
5. Many leaders from developing countries pointed to the opportunities to use the new NDCs and national energy transition planning to drive investment into their countries, whilst emphasizing the need for increased financial support to enable this. Many leaders also recognized the importance of leveraging this round of NDCs to drive policy coherence and set a clear direction of travel, especially in terms of aligning domestic energy and development priorities with national and international climate goals.

International cooperation

6. All leaders emphasized their commitment to increasing and strengthening international cooperation on climate change. Many emphasised the importance of cooperating to accelerate the pace of the just energy transition while recognizing each country's differing national circumstances and pathways. Several leaders highlighted the positive benefits of the clean energy sector in terms of boosting jobs, increasing economic competitiveness, and ensuring energy security and sovereignty. Some highlighted the need for responsible management of critical minerals required for the transition, with increased benefits for resource-rich developing countries.
7. At the same time, leaders recognized the challenges and barriers in accelerating the just transition and the need to support developing countries, particularly in accessing affordable finance and technology and in tackling the debt crisis and limited fiscal space. Leaders recognized the importance of continued leadership of developed countries in the provision of climate finance. Some leaders emphasized that the international financial architecture must undergo urgent and comprehensive reform to better channel financial flows toward sustainable development, and that it is essential to uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), recognizing the varied capacities

and historical responsibilities of countries in addressing global challenges. Those leaders currently providing climate finance and international support were clear that they would continue to do so despite the difficult international context and emphasized the need for creativity and innovation, including leveraging more investments from the private sector and new and innovative sources of finance. Leaders also recognized the increasingly important role of South-South Cooperation in supporting developing countries to accelerate the pace of the energy transition.

8. Leaders further emphasized the need to place much greater attention and priority on supporting developing countries to address intensifying and more frequent climate impacts. They underscored that scaling up investments in adaptation is essential to protect lives and livelihoods and to increase economic resilience and security. Leaders called for more innovative models of cooperation in this respect.
9. Finally, leaders emphasized the importance of working together to strengthen multilateralism and avoid protectionism and unilateralism and called on all other countries to join them in these efforts leading up to and at COP 30. They agreed to fully support President Lula and the Government of Brazil towards a successful COP 30, including through key political milestones such as the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development Conference, the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, the Africa Climate Summit, and the Secretary-General's special event on climate change during High-Level week of the UN General Assembly in September.

Participating leaders:

- His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola
- Her Excellency Ms. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados
- His Excellency Mr. Gabriel Boric Font, President of the Republic of Chile
- His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China
- His Excellency Mr. António Costa, President of the European Council
- Her Excellency Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
- His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic
- His Excellency Mr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya
- His Excellency Mr. Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia
- His Excellency Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- His Excellency Mr. Surangel S. Whippis Jr., President of the Republic of Palau
- His Excellency Mr. Han Duck-soo, Acting President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

- Her Excellency Ms. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
- His Excellency Mr. Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, President of the Government of Spain
- Her Excellency Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye
- His Excellency Mr. Phạm Minh Chính, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Participating COP Presidents:

- His Excellency Mr. André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, COP 30 President Designate
- His Excellency Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, COP 29 President
- His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, COP 28 President