



## Statement from the Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance

### COP30 must be turning point advancing Mission 1.5 and ensuring just, sustainable and resilient development for Caribbean small islands and other vulnerable regions

October 24, 2025

As the Presidency of the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belem, Brazil invites the international community to a global “mutirão” to tackle the climate crisis, the **Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance** stands united and calls for bold and urgent action.

2025 must be a turning point. Last year marked the warmest year on record, where average global temperatures reached just above the daunting milestone of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels<sup>i</sup>. We continue to witness the impacts of the climate crisis on our communities, their livelihoods and the natural ecosystems they depend upon with rising temperatures and sea levels, acidifying oceans, unpredictable rainfall, more extreme storms, and mass sargassum influxes in small island developing states (SIDS) and other vulnerable countries<sup>ii</sup>. These impacts are often hardest on the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, including the poorest, women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, elderly, small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, migrants, LGBTQ+ persons and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples. If greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated and global temperature further exceeds 1.5°C, these impacts will worsen, threatening the very existence of our people and way of life and increasing exponentially the costs of action<sup>ii</sup>.

The Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance urges governments and delegates at COP30 to:

1. Set clear and ambitious targets to **curb emissions and limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C**, considering historical responsibilities and prioritising people over profit
2. Scale up **locally-led and nature-based solutions for adaptation and resilience**
3. Improve access to and delivery of **climate finance for frontline communities, small and micro-enterprises and civil society organisations** as part of a ‘whole of society’ approach
4. Enhance focus on and **address loss and damage, including economic and non-economic impacts**
5. Advance a **rights-based approach** for just, gender-responsive and inclusive climate action

These five priorities reflect the realities and needs of the civil society organisations, grassroots leaders and activists, academics, creatives and the media represented by the Alliance<sup>iii</sup>, which seeks to amplify the voices of the most vulnerable communities and groups on the frontlines and catalyse actions for climate justice and local resilience in Caribbean SIDS.

## Mission 1.5

Urgent action and strengthened commitments in current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are needed, particularly from the world's largest economies and emitters, to **set ambitious emissions targets for 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 to limit global temperature to 1.5°C and tackle the climate crisis**. Current pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement and legally binding net zero targets are far from sufficient. These put us on a pathway to 2.6-2.8°C warming by 2100 according to the Emissions Gap Report 2024<sup>iv</sup>.

All countries, and especially the G20 that account for around 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions<sup>iv</sup>, must show resolve and step up their actions starting now if we want to keep the 1.5°C goal alive. Efforts to rapidly cut emissions and drive action for phase-out of fossil fuels during this decade are needed to set us on an achievable and robust pathway to net zero. **G20 countries must immediately stop subsidising the fossil fuel industry**, as they have done to the amount of US\$5 trillion between 2015 and 2022<sup>i</sup>. NDCs must be updated and aligned to a 1.5°C compatible emissions pathway, including strengthening targets to halve emissions by 2030, setting new targets for 2035 and committing to net zero emissions by 2050<sup>iv</sup>. Further, the aviation and shipping industries must ensure that their emissions are reduced and made compliant with the goals of the Paris Agreement<sup>iv</sup>.

## Scaling up locally-led and nature-based solutions for adaptation and resilience

The Alliance is calling for **scaled up support for locally-led adaptation** that empowers local actors, including frontline communities, enterprises, resource users like small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples, to have a voice in decisions that directly affect their lives and livelihoods and design and implement solutions. In particular, this support should ensure local solutions that enhance food, energy and water security as basis for community health and well-being and inclusive, sustainable and resilient development. **Locally-led adaptation must be included in the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience**, with the objective of identifying indicators and effectively measuring progress aligned with the Principles for Locally-led Adaptation<sup>ii</sup>. There must also be active engagement of frontline communities and civil society organisations in implementing and monitoring the GGA from national to global levels.

Scaling up and **integrating nature-based solutions to adapt and build local resilience is also key**. Natural ecosystems have intrinsic value, as well as serving as natural defences and being critical to major economic sectors in the Caribbean region, including agriculture, fisheries and tourism, and the livelihoods of rural and Indigenous communities. Investing in conserving, sustainably managing and restoring ecosystems can provide multiple benefits in terms of building ecological, economic and social resilience as well as mitigation co-benefits through carbon sequestration by forests, mangroves and seagrass. However, there is a danger that nature-based solutions are implemented without due consideration of stakeholder needs and livelihoods. **Taking into account how stakeholders are engaged, use of local alongside scientific knowledge, and how to ensure good governance and balance conservation and development goals for socio-economic benefits is critical** to respond to local needs, especially of the most vulnerable, and achieve justice and equity.

## Improving access to and delivery of climate finance to frontline communities and civil society organisations

The **Baku to Belém Roadmap to US\$1.3 trillion and its work plan must be adopted as a priority** at COP30, recognising the need to mobilise trillions rather than billions in climate finance and to reform global financial architecture to achieve the 1.5°C goal and low-carbon and resilient development for Caribbean SIDS and other vulnerable developing countries. Wealthy **developed countries must take on a central role fulfilling their climate finance obligations and pledges** and creating clear and transparent reporting mechanisms for compliance.

In scaling up climate finance, it is critical that this focuses on grants, not loans, so that Caribbean SIDS and other vulnerable developing countries are not driven further into debt. The climate crisis must not compound the debt crisis, where Caribbean SIDS pay more to service their debts than for education, health and other public services

and this limits our governments' climate response. Debt cancellation and sustainability must be part of the finance solution.

Climate finance must be predictable, programmatic and transparent, with the mechanisms in place to ensure that funds are channelled to the local level to meet the needs of frontline communities and build resilient livelihoods and ecosystems, including for the most vulnerable, racialised and marginalised groups. This includes innovative mechanisms like the Caribbean SIDS Climate Premium. It must also focus on strengthening the technical and organisational capacity of frontline communities, enterprises and civil society organisations to take action and build their own resilience in light of the legacies of colonialism and extractivist capitalism. In particular, we need to double financing for adaptation by 2025 onwards, and ensure that at least 25% of total adaptation finance supports locally-led adaptation in SIDS and other developing countries.

### **Addressing economic and non-economic loss and damage and need for dedicated finance**

Loss and damage must remain high on the agenda. In 2024, the Category 5 Hurricane Beryl devastated Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, with over 90% of buildings and infrastructure destroyed in several Grenadines islands across Grenada and Saint Vincent and Grenadines and their populations displaced. From 2024-2025, mass bleaching events have affected over 80% of the world's coral reefs including in the Caribbean, and the recent Global Tipping Points report highlights that warm water reef systems are on the brink of collapse<sup>1</sup>.

As we take stock, it is key that we **recognise and document non-economic loss and damage not just economic aspects**, including loss of cultural identity, health and well-being, community cohesion, Indigenous knowledge and practices, and our biodiversity and natural heritage. In particular, climate displacement and mobility are major concerns for SIDS as we face the loss of entire islands and ways of life, and fight against being 'sacrifice zones'.

The global **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage needs to be urgently and fully operationalised and capitalised** to provide additional and dedicated finance to address loss and damage, **including a community access facility** to enable direct access for frontline communities in Caribbean SIDS and other vulnerable developing countries. The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage also needs to be operationalised as an effective mechanism to catalyse and deliver the required technical assistance to vulnerable countries.

### **Advancing a right-based approach for just, gender-responsive and inclusive climate action**

The Alliance is also calling for a **rights-based approach** in addressing all these priority areas, tackling the climate crisis and supporting a just transition, taking into account the rights of women, youth, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ persons, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants and migrants, the right to self-determination, the rights of future generations, and rights to a healthy and safe environment including a stable climate. This is grounded in the landmark judgements in 2025 from the International Court of Justice and Inter-American Court of Human Rights that the climate crisis threatens our fundamental human rights and there is a legal obligation for states to act. This brings climate justice front and centre and highlights the need to actively integrate gender equality and social inclusion, including through adoption of a new Gender Action Plan at COP30.

This approach should build linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and international human rights standards<sup>ii</sup> to ensure pro-poor, inclusive, sustainable and resilient development and the protection of human rights.

**COP30 must mark the shift towards implementation of concrete and urgent climate action, with five years left in this critical decade. It must also mark a shift towards bold leadership, innovation and full recognition and integration of the voices of frontline communities and wider civil society in defining priorities and taking action to ensure future trajectories and outcomes that are just, inclusive and sustainable.**

## List of Allies:

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute; Climate Analytics Caribbean; Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Research Centre at University of The Bahamas; Climate Tracker; Climate Rights and Justice International; Ama Earth Group; AnchorBridge Environmental Inc.; Aurae Opus Foundation; Birds Caribbean; 350.org and Caribbean Climate Network; Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance; CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice; Environmental Awareness Group; Environmental Protection in the Caribbean; Environment Tobago; Freedom Imaginaries; Gender in Fisheries Team/ Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, University of the West Indies; Girls CARE; Girl Up Caribbean; Global Yaadie Podcast; Habitat for Humanity – Trinidad and Tobago; IAMovement; Ideas I Foundation; International Development Empowerment and Representation Agency; Island Innovation; Jamaica Environment Trust; Jamaica & Trinidad and Tobago Networks of Rural Women Producers; Kairi Initiatives; Kopounoule Inc; Panos Caribbean; Saedi Consulting; Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill; SOLORICON for the Caribbean Climate Justice Project; Solidarity Yaad International; Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination Guyana; Stronger Caribbean Together Network; Sustainability Institute of Trinidad and Tobago; The Breadfruit Collective; The Climate Conscious Podcast; The Cropper Foundation; The Crystal Clear Initiative - Trinidad and Tobago; Young People for Action on Climate Change – Jamaica; Justin Jarvis, Youth Empowering Today for Tomorrow; Malcom Ferdinand, Researcher, University Paris Dauphine; Emma Lewis, Blogger and Activist; Danielle Nembhard, Ph.D. Researcher, James Cook University; Alejandra Padin-Dujon; Keston Perry, Department of African American Studies, University of California Los Angeles; Suphane Dash-Alleyne, Environmental Activist; Vanda Radzik, Gender and Environment Activist; Nastassia Rambarran, Ph.D. Researcher, University of Glasgow; Deborah Villarroel-Lamb, Lecturer in Coastal Engineering and Management, UWI – St. Augustine; Sydney Williams, Source Farm Community Development Institute; Colin Bogle; Tracey Daway; Sorayadebie Jhagroe; De-Jono Liburd; Jeffy Gomez; Michaela Loach; Juanita Schmidhammer; Mabiuis Francis; Susanna Benjamin-Reece; Christianne Zakour.



<sup>i</sup> Bevacqua et al. 2025. A year above 1.5°C signals that Earth is most probably within 20-year period that will reach Paris Agreement limit. *Nature Climate Change* 15, 262-265. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-025-02246-9>

<sup>ii</sup> Mycoo, M., et al. 2022. Small Islands. In: Pörtner, H.-O., et al. (eds.). *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_Chapter15.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_Chapter15.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> CANARI and Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance. 2025. Regional Pre-COP30 Civil Society Dialogue Report. <https://canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/PreCOP30-Civil-Society-Dialogue-Report-9.2025.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. 2024. Emissions Gap Report 2024: No More Hot Air...Please! <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2024>

<sup>v</sup> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and International Institute for Sustainable Development. 2025. Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker: <https://fossilfuelsubsidytracker.org/>

<sup>vi</sup> Global Commission on Adaptation. 2021. Principles for Locally Led Adaptation Action. <https://gca.org/reports/principles-for-locally-led-adaptation-action/>

<sup>vii</sup> Lenten et al. 2025. Global Tipping Points Report 2025. <https://global-tipping-points.org/>

<sup>viii</sup> Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. 2021. Climate Emergency: Scope of Inter-American Obligations, Resolution 3/2021. [https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/2021/resolucion\\_3-21\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/2021/resolucion_3-21_ENG.pdf)