

BELIZE



STATEMENT BY HON. ORLANDO HABET

**MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 28TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP 28),
THE 18TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 18),**

AND

**THE 5TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT (CMA 5).**

9 NOVEMBER 2023

**EXPO CITY, DUBAI
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Mr. President,

Your Excellency, Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber,

I am happy to convey greetings on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, John Antonio Briceno, and the people of Belize.

I also extend my delegation's appreciation to your government for the warm reception that we have received since arriving in Dubai.

Since we last convened at COP27, Belize has continued to ramp up its mitigation actions:

In marine conservation, 20.3% of Belize's ocean is under legal protection.

In sustainable transportation, Belize has embarked on a national transition to e-mobility. This includes the adoption of electric vehicles and the development of necessary infrastructure to support their integration into our transportation system. This will result in avoiding 117 Kilo-tons-Carbon Dioxide per year from the transport sector by 2030. We have also initiated the construction of a 60-megawatt solar power plant with the goal of cutting annual emissions by 60,000 tons and contributing substantially to our commitment to clean and renewable energy sources. Belize

continues to do its part - even as it continues to shoulder the burden from the impacts of climate change.

Belize is setting innovative finance trends with the second largest debt for conservation swap -the Belize Blue Bond and is actively pursuing high-integrity market opportunities to maintain the natural carbon sinks of our forest and marine resources. As a matter of fact, we have recently tabled in parliament the Climate Change and Carbon Markets Initiatives Bill, 2023 underpinned by the principles and commitments of the Paris Agreement.

Despite these efforts, there remains a financial shortfall of USD 1.6 billion for adaptation and mitigation actions to be implemented in Belize. We therefore call for the restructuring of global financial institutions with the aim of unlocking more grant-based and concessional finance for the most vulnerable states - such financing to be predictable, accessible, and mobilized with urgency!

Belize welcomes the positive start of this year's COP with the operationalization of the Loss and damage fund. We expect that pledges,

which amount to a mere 0.2% of the global needs are new, increased and fulfilled.

Mr. President,

2023 manifested concerning climate trends. In May Belize experienced firsthand the intensifying effects of this trend, recording 23 consecutive scorching days in our capital - exceeded typical averages by 0.8 degrees across the country, with the most pronounced being a 2 degrees Celsius increase in southern Belize.

As we tackle the climate crisis, Belize calls upon all Parties to unite in support and alignment with the phase out of fossil fuels. Our collective commitment to keeping 1.5 alive demands a resolute and complete halt to all fossil burning, moving beyond mere reduction and abatement.

COP 28 can deliver on a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) that enhances adaptive capacity, strengthens resilience, and reduces vulnerability of SIDS.-At COP 28 we can make progress which facilitates the consideration of targets and indicators that incorporate the special circumstances of SIDS; which, as a matter of law, is indisputable!

Our countries are on the frontline of the climate emergency and paying the steepest cost of the impacts with little support. There is no greater travesty of justice than the failure of this process in protecting our countries from existential threat.

Mr. President,

In your opening remarks you championed that we rise above our differences to make the difference for future generations right now. Belize echoes your call to bring everyone together and call for the professional, pragmatic and constructive participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the UNFCCC process.

Mr. President,

You can be sure that Belize stands fast and ready to collaborate with you in making a difference here at COP 28.

The science has spoken! there is still time to avoid a calamitous tipping point!

It is time to stop the postering!

It is time for transformative action!

It is time for impactful leadership!

It is time for climate justice!

Thank You!

End