

**DECLARATION OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (CCAD) TO THE 28TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP28) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

We, the Member States of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), comprising Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic, acknowledge the efforts of the COP27 Presidency and extend our gratitude to the people and government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to which we hereby declare:

1. We are a region spanning 571 thousand square kilometers with a population of over 61 million people. Despite only occupying 2% of the Earth's surface, we proudly boast 12% of the world's biodiversity, including the second largest coral reef system in the world, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. Furthermore, 74% of our energy mix is renewable. Therefore, we present ourselves to the world as a unique region for its natural wealth and multi- and pluriculturalism, bestowing a significant contribution to humanity.
2. We are deeply concerned about the frequency and magnitude of extreme and slow-onset weather events associated with climate variability and change in the region. These concerns are in line with the findings of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report, which concludes that the CCAD member countries are situated in one of the most vulnerable regions. This situation has substantial impacts on the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations, damaging and affecting crucial ecosystems and social and productive infrastructure. It exacerbates social deficits, increases human mobility among significant populations living in poverty, and places strain on the institutional capacities and fiscal resources of our states.
3. Meanwhile, the CCAD member countries continue to work and make the necessary efforts within their means and national capacities to advance and promote adherence to the climate commitments set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda, and the Sendai Framework. Practical solutions are being implemented to enhance adaptation and mitigation measures at both national and regional levels. Regional initiatives, including the Central American Dry Corridor and arid areas of the Dominican Republic, the Great Forests of Central America and the Dominican Republic, the AFOLU 2040 Initiative, and the Electrical Interconnection System of Central American Countries (SIEPAC), among others, are being employed to promote climate action grounded in best practices and

synergies with Conventions on biodiversity, desertification and drought, as well as the United Nations Forum on Forests and other international commitments.

4. We urgently reiterate our plea to developed nations, who bear primary responsibility for the global climate crisis due to their high emissions, to honor their commitments and hasten climate action in keeping with the Glasgow Climate Pact, an outcome of COP26, and the agreements made at COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh. At COP28, they must provide concrete evidence of supporting the most vulnerable countries by raising ambition levels in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) towards the 1.5°C target. Furthermore, actions must be reviewed to ensure compliance with a minimum reduction of CO2 emissions by 50% before 2030. This process will redefine the current global socio-economic system, especially regarding production and consumption and their significant impact on natural resources.
5. We, the member countries of CCAD, aim to highlight the institutional and financial measures we have taken to fulfill our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, we wish to bring attention to the issues we, as developing nations, encounter in acquiring funds for such climate action. We believe that developed countries must take more ambitious stances given the urgency and global emissions trend. It is vital and urgent to keep the pledge to mobilize \$100 billion per year to support adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building, technology transfer initiatives, and other similar schemes. These resources should be directed towards developing countries, utilizing financial tools that do not elevate debt levels or constrain the fiscal space of CCAD member nations.
6. The primary objective during COP 28 is to drive forward agreements on climate finance, which is critical to accomplishing global adaptation and mitigation targets and countering the detrimental impacts of climate change. The current system requires a comprehensive restructuring to mobilize public and private funds necessary to address the genuine needs of our countries. We consider it necessary to review and adjust the global architecture of climate finance and to double the resources allocated to adaptation. It is crucial that presently established and newly developing mechanisms are founded on the principles of shared but distinct responsibilities and relative abilities, impartiality, objectivity, affordability, independence, accountability, and flexibility, among others. This demands the restructuring of organizations that are accountable for climate finance. Our region stands ready to assist with the evaluation of guidelines and protocols for accessing funding from Adaptation Funds, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Special Climate Change Fund, and other financial support mechanisms. We aim to ensure that these mechanisms uphold these principles to the advantage of the nations that are hardest hit by the impacts of climate change.
7. The impacts of extreme or slow-onset events associated with climate change are

eroding public budgets and local resources at an accelerated rate. In light of this, we reiterate the urgency to approve the implementation mechanism of the Loss and Damage Fund that resulted from COP27. Consequently, it is imperative that COP28 agrees on financing to operationalize the fund. Equitable access to resources should prioritize principles of fairness, shared but distinct responsibilities, and ensuring accessibility and quality. The establishment of an independent fund is necessary to complement existing financial mechanisms and should be afforded the same level of recognition as mitigation and adaptation funds. Our countries will take an active role in COP28, prioritizing the decision that optimizes the support and operationalization of this fund and the Santiago Network {headquartered in Latin America and the Caribbean} alongside its accountability mechanism.

8. We request technical cooperation and timely, predictable funding through UNFCCC implementation mechanisms for regional, national and local capacity building and technology transfer to facilitate access to scientific and technical information and knowledge. This includes the traditional and ancestral knowledge of our indigenous peoples, local communities, afro-descendants, and youth to respond to and increase our resilience to climate impacts and risks from an inclusive standpoint.
9. Above all, it is crucial to safeguard the well-being of our inhabitants and preserve the biodiversity of our territories. Therefore, we will actively participate in COP 28 to procure meaningful and practical agreements on transparency in managing a just transition to climate action, achieving global balance and the global adaptation target, fostering both markets and non-markets, transferring technology and building capacity, as well as advancing agriculture and transforming agri-food systems and safeguarding the oceans.
10. Finally, we pledge to help ensure that the 28th Conference of the Parties is a success under the leadership of the United Arab Emirates. We urge other countries to fulfill their climate commitments by advocating for necessary agreements under the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).