

Contribution to COP30 Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation

Dear COP30 Presidency Team,

I, Ambassador Dr. Mostafa Elsayed, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at The Volunteer Team Foundation for Humanitarian Action (VTFHA), am pleased to provide input to the COP30 Roadmap on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

Critical barriers include illegal logging, land-use pressures, inadequate governance, and insufficient incentives for conservation. Effective levers include strengthened institutional frameworks, community-based forest management, sustainable financing such as REDD+, and integration of Indigenous knowledge and local practices.

Successful experiences demonstrate that forest restoration, agroforestry, and participatory management programs can significantly improve forest conservation outcomes. International collaboration, sustainable supply chains, and enforcement against environmental crimes are key to scaling these efforts globally.

An equitable approach must recognize the rights and knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local communities, while tailoring strategies to the socio-economic and ecological contexts of each country. Capacity-building and knowledge sharing are essential to ensure long-term success.

We look forward to contributing expertise and supporting the implementation of these roadmaps to secure sustainable forest management and climate resilience for all nations.

Kind regards,

Ambassador Dr. Mostafa Elsayed

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The Volunteer Team Foundation for Humanitarian Action (VTFHA)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mostafa Elsayed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.