

COP 30 STATEMENT, BELEM, BRAZIL, NOVEMBER 2025

**BY HONOURABLE ROHEY JOHN MANJANG, MINISTER OF
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES OF THE GAMBIA**

Mr. President

Excellencies

On behalf of the President of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Mr. Adama Barrow, I am pleased and honoured, to extend sincere greetings and gratitude, to His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, the Government, and People of Brazil, for hosting COP30, in the beautiful port city of Belem.

As we convene at this critical moment for global climate action, The Gambia stands ready to work with all Parties in the spirit of equity, cooperation, accountability, and hope for posterity in the climate discourse.

Let us be reminded that The Gambia, though among the nations least responsible for global greenhouse gas emissions, remains one of the most vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change. Our economy remains heavily dependent on climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture and fisheries, and our coastal zone is under increasing threat from sea-level rise and storm surge.

Mr. President, Excellencies, despite our limited resources, we have made determined progress. The Gambia's second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2) sets a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 49.7 % below business-as-usual by 2030, while working toward a vision of net-zero emissions by 2050, costed at 4 billion USD.

We have also integrated climate considerations into our current national development plan, strengthened partnerships, and initiated the operationalisation of nature-based solutions and broader resilience-building efforts. In addition, we have recently developed our Climate Prosperity Investment and Financing Strategy, which outlines a clear pathway for mobilising resources and driving transformative climate-resilient growth.

The Gambia underscores the urgency to move beyond theoretical ambition, to practical implementation of NDCs and is working to have a National Climate Change Act that will provide stronger legal framework on our climate action.

Our climate ambitions depend on enabling conditions and means of implementation, including accessible finance, technology and capacity support to strengthen our national and local institutions for enhancing community resilience.

Mr. President, adaptation is no longer optional—it is an urgent necessity for safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems, especially in the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. As we conclude the UAE–Belém Work Programme, The Gambia underscores that delivering the Global Goal on Adaptation requires moving beyond planning to scale, but rather predictable, and grant-based finance that enables real implementation on the ground.

We urge all Parties to constructively decide on adaptation indicators delivered by experts, and operationalize their implementation for tracking progress on achieving Global Climate Resilience.

Let me be clear: without accessible, reliable and predictable Climate Finance, building resilience will remain to be mere aspirations. Therefore, we call for an inclusion,

- A significant increase in adaptation finance, particularly to LDCs and SIDs, consistent with Article 9.4 of the Paris Agreement.
- A substantial and timely contributions to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), that corresponds to the scale of losses and damage suffered.

Only through these actions can adaptation become a pillar of global climate ambition and deliver meaningful resilience outcomes for the most vulnerable.

Mr. President, The Gambia considers the recent International Court of Justice advisory opinion's affirmation, that restitution, including ecosystem restoration, is a legal obligation, reinforcing the justice dimension of loss and damage.

On Just Transition, equity, and special circumstance of LDCs and SIDs must be at the heart of all climate action. We support the elevation of the Just Transition Work Programme, as a central pillar of the UNFCCC process.

Mr. President, Excellencies, allow me to conclude by stressing that we cannot fail our future, and our only planet!

We cannot fail our women, our children, and our youths who are the most affected and the least contributors to the climate crisis.

The Gambia stands ready to work constructively with all Parties, to deliver an outcome from Belém that is balanced, and implementable, noting that finance must be at the heart of the decision pillar. Let us leave Belém with renewed resolve, that we are united to strengthened hope and partnerships, with a clear path toward climate action and resilience for all.

I THANK YOU,