



Mr. President of COP26 / CMP16 / CMA3,
Presidents of the Subsidiary Bodies.
Distinguished delegates
General public

I am the bearer of greetings from millions of Guatemalans who live in the country of the eternal spring.

Today, as Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala, and in my capacity as president pro tempore of the Central American Commission of Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System, I ratify our condition as a highly vulnerable region to atmospheric effects, as reflected by the German watch Global Climate Risk Index, which places at least three Central American countries among the 10 most affected by extreme weather-related events in the last two decades, and **Guatemala is one of them. In addition, the Report of the National Intelligence Council of the United States, places Guatemala among the 11 most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of Climate Change.** Among the factors that affect us are our geographic location, poverty rates and social conditions.

The reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have confirmed that natural phenomena represents a serious threat to the food security of the population, generates human migration and damages the socio-economic dynamics, public finances and governance of our nations. Added to this scenario is the enormous impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had, which deepened and highlighted the economic and social problems that Guatemalans and Central Americans are experiencing.

Guatemala, has been hit by the effects of climate change with losses in recent decades, **of approximately more than six thousand million dollars: given this harsh reality that we are facing, I request that Central America be recognized as a highly vulnerable region to the impact of losses and damages imposed by natural disasters and the need to opt for financing options that characterize**



for being of easy access and that come in a timely manner, as well as parametric insurance that helps us rebuild the damaged infrastructure as a result of the extreme climate change events.

At the regional level, we have also worked to formalize before this important space the request for support to the initiative to create in Guatemala the **Regional Center for Combating Forest Fires**, which will promote a prevention strategy and a quick response to these events, through regional inter-institutional coordination.

Guatemala is also an example in sustainable forest management, as a result of the good work between the central government, the communities and the support of the international community. The Mayan Biosphere Reserve is made up of more than two million hectares, it is the greatest example of natural and cultural wealth. The 12 current concessions are a model of success that allows us to protect biodiversity and generate development. This is an important area to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to combat the advance of climate change.

Likewise, I call on the parties, with a humble and conciliatory spirit, so that the pending works at COP26, still under negotiation, reach the implementation phase and support the technical guidelines, so that the objectives defined in the Agreement of Paris prevail and allows developing and vulnerable countries, such as **Guatemala and the Central American region**, to respond in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, according to our current capacities and national circumstances.

I urge all parties to work at COP26 for a robust and ambitious result, where its implementation is based on a guide with clear rules, which has environmental integrity as a fundamental pillar, to achieve the objective of limiting the increase in temperature at 1.5°C.

In order to achieve the objectives in terms of resilience, adaptation capacity and mitigation to climate change, through long-term low-emission strategies, and to guarantee respect, protection and promotion of traditional and ancestral knowledge, the sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples and the inclusion of gender equity, in accordance with the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, under the principle of not leaving no one behind, it is essential to guarantee the financial and technical conditions of the Central American countries.

Thank you!