STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Dr. Ilídio Vieira Té

31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — COP31

Antalya, Republic of Türkiye | November 2026

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Türkiye,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Mr. Mayor of Antalya,

Mr. Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Mr. President of COP31,

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to address this important Conference on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Allow me to congratulate the Government and the people of Türkiye on their hospitality and the efforts they have undertaken to ensure the success of this Conference.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Humanity faces one of the greatest threats in its history: **climate change**.

Extreme weather events, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, droughts, and floods threaten food security, economic stability, and the future of millions of people.

Guinea-Bissau, despite its negligible contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, is among the countries particularly vulnerable to the impacts of this crisis.

For us, climate change is not merely an environmental challenge. It represents a threat to development, human security, and national sovereignty itself.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Paris Agreement represented a historic commitment by the international community to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Since then, significant progress has been made.

COP28, in Dubai, recognized the need to accelerate the energy transition and triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030.

COP29, in Baku, established a new climate finance goal of at least $300 billion annually by 2035, accompanied by efforts to scale up global financial flows to $1.3 trillion.

COP30, in Belém, reinforced the importance of implementing climate commitments, adaptation, a just transition, and the mobilization of financial resources.

However, progress in negotiations continues to stand in stark contrast to the insufficient resources actually made available to the most vulnerable countries.

We cannot continue to accept ambitious commitments without adequate financial mechanisms to ensure their implementation.

Climate justice demands that countries historically responsible for the largest share of emissions assume responsibilities commensurate with their capabilities.

Mr. President,

Guinea-Bissau is not attending this Conference merely to highlight its vulnerabilities.

We are also here to reaffirm our commitments and the actions undertaken to fulfill the Paris Agreement.

Our third Nationally Determined Contribution, NDC 3.0, serves as a strategic instrument to guide emissions reductions, strengthen adaptation, and promote resilient and sustainable development.

In this regard, we highlight:

- The promotion of renewable energy, particularly solar power and rural electrification;

- The conservation of forests, mangroves, and coastal ecosystems;
- The promotion of climate-resilient agriculture and food security;
- The strengthening of early warning systems and climate risk management;
- The improvement of climate governance and national transparency mechanisms.

Approximately 26.3% of Guinea-Bissau's territory is designated as protected areas, demonstrating our commitment to biodiversity conservation.

The inscription of the Bijagós Archipelago — **Omatí Minhô** — on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2025 also represents international recognition of our environmental preservation efforts.

Conserving these ecosystems is a service to all humanity that deserves recognition and adequate financial compensation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Guinea-Bissau believes that COP31 must deliver concrete results in **four** priority areas.

First: Fair and accessible climate finance. We call for international commitments to be honored, prioritizing grants and concessional financing mechanisms that do not increase the debt burden of vulnerable countries.

Second: Adaptation and loss and damage. It is essential to increase the resources allocated to coastal protection, agriculture, water security, and the effective operationalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

Third: A just energy transition. Developing countries must have access to financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building to promote clean energy without compromising their legitimate development aspirations.

Fourth: Recognition of the value of environmental services. We advocate international mechanisms that recognize the economic value of conserving forests, mangroves, and biodiversity, ensuring tangible benefits for local communities.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In an international context marked by geopolitical tensions, conflicts, and profound inequalities, we reaffirm the importance of multilateralism, dialogue, and international cooperation.

Guinea-Bissau will continue to work closely with the African Group, the Group of 77 and China, the Least Developed Countries, and the Small Island Developing States to advocate a fairer and more balanced international climate framework.

Our climate diplomacy is grounded in respect for the sovereignty of states, **common but shared responsibility**, and the need to translate political commitments into concrete results.

We do not seek privileges. We seek justice, equity, and opportunities for development.

The international community must understand that investing in the resilience of vulnerable countries is not an act of charity, but a collective responsibility and an investment in the stability of our planet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

COP31 must mark a new phase in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

A phase in which financing replaces unfulfilled promises, cooperation overcomes differences, and climate justice translates into tangible benefits for people.

Guinea-Bissau reaffirms its determination to fulfill its international commitments, protect its natural heritage, and build a more resilient future for present and future generations.

But that future requires solidarity, trust, and collective responsibility.

For there can be no climate justice without equity.

There can be no sustainable development without adequate financing.

And there can be no secure future for humanity without collective, ambitious, and meaningful climate action.

May Antalya be remembered as the Conference where the international community turned dialogue into consensus, and consensus into concrete action.

DIALOGUE TO BRING US CLOSER.

CONSENSUS TO MOVE FORWARD.

ACTION TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE.

Thank you very much for your attention.