

Submission by Costa Rica to the Belém Mission to 1.5°C

Costa Rica welcomes the launch of the Belém Mission to 1.5°C and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

In this context, Costa Rica believes that the Belém Mission should focus on accelerating implementation, strengthening international cooperation and identifying practical solutions capable of delivering measurable results before 2030. The Mission should help Parties move from ambition to action, with a clear focus on implementation pathways that are aligned with nationally determined priorities, sustainable development, resilience and a just transition.

Costa Rica's updated Nationally Determined Contribution for the period 2025–2035 reflects this approach. It is structured as an implementation-oriented instrument that integrates mitigation, adaptation, resilience and just transition objectives across key sectors of the economy, including energy, transport, oceans, industry, agriculture, waste and land use. For Costa Rica, keeping 1.5°C within reach requires a whole-of-economy transformation that is practical, inclusive and capable of generating benefits for people, communities and ecosystems.

Costa Rica's NDC 2025–2035 also presents a concrete portfolio of measures that can be advanced through cooperation, investment and policy support. In the energy and transport sectors, the country is working to expand the use of low-carbon fuels and clean mobility solutions, including the introduction of ethanol blends, the development of sustainable aviation fuel pathways, and the continued acceleration of electromobility and charging infrastructure. These measures, among others, are designed to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, cut transport-related emissions, support innovation and new value chains, and show how developing countries can translate the 1.5°C objective into practical implementation packages with clear national ownership.

The Belém Mission can play an important role by helping to connect national implementation efforts with international cooperation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and access to data and monitoring systems. This is particularly important for developing countries, where ambitious climate action often depends on the availability of adequate, predictable and accessible means of implementation.

Within this broader implementation agenda, Costa Rica wishes to highlight the importance of accelerating reductions in non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gases, particularly methane. The outcome of the first Global Stocktake recognized the need to accelerate and substantially reduce non-CO₂ emissions globally, including methane emissions by 2030. Methane mitigation represents one of the most effective opportunities available to deliver climate benefits in the near term, while complementing long-term decarbonization efforts.

Costa Rica considers that particular attention should be given to methane mitigation opportunities in the waste and agriculture sectors. Methane emissions from organic waste represent a significant and often underutilized mitigation opportunity. Cost-effective and readily available solutions already exist, including source separation of organic waste, composting, anaerobic digestion, improved landfill management and methane capture systems. These measures can deliver immediate climate benefits while also supporting circular economy approaches, improving public health, reducing environmental pollution, creating green jobs and strengthening local resilience.

Similarly, sustainable agricultural practices and measures to reduce methane emissions from livestock and agricultural systems can contribute to climate mitigation while supporting food security, rural development and more resilient production systems. These opportunities are especially relevant when they are designed in a way that recognizes national circumstances, supports producers, and avoids placing disproportionate burdens on vulnerable communities.

To accelerate implementation, the Belém Mission should identify and promote opportunities for enhanced international cooperation in areas such as:

- scaling up access to climate finance for implementation-oriented mitigation projects, including methane mitigation, particularly in developing countries;
- supporting technology development and transfer for measurement, monitoring and mitigation of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases;
- strengthening technical assistance and capacity-building for national and subnational implementation;
- promoting knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices across regions and sectors;
- facilitating access to data, monitoring systems and methodologies that improve measurement, reporting and verification;
- supporting integrated approaches that maximize climate, health, environmental, social and development co-benefits.

For Costa Rica, accelerated methane mitigation is not a substitute for deep decarbonization. Rather, it is a complementary and strategic area of action that can help deliver near-term temperature benefits while broader energy, transport, land-use and productive transformations continue to advance. In this sense, methane reduction can contribute directly to the implementation of NDCs, long-term low-emission development strategies and the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake.

The Belém Mission provides an opportunity to focus international efforts on practical, cooperative and measurable action during this decisive decade. Costa Rica stands ready to engage constructively in this process and supports a Mission that strengthens implementation, promotes cooperation, enhances support for developing countries and accelerates action consistent with the objective of keeping 1.5°C within reach.