Submission by the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group on inputs to the Belém Mission on 1.5, in response to the invitation given by the COP 29, COP 30 and COP 31 Presidencies.

July 2026

The 44 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) express their appreciation to the COP 31, COP 30 and COP 29 Presidencies, Türkiye, Australia, Brazil and Azerbaijan, in advancing work on the Belém Mission to 1.5°C as agreed at COP30 in Paragraph 42 of the Global Mutirão Decision 1/CMA.7 and welcome the opportunity to share views on the following:

1. What action areas and solutions have the highest impact potential to support the submission, ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs, through consideration of:

- priority solutions and innovations across policies, technologies, practices and investments,
- finance, technology, capacity building, and institutional opportunities, and
- the most significant barriers.

2. What is required to further strengthen international cooperation to enhance ambition and enable the effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs?

Background

The LDC Group welcomes the focus on both NDC and NAP implementation as both are equally critical instruments for LDCs to realize their low-carbon sustainable development pathways and build adaptive capacity and resilience. The Mission on 1.5 is closely linked to our long-standing priorities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to uphold the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C. Every fraction of a degree above this limit translates into tangible and often irreversible consequences for our communities and ecosystems.

With every increment of warming, the risk of overshoot, even if temporary, increases which can carry profound implications for countries on the frontline of climate change, including higher risk of breaching adaptation limits, escalating loss and damage, and significantly increasing finance needs. The World Meteorological Organization's State of the Global Climate report 2025 confirms that 2015-2025 are the hottest 11-years on record, and that 2025 was the second or third hottest year on record.

We therefore see the Belém Mission to 1.5°C as an important vehicle to translate the outcomes achieved in the UNFCCC process, including the outcome emerging from the first Global Stocktake, into practical and accelerated action that can prevent losses through enabling adequate action in this critical decade. In 2025, the LDC Group also launched its own initiative, the "LDC Mission 1.5°C Initiative," reflecting a call for greater advocacy efforts in keeping 1.5°C within reach while advancing climate-resilient development. We see important synergies between our

LDC-led initiative and the Belém Mission to 1.5°C and encourage continued collaboration and exchange of experiences.

As the countries most vulnerable to climate change and least responsible for its cause, LDCs have consistently demonstrated leadership and ambition in our NDCs and NAPs, often exceeding what our limited resources allow and what is required of our member countries, recognizing our special needs and circumstances. These national plans are blueprints for enabling the countries' long term climate resilient development. Paragraph 59 of Decision 1/CMA 5 calls on all parties that have not yet done so to have their national adaptation plans, policies and planning processes in place by 2025 and progress toward implementation by 2030. Yet, as of July 2026, 23 LDCs have submitted enhanced NDCs 3.0 with 2035 targets and strengthened 2030 targets, 27 LDCs have submitted NAPs with many others in the process of formulation, and 15 LDCs have also submitted BTRs.

NDC/NAP Preparation:

The development process and submission of these comprehensive national plans are resource-intensive exercises for resource and capacity-constrained LDCs. Many LDCs have reported challenges with lack of robust national data systems, scenario modeling, greenhouse gas inventories, and vulnerability assessments. Additionally, moving from high-level targets to costed, sequenced, sector-specific implementation plans require technical and economic modeling capacity that is often limited. Overcoming these barriers, LDCs have forwarded comprehensive plans, realizing their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

NDC/NAP implementation:

The national plans of LDCs, however, face serious challenges in implementation as they are largely conditional on international cooperation and the provision of means of implementation. Persistent and widening gaps in means of implementation, including finance, technology, and capacity-building support constrain the climate ambitions of LDCs and remain the primary barriers. Additionally, institutional and procedural barriers in accessing available support is also a critical issue for LDCs.

A credible climate finance delivery pathway is needed to translate the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) into predictable, transparent and accountable finance for developing countries, with priority for those with the greatest vulnerability and least capacity, particularly LDCs and SIDS. This should include the delivery of at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035, with developed country Parties taking the lead, as part of the wider effort to scale up finance from all public and private sources to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035. For LDCs, the pathway should specify the share of the USD 300 billion to be provided as grants and highly concessional finance, with simplified and direct access modalities that support implementation of NDCs and NAPs at programmatic scale.

Delivering on NDCs and NAPs also requires strengthened international cooperation, enhanced investment, and scaled-up support, particularly in the form of grants. For LDCs, this support must have simplified access, and address the barriers faced by vulnerable countries, including high costs of capital and limited fiscal space. Debt burdens and unfavorable debt conditions significantly take away from domestic resources to implement climate action. Many LDCs spend a great share of public resources on servicing external debt than on essential sectors such as health, education, or climate resilience, leaving insufficient domestic resources to implement their national climate priorities. Therefore, reform of the global financial architecture is essential and must be treated as a climate issue.

Global NDC ambition:

While LDCs have consistently demonstrated leadership by submitting ambitious NDCs, the collective level of ambition reflected in the recent NDCs' cycle remains far from sufficient to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach. The latest scientific assessments and synthesis of NDCs demonstrate that current commitments are not aligned with pathways consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C, resulting in a significant emissions gap by 2030 and beyond.

This ambition shortfall is driven primarily by insufficient mitigation ambition from major emitters. Closing this gap requires all Parties, particularly those with the greatest historical responsibility, highest capabilities, and largest emissions, to substantially strengthen their mitigation targets and accelerate implementation in line with the best available science and the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake. The Belém Mission to 1.5°C should therefore focus efforts on catalysing enhanced ambition where the greatest mitigation potential exists. Increasing global ambition must go hand in hand with fulfilling commitments on finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building This could include possible ways to report on the gap in a manner that is disaggregated and allows for detail, as well as a political convening to encourage countries to revisit and enhance their ambition targets.

Priority action areas and solutions:

The Belém Mission to 1.5°C should prioritize actions that simultaneously accelerate mitigation, strengthen adaptation, and advance sustainable development. For LDCs, the highest-impact solutions include:

- Closing the global NDC ambition shortfall through accelerating ambitious mitigation action and phasing out of fossil fuels are the highest-impact solutions to keep 1.5°C within reach. These are by far the highest impact solutions and most feasible solutions, which will reduce future risks and both adaptation and mitigation costs. It is also highly feasible because cost-effective renewable energy can be deployed at scale.
- This work must be anchored in the latest available science, including IPCC findings, ensuring that NDC and NAP development, implementation, and support are in line with what the science demands rather than what current political and financial conditions permit.

- Operationalizing and implementing the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake in this critical decade which includes tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency, reducing fossil fuel subsidies, and reducing methane emissions, etc.
- Implementation of NDCs and NAPs are critical tools to climate action, with both requiring sustained support in an integrated manner, especially in LDCs. Programmatic funding and access modalities need to be prioritized over smaller short-term projectized approaches.
- Accelerate implementation of NDCs and NAPs through simplified and direct access modalities to predictable, streamlined, grant-based implementation support, with special provisions for LDCs on project and programme preparation requirements, reflecting the institutional realities of LDCs. Readiness support should also be expanded to strengthen national institutions and enable countries to move rapidly from planning to implementation.
- Predictable and timely delivery on existing commitments for finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, with particular attention to the special needs and circumstances of LDCs, including the NCQG, goal on tripling adaptation finance, and tripling finance flows through the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and the UNFCCC Funds, including the LDC Fund.
- Tracking delivery on the above commitments and strengthened accountability measures on delivery of commitments.
- Advance the work on reforming the international financial architecture to reduce the cost of capital, address debt distress and debt-servicing constraints, expand fiscal space, and make provision for significantly greater levels of highly concessional and grant-based finance for climate-resilient development in LDCs.
- Ensuring a just, equitable and inclusive transition towards low-carbon sustainable development pathways by addressing socioeconomic and labor dimensions.
- Building political momentum through the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, the UNGA resolution supporting the ICJ AO, and integrating the clear guidance on state obligations in relation to climate change including on ambition, cooperation and support within the climate process, reinforcing the legal foundation for both NDC/NAP ambition and its enabling international cooperation.

Conclusion

The LDC Group seeks the Mission on 1.5 to be an opportunity to shorten the distance between the ambition Parties have pledged and the implementation that science demands. So we look forward to a detailed workplan and a report that captures the key findings, actions, opportunities and recommendations emerging from this process. We also suggest that the three initiatives of Presidency Roadmaps, Belem Mission 1.5, and the Global Implementation Accelerator should have synergies with each other.

The LDC Group believes that future activities and plans under the Belem Mission 1.5°C must place LDCs at the center, guided by the best available science and climate goals. Achieving equity requires that the voices, needs and priorities of countries on frontline of the climate crises are heard, reflected in decision-making and effectively addressed while advancing sustainable development, and poverty eradication, consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The LDC Group also supports building early political will to ensure the continuity of this Mission beyond COP31, in the form of Troika Presidencies, ensuring that the progress being made is not lost, and the initiative can remain a vehicle to sustain momentum to keep 1.5°C on track and support adequate implementation of NDCs and NAPs.

Finally, the LDC Group would like to see the results of these discussions accommodated within the COP31 outcome. The LDC Group looks forward to contributing its support to the Presidencies and engaging in the Belem Mission 1.5°C.