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The Belém Mission to 1.5 comes at a critical time for climate action in every country. The focus of the Mission is "to enable and accelerate the ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs, as well as reflecting on ways to enhance international cooperation and investments in those climate plans." This submission offers three recommendations that the COP Presidencies can promote to ensure the Belém Mission to 1.5 creates meaningful and successful results.

1. **Improve national strategies to fully engage fast mitigation opportunities on top of accelerated energy transitions.** The Belém Mission to 1.5 keeps an appropriate focus on the 1.5°C temperature goal. This goal requires a full package of strategies both to limit the duration and extent of overshoot beyond 1.5°C in the decades of the 2030s–2050s, and to enable reaching 1.5°C by the end of this century or early in the next. The energy transition is central for long term climate stabilization and is justifiably a focus of current attention. Moreover, the energy transition is accelerating in response to declining costs of clean technologies, an expanding set of policy drivers in diverse countries, and response to the high risks and vulnerability of the fossil fuel system. Nevertheless, despite its importance and near-term benefits, the energy transition alone only contributes marginally to limiting the near-term global temperature peak throughout the next few decades. Therefore, action to deliver fast temperature reductions, including reducing short-lived greenhouse gases (notably methane) and ending deforestation is equally critical in the near term. A consistent, strong, and immediate push on these actions across countries can minimize the duration and extent of any overshoot beyond 1.5°C. Moreover, sustained actions on methane mitigation and increased land sinks are also necessary for long-term temperature outcomes, jointly with the contributions from the energy transition away from fossil fuels. Expansion of CDR in a way that is meaningful but not excessive or grounded in over-optimistic assumptions will also likely be necessary. In addition to limiting peak warming, these combined actions can also enable a longer-term return to 1.5°C by the end of the century or shortly thereafter. A co-equal focus on these areas of energy transition, rapid reduction in short-lived greenhouse gases, rapid reductions in deforestation, and appropriate deployment of CDR should therefore inform international approaches including the Belém Mission to 1.5, the Action Agenda, COP Presidency priorities over coming years, and the second global stocktake (GST 2). Most importantly, action in these areas should also be appropriately reflected, with the highest possible ambition, in future NDCs and LT-LEDS, and tracked through associated reporting.

2. **Enhance the Paris transparency processes.** The Paris ambition and transparency process is fundamental to global success in reaching agreed goals and should therefore be a central focus of ongoing processes within the UNFCCC. Nevertheless, recent experience has demonstrated a need to enhance these processes substantially starting from this year.

    a. **Reflect and improve on the ambition cycle**. While the world is correctly focusing on implementing and financing existing goals, that shift should not obscure the central importance of increases in national ambition, particularly from most major emitters. The NDCs offered in 2025 were diverse in their ambition; the global response should not be simply to move to implementation, but should also in parallel seek to understand and highlight those divergences. Some countries offered strong and ambitious targets. Some major economies offered weak targets below reasonable estimates of their current

trajectories. The United States walked away, creating additional downward pressure on ambition. There was little differentiation of quality of targets and only a general encouragement for all countries to overachieve on their goals. Yet the Paris Agreement calls on countries to offer contributions that are at once nationally determined and reflect "the highest possible ambition"—and that principle should be upheld by all countries. The success of the Paris Agreement in meeting its objectives hinges on the extent to which major emitters in particular feel duly responsible for the extent to which they are acting with the highest possible ambition.

b. **Enhance the central position of transparency**. The innovation of the Paris Agreement was the appropriate and robust linking of nationally determined actions and goals into international processes. The critical and central mechanism for delivering this outcome is the periodic communications of NDCs and LT-LEDS and appropriate transparency, including both emissions inventories and progress toward goals via the biennial transparency reports (BTRs). Such transparency measures enable both healthy intergovernmental conversation as well as important engagement from non-Party stakeholders both in countries' domestic contexts as well as internationally. Given the centrality of this process to Paris, activities like the Facilitative Multilateral Consideration of Progress ought to be a highlight of the calendar, with high-level representation for Parties and participation from others. In particular, the FMCP for major economies should be held at the COP, not at the SB meetings, to encourage enhanced transparency and recognition of the important steps countries are taking to implement their goals.

3. **Deliver robustness of action through all-of-society engagement**. The decade of experience under the Paris Agreement indicates that developing national goals and plans with input from subnational governments, the private sector, and other non-Party stakeholders helps with the eventual implementation of NDCs and LT-LEDS. Such expanded processes provide multiple channels for improvement. For example, they enable subnational actors to better understand and communicate about, in advance, options that the national government is considering. They also allow national governments to better understand potential roadblocks and barriers to implementation as they develop their goals and implementation strategies. It also provides a route through which national governments can learn from policies and successes in subnational government levels, and if appropriate, to include such strategies in national approaches.

The case of the United States: The role of subnational governments and non-Party action in supporting progress toward the 1.5 goal. The United States federal government regrettably changed its domestic policy strategy and withdrew from the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC, creating significant impacts on domestic and international actions. Nevertheless, global outcomes still depend on longer-term U.S. climate action. In that light, there are areas of continued action that can support near-term outcomes and in turn will continue to build lower-carbon infrastructure to support longer-term improvement.

- *Subnational government actions.* Building on decades of work through diverse federal government situations, subnational governments have developed strategies for delivering benefits to their constituencies, rooted in policy authorities granted to them through the U.S. constitution. Using these authorities, subnational governments representing roughly 66% of the U.S. population and 75% of the U.S. economy are continuing to implement actions to advance climate goals, support an accelerated energy transition, and retool their real economies, all of which support outcomes in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. In addition, many

businesses and non-governmental institutions in the United States remain committed to do their part in the global effort to address climate change. Finally, the changes in clean technology costs and concerns about energy prices are driving activity such as rapid solar and wind deployment even in U.S. locations that are not politically oriented toward climate-related goals. Although the loss of federal funding and other rollbacks of federal policies have slowed implementation, these other forces and actions provide meaningful support for the overall U.S. economic transition—and associated emissions reductions through energy transitions and methane mitigation in particular.

- *Transparency through non-governmental channels.* Non-governmental scientific, research, and independent organizations within the United States are working to fill scientific and data gaps left by broad reductions in support from the U.S. federal government. One aspect of this is the elimination of official collecting and reporting for GHG inventory data and reporting on progress. To address this gap, a non-governmental U.S. greenhouse inventory and analysis has been compiled and communicated, and it is intended that this activity will continue to assess, improve, and share openly, independently generated U.S. greenhouse gas inventories and projections of progress toward goals. While not formal governmental processes, these can nevertheless promote improved transparency for U.S. implementation and continuity of data with previous years.

CGS Regularly Updated Resources and Selected References:

CGS International Country Ambition Assessments (Regularly Updated). Cui, R., N. Hultman, C. Bertram, J. Behrendt, M. Borrero, X. Nelson-Rowntree, and others. Country Climate Ambition: High Ambition Pathways for National and Global Climate Goals (2025). Center for Global Sustainability, University of Maryland. Available at: http://www.country-ambition.cgs.umd.edu.

CGS U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Analysis (Regularly Updated). Desai, M., Camobreco, V., Hedger, T., Irving, W., Rewcastle, K., Steller, J., Barbieri, L., Weitz, M., Murumkar, T., Fawcett, A., Lou, J., Cui, R., & Hultman, N. (2026). Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Analysis for the United States: 1990-2024. Center for Global Sustainability, University of Maryland, College Park. https://doi.org/10.13016/g1xw-qftw. Regular updates available at: http://ghgi.cgs.umd.edu

CGS Global Methane Abatement Solutions Tracker (G-MAST) (Regularly Updated). Zhu, M., Hu, G., Cheng, X., Sahu, S., Li, Y., Vaddeboina, S., Sharma, A., Kalra, I., Thakkar, H., Dule, A., Lu, Z., Singh, H. & Cui, R. (2025). Global Methane Abatement Solutions Tracker (G-MAST). Center for Global Sustainability, University of Maryland. Regular updates available at: https://cgs-database.org/methane/

CGS Analysis on Transition Away from Fossil Fuels. Borrero, M., Cui, R., Behrendt, J., Nelson-Rowntree, X., George, M., Bertram, C., Tibebu, T., Churlyaev, D., Lou, J., Hultman, N. (June 2026). "Accelerating the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in Response to the Global Energy Crisis with the Strait of Hormuz Closure." Center for Global Sustainability, University of Maryland. 45 pp.

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