

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU SUBMISSION TO THE BELEM MISSION ON 1.5

12 July 2026

The Belém Mission to 1.5 was adopted at COP 30 in the context of the Global Mutirão decision (1/CMA.7, at para. 42). It involves a series of activities and engagements throughout 2026 guided by the COP29, COP30, and COP31 Presidencies focused **on identifying key opportunities to enable and accelerate the ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs**, and reflecting on ways to enhance international cooperation and investments in these climate plans.

There is a critical need for urgent climate action to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal within reach. The climate science suggests that globally we are now on a trajectory toward approximately 2.7°C of warming, placing the 1.5°C limit at serious risk of overshoot. If emissions are not rapidly reduced in this critical decade, any temporary overshoot of 1.5°C will grow in both duration and severity - intensifying impacts and increasing loss and damage in SIDS.

2024, 2025, and now 2026 have seen many of the highest global average temperatures on record. Vanuatu remains one of the most climate vulnerable countries globally, and at current levels of global warming is already experiencing extensive loss and damage as a result of climate change impacts. This includes impacts to the health of ni-Vanuatu, their lives and livelihoods, and their right to remain in place and practice their customs, languages and their Indigenous knowledge.

There is no sustainable development for people of the Pacific in a 2-degree world, but the human rights of Pacific Small Island Developing States as well as their legitimate development needs and aspirations cannot be met through SIDS action alone. **Urgent and immediate global level commitment and action is needed to keep 1.5°C within reach and to keep any potential overshoot of 1.5°C extremely limited in magnitude and duration is what is needed now.** It is for this reason that the Republic of Vanuatu welcomes the opportunity to submit inputs to the Belém Mission on 1.5, in response to the invitation given by the COP 29, COP 30 and COP 31 Presidencies.

1. Planning and Policy Gaps and Needs related to NDC submission, ambition and implementation and Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level

NDC Submission: All Parties must submit a new or enhanced NDCs as required.

The Belém Mission to 1.5 Report must recognise the legal obligation of all Parties to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs under Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement and to do so every five years in accordance with Article 4.9. The International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion has recognized this obligation finding that: “the 1.5°C threshold to be the parties’ agreed primary temperature goal for limiting

the global average temperature increase under the Paris Agreement... and that this interpretation is consistent with Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement, which requires that mitigation measures be based on the “best available science” [Para 224].

In preparation of NDCs International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion also finds that a party’s NDCs must reflect “its highest possible ambition” [Para 242]. Further:

“the discretion of parties in the preparation of their NDCs is limited. As such, in the exercise of their discretion, parties are obliged to exercise due diligence and ensure that their NDCs fulfil their obligations under the Paris Agreement and thus, when taken together, are capable of achieving the temperature goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as well as the overall objective of the “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”. [Para 254].

Given these legal requirements as identified by the ICJ, the Report produced must note gaps in compliance with these legal obligations, and in particular the requirement of ‘due diligence’ and identify ways forward in securing compliance with these legal reporting obligations. The Report should identify an ongoing political mechanism for high-level engagement with those countries that have yet to submit NDCs. This political process, supporting the UNFCCC process, should remind Parties of their legal obligation to submit successive NDCs in a timely manner, recall that these NDCs are to reflect countries' highest possible ambition.

Importantly a 1.5 pathway is still possible if globally we follow the Highest Possible Ambition Scenario to limit the duration and extent of overshoot and keep 1.5°C within reach. The "Highest Possible Ambition" Scenario (HPA), developed since publication of the IPCC AR6, achieves net zero CO₂ emissions before 2050, and net zero GHG emissions by the early 2060s.

NDC Ambition: NDCs must be re-submitted to align with 1.5°C-consistent pathways.

The Belém Mission to 1.5 Report must explicitly acknowledge that current NDCs are insufficient with the 1.5°C temperature goal and identify ways forward.

High level political approaches to developed countries and other major-emitting countries between now and COP 31 are needed to facilitate delivery of updated and enhanced 1.5 aligned NDCs and/or the announcement of additional mitigation measures. The Troika of COP Presidencies should use its leadership role to lead on the announcement of 1.5 aligned NDCs, as well as the adoption and announcement of additional mitigation measures by other countries that bolster their NDC ambition, consistent with Article 4.11, for formal announcement at COP 31. At that time, the number of Parties failing to present new and enhanced NDCs should also be stated.

The need to develop a 1.5 aligned NDC is particularly an issue for the COP31 Presidency of Negotiations who must send an important signal to the Pacific around the urgency of 1.5 action, and the critical need for action on key parts of the GST energy package (see discussion below).

While many Pacific countries NDCs are 1.5 aligned many of these NDCs contain conditional commitments that are dependent on securing financial and other forms of support, underscoring the need for external support to assist PSIDS in realizing even greater ambition. **There is an urgent need for the provision of technical assistance and other finance and capacity-building support through regional partnerships and multilateral programs to enable the delivery on Pacific NDCs as already designed and 1.5 aligned.** This includes, additional financing for just transitions and, in particular, the provision of renewable energy financing at scale, at a Pacific regional level.

2. Mitigation Gaps, Needs and Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level

Urgent and renewed focus and accelerated action on the GST energy package. The 1.5 mitigation action areas and solutions that have the highest impact potential for mitigation are those that are set out in the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST), at paragraph 28 of GST decision 1/CMA.5, as the energy sector holds the highest potential for low-cost reductions:

1. **Tripling renewable energy capacity** globally and doubling the global average annual rate of **energy efficiency improvements** by 2030;
2. Accelerating efforts towards the **phase-down of unabated coal power**;
3. Accelerating efforts globally towards net zero emission energy systems, utilizing **zero- and low-carbon fuels** well before or by around mid-century;
4. **Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems**, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science;
5. **Accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies**, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and low-carbon hydrogen production;
6. Accelerating and **substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including in particular methane emissions** by 2030;
7. Accelerating the **reduction of emissions from road transport** on a range of pathways, including through development of infrastructure and rapid deployment of **zero and low-emission vehicles**;
8. **Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies** that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible

Exhibit leadership: the Belém Mission to 1.5 Troika of COP Presidencies must exhibit leadership, by undertaking ambitious domestic initiatives to phase out fossil fuels (including coal) and reduce their own inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. The Belém Mission to 1.5 Troika of COP Presidencies can lead the way by undertaking ambitious domestic initiatives to phase out coal and reduce inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, prioritizing the reduction of subsidies related to the most-CO₂ intensive forms of energy supply and consumption, and report on their own plans and progress at COP 31. Other countries can be invited to join in these accelerated efforts. Tracking implementation of the GST energy package goals by establishing a tracking system and Highest Possible Ambition (HPA) milestones that will outlast COP 31 is an important step forward.

Report global data on fossil fuel subsidies into the UNFCCC process; encourage domestic fossil fuel subsidy audits and profile cooperative initiatives that assist Parties in identifying, classifying and reducing fossil fuel subsidies that are no longer fit for purpose or that can be replaced with more targeted tools. The International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion at para. 427 provides that the failure of a State to take appropriate action to protect the climate system from GHG emissions, including through the provision of fossil fuel subsidies, may constitute an internationally wrongful act attributable to the State under international law. As referenced in the GST energy package, reducing fossil fuel subsidies can help create the space for renewable energy uptake, which in turn can create the space for countries to reduce their fossil fuel dependency. One example of a relevant initiative that can support Parties in reducing fossil fuel subsidies, through assistance with fossil fuel subsidy audits, regardless of membership, is the Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuels Including Subsidies (COFFIS). Another initiative of note is the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), which is a trade agreement outside the WTO addressing among other things the elimination of tariffs on many environmental goods. The Global Implementation Accelerator (GIA) can build upon these efforts from COP31 forward.

Increase international cooperation to support the necessary just and equitable transition. Increased international cooperation, expedited means of implementation, and the increased accessibility and affordability of solutions are needed to support the **just and equitable transition** away from fossil fuels, including through the prioritisation, promotion and acceleration of available, mature, and affordable technologies, such as renewable energy (RE) solutions - as recognized by decision 1/CMA.5, para. 30.

3. Adaptation Gaps, Needs and Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is the central goal of the Paris Agreement and meeting this goal is essential for the survival of Pacific small island developing States. **Ambitious and urgent global emission reductions are needed to enable Vanuatu and other climate vulnerable countries to adapt to a changing climate.** Accordingly, 1.5 aligned mitigation efforts at scale are needed to enable successful adaptation efforts, and finance, capacity building and technology transfer are urgently needed to support practical adaptation efforts on the ground.

Developed country Parties must meet their climate finance commitments. There is a disturbing trend of climate finance reductions and redirection, despite the global goal to triple adaptation finance by 2035, and to triple finance moving through the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and the UNFCCC Funds, namely the GCF, AF and SCCF window A. This is creating a further strain on public finance in SIDS and other developing countries at a time when it is needed more than ever. The Belem Mission to 1.5 report should recommend **streamlined, grant-based implementation support** for countries that have completed NAPs, reducing the time between planning and implementation and avoiding duplicative project preparation requirements.

Supplement human capacity and revise funding requirements to facilitate access to climate finance.

Support **locally led adaptation, community resilience and Indigenous knowledge**. Adaptation efforts should build on local knowledge, Indigenous knowledge where appropriate, and community-based approaches that strengthen resilience while ensuring inclusive participation of women, youth and marginalized groups.

Address the structural barriers that continue to constrain implementation in SIDS for both mitigation and adaptation. These include the high cost of capital, substantial existing debt burdens that limit the fiscal space for domestic action, restrictive eligibility criteria for concessional finance, sovereign risk assessments, and international financial rules that often fail to account for climate vulnerability. In particular this involves, **addressing the absence of economies of scale in for mitigation technologies through support for energy system audits and bulk procurement initiatives** such as the Pacific regional-wide acquisition of renewable energy systems, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and energy efficiency technologies, to facilitate NDC implementation in the Pacific.

Provide integrated NAP implementation support. SIDS would benefit from integrated NAP implementation support, combining direct access, grant-based and programmatic finance, project preparation support, technology transfer, and capacity-building.

Provide PSIDS with greater access to relevant innovative adaptation and mitigation solutions, technical expertise, and best practices in strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure.