



Dear Candidate for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations,

On behalf of the “Adaptation as a Priority Task Force” and the co-signatory organizations listed below, we address your candidacy at a decisive moment for the future of climate multilateralism and global climate stability.

The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat; it is a present and escalating reality affecting countries, peoples, ecosystems, and economies worldwide. The year 2024 marked the warmest year on record, and projections indicate that new records may be surpassed in the years ahead, with the incoming and likely strong El Niño. Each heatwave, flood, and prolonged drought claims lives and deepens risks across cities, coastal zones, energy systems, agriculture, public health, and water security. Each climate disaster widens the inequality gap of adaptive capacity and resilience, both among and within countries.

We recognize and commend the leadership of Secretary-General António Guterres in elevating climate change to the forefront of the United Nations agenda. His stewardship has helped consolidate the understanding that climate change is an existential challenge for humanity. At this critical juncture, we believe the next Secretary-General should advance an even more ambitious vision, one that positions climate adaptation as a political, financial, and institutional priority, and as a central element of a coherent multilateral response to the climate emergency.



With new leadership at the helm of the United Nations, we see a historic opportunity to move beyond any distinction between mitigation and adaptation, and between loss and damage, recognizing them as mutually reinforcing and inseparable dimensions of a comprehensive climate response. While we also need new dynamics in climate mitigation, elevating adaptation as a strategic priority would help guide mandates, resources, and policy coherence across the United Nations system.

The recent Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice marks a significant milestone by affirming that States have binding obligations under international law to address climate change and protect human rights from its harmful effects. This landmark clarification reinforces that adaptation is not merely a policy option, but an essential element of fulfilling States' legal duties to prevent foreseeable harm, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure international cooperation in responding to the climate crisis. The next Secretary-General should champion this legal and moral imperative across the United Nations system.

Today, the impacts of climate inaction fall disproportionately on those in vulnerable situations. Elders, children and youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, afro-descendant and local and traditional communities, people in human settlements, smallholder farmers, and coastal populations are already living on the frontlines of climate change. At the same time, these communities are the source of some of the most innovative and effective climate resilience solutions, grounded in local knowledge, collective practices, and context-specific approaches that must be recognized, scaled up, and supported.

Investing in adaptation means preparing societies, economies, ecosystems, and territories to withstand increasing climate risks, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Scaling up adaptation finance is a strategic imperative. Every dollar invested in adaptation can yield multiple economic and social co-benefits, reducing human and economic losses, safeguarding critical infrastructure, and strengthening resilient development pathways. Protecting lives and livelihoods. By contrast, the costs of inaction will continue to rise exponentially for all countries.

The quality of adaptation finance is as important as its volume. Funding should be predictable, accessible, concessional, and, where possible, grant-based, without increasing the debt burden of vulnerable countries. We welcome the COP30 commitment to at least triple adaptation finance for developing countries by 2035 and encourage the next Secretary-General to support its timely and equitable implementation.



In light of the above, we encourage the next Secretary-General of the United Nations to:

- **Elevate adaptation to the highest level of the international political agenda, with a focus on implementing the existing adaptation architecture under the UNFCCC;**
 - **Mainstream adaptation across global development agendas, including the priority areas of the Global Goal on Adaptation, such as water, food and agriculture, health, ecosystems, infrastructure and human settlements, poverty and livelihoods;**
 - **Promote institutional coherence across the UNFCCC, UN entities, and the international financial architecture;**
 - **Encourage new commitments toward predictable, accessible, and predominantly public grant-based adaptation finance, with a view to closing the increasing adaptation finance gap;**
 - **Use their influence to advocate for more inclusive and transparent processes, encouraging States and the UNFCCC itself to expand opportunities for civil society participation.**
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We trust that your leadership will contribute to strengthening a United Nations capable of responding to the scale and urgency of this historic challenge, placing people-centered climate action at the core of the multilateral system.

Yours sincerely,

- 1 Instituto Talanoa
- 2 Plataforma CIPÓ
- 3 Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para Latinoamérica y el Caribe (GFLAC)
- 4 Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña por un Sistema Financiero Sostenible (REDFIS)
- 5 Argentina 1.5
- 6 Sustenta Honduras
- 7 Instituto Decodifica
- 8 Palmares Lab
- 9 WWF-Brasil
- 10 Climate Action Network Latin America (CANLA)

- 11** Foundation for Amazon Sustainability (FAS)
- 12** Clima de Política
- 13** Community Action for Health and Development (CAHE)
- 14** AbibiNsroma Foundation (ANF)
- 15** World Friends for Africa Burkina Faso
- 16** ONG FIMA
- 17** Latin American Youth Climate Scholarship (LAYCS)
- 18** Stichting Youth for Sustainable Travel
- 19** Fundación de Iniciativas de Cambio Climático, Honduras
- 20** Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPN)
- 21** Oxfam
- 22** Southern Africa Climate Change Network
- 23** Zimbabwe Climate Change Coalition
- 24** Southern Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance
- 25** Instituto Socioambiental
- 26** Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
- 27** Conectas Direitos Humanos
- 28** Germanwatch
- 29** Community Integrated Development Organisation (Uganda)
- 30** Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD), Lebanon
- 31** Texas Impact
- 32** Emmaus International
- 33** African Coalition on Green Growth
- 34** Fridays for Future
- 35** Instituto Perifa Sustentável
- 36** Fundo Brasileiro de Educação Ambiental (FunBEA)
- 37** cosmopolíticas
- 38** Debt Justice Norway
- 39** Fundação Grupo Esquel Brasil
- 40** Fórum Brasileiro de ONGs e Movimentos Sociais para o Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento
- 41** Rede de Mulheres Ambientalistas da América Latina - Elo Brasil
- 42** Rede Brasileira de Educação Ambiental
- 43** Grupo de Estudos em Educação e Meio Ambiente (GEEMA)
- 44** Rede de Educação Ambiental e Políticas Públicas
- 45** Fund.acción por emergencia climática
- 46** Instituto Socioambiental VerAmazônia
- 47** Rede Amazônia Delas

- 48** Southern Voice
- 49** Associação Civil Alternativa Terrazul
- 50** Teia Carta da Terra Brasil
- 51** Observatório das Águas
- 52** 350.org Brasil
- 53** Instituto Caminhabilidade (Walkability Institute)
- 54** Instituto Sea Shepherd Brasil
- 55** Rede Vozes Negras pelo Clima.
- 56** Instituto Flores Pontalenses
- 57** Rede Mulheres Litorâneas.
- 58** Mater Natura - Instituto de Estudos Ambientais
- 59** SER
- 60** ARAYARA International Institute
- 61** Observatório do Petróleo e Gás (OPG)
- 62** Observatório do Carvão Mineral (OCM)
- 63** Coalizão Não Fracking Brasil (COESUS)
- 64** Litigância Climática e Por Direitos (LITIGA)
- 65** Rede Fé, Paz e Clima
- 66** Fundação Arayara
- 67** Instituto 5 Elementos
- 68** Associação de Preservação do Meio Ambiente e da Vida (Apremavi)
- 69** Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos (Inesc)
- 70** Instituto Perifalab
- 71** Movimento Internacional de Juventudes (MOV)
- 72** Bancada do Clima - Legisla Brasil
- 73** TETO Brasil
- 74** Associação de Jovens Engajamundo
- 75** Uma Gota No Oceano
- 76** Instituto Duclima
- 77** Associação Soluções Inclusivas Sustentáveis (SIS)
- 78** Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica
- 79** Centro Brasileiro de Justiça Climática (CBJC)
- 80** Instituto Água e Saneamento
- 81** ACT Promoção da Saúde
- 82** Greenpeace Brasil
- 83** Fundação Ecotrópica
- 84** Projeto Hospitais Saudáveis