

**Top Line Messaging**  
**ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**  
**FOR COP29**

IASC Sub-Group on Climate Crisis

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Endorsed by IASC Deputies Group

## I. Top Line Messaging

Climate change is driving major increases in humanitarian needs across the globe. Urgent and ambitious action is needed to avert the worst outcomes and protect the most vulnerable groups, regions and sectors. This includes taking action to:

- **Leave no-one behind and prioritize people in the most vulnerable situations.** The impacts of climate change are profoundly unequal – with the people least responsible for climate change suffering worst, and first. Women, girls and children, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, Indigenous Peoples, and rural communities are worst affected and most at-risk from climate-related disasters due to deeply rooted inequalities. Climate action needs to prioritize and address the needs of groups in vulnerable situations including in countries and communities affected by conflict, fragility and/or humanitarian crises
- **Dramatically increase ambition in the new Nationally Determined Contributions.** Keeping the global temperature rise to below 1.5°C is a top humanitarian priority. Governments have an opportunity to articulate transformative ambition in their 2025 NDCs, commensurate to the scale of the climate crisis. NDCs should include an explicit commitment to phase out fossil fuels, setting precise 2035 greenhouse gas reduction targets, strengthen 2030 emissions-reduction targets aligned with 1.5°C maximum increase, and foster a just and equitable transition. New NDCs should also integrate clear adaptation objectives to build resilience, including investments in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and enhanced Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) capacities, particularly in countries and communities affected by conflict, fragility and/or humanitarian crises. Lastly, NDCs should be clearly supported by government policies to ensure urgent, effective, and inclusive implementation, shaped by participatory processes involving most affected and at-risk groups.
- **Increase levels of finance for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage.** Communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis need urgent support to adapt and respond to climate impacts. Adaptation must be planned, financed and implemented at a scale and speed that matches the worsening climate crisis. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), to be agreed at COP 29, must ensure adequate finance to address the full magnitude of the climate crisis. It is an opportunity to reimagine economies, climate finance, restore trust, build solidarity, and catalyze ambition. The Goal should address the challenges of indebtedness and high cost of capital for developing countries. Access to finance needs to be dramatically increased for countries experiencing conflict, extreme poverty, and humanitarian crises, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), and reach the local level. Processes for accessing financing should be streamlined and made more accessible to multiple actors including civil societies and community-based organisations.
- **Scale locally and nationally specific adaptation actions.** The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, adopted at COP 28, provides guidance for the achievement of the Global Goal on Adaptation. It is critical to ensure the Framework supports adaptation that is locally led, informed by the views of communities, particularly in countries affected by conflict, fragility and/or humanitarian crises, and by age, ability, race, ethnicity, and gender-disaggregated data. Adaptation actions should be aligned with international human rights law. Indicators related to adaptation need to be flexible to enable locally and nationally specific actions to adjust to physical, economic, social and community requirements and capabilities.
- **Deliver on Loss and Damage for those on the frontline of the climate crisis.** The establishment of the new Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) was a major step towards climate justice. Progress must now be made to mobilize more resources and ensure they reach the local level, including in fragile and conflict affected contexts. It will be critical that the new Fund operates in coherence with existing arrangements, including those in the humanitarian sector. Funding should support actions complementary to life and livelihoods saving humanitarian actions. The new Fund should ensure the meaningful inclusion of women, LGBTIQ+ persons, children, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, displaced people, and other groups in vulnerable and marginalized situations in decision making. Humanitarian and local

organisations should be enabled to engage meaningfully with the Board and the high-level dialogue to ensure complementarity and coherence.

- **Boost Early Warning and Anticipatory Action.** One third of people, mainly in LDCs and SIDS, are not covered by effective early warning of climate-related disasters. Urgent new investments are needed to improve and extend early warning, in support of the Secretary General's Early Warnings for All initiative. Early warning systems must ensure coverage for the most at-risk people, particularly in countries and communities affected by conflict, fragility and/or humanitarian crises, and enable enhanced climate risk appraisal and impact management interventions, particularly scaled-up anticipatory action. Early warning systems should be informed by adequate climate risk governance. It is critical for anticipatory action to be linked to shock-responsive social protection while integrating ecosystem-based solutions.
- **Ensure meaningful, effective, and safe participation for those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.** Meaningful and effective participation is a human right. Climate decision-making, including at COP29, must be transparent, inclusive, and accountable, particularly to the people most affected and threatened by climate change, including in countries and communities affected by conflict, fragility and/or humanitarian crises. Participants in the negotiations should not suffer any act or attempted act of intimidation, threats, harassment, or punishment for their engagement at COP29. We urge efforts to fully, equally and meaningfully include the voices of affected or at-risk communities, especially women, children, youth and persons with disabilities in all their diversity, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees, and internally displaced, stateless persons, rural communities, civil society actors and those who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis.