LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES GROUP

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

THE 2026 DILI MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Date: 3 September 2026

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the 44 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, having met in Dili, Timor-Leste on 3rd September 2026:

1. ***Express*** our deepest sympathies and solidarity with the people of Nepal for the loss of many lives and severe damage to infrastructure due to the recent climate change induced glacier-rock avalanche and subsequent flood in the Himalayas;
2. ***Deeply alarmed*** by the escalating climate crisis and its devastating impacts on lives and livelihoods, human health, communities and hard-won development gains across LDCs, despite our countries having contributed the least to its causes;
3. ***Underline*** the urgency of deep reductions in global emissions aligned with the 1.5°C warming limit, building global resilience and greatly scaling up support with stronger commitment and international cooperation to address the worsening climate crisis in our vulnerable countries, including through the urgent and full implementation of all the outcomes of the First Global Stocktake (GST);
4. ***Remain deeply concerned*** by the growing risk of global temperature overshoot of the 1.5°C due to delayed climate action, and stress the urgent need to cut global emissions deeply this decade, accelerate the transition of energy systems, and substantially scale up adaptation finance and support for addressing loss and damage, to limit the duration and magnitude of bring temperature back to well below 1.5°C, as rapidly as possible;
5. ***Underscore*** that the nexus between climate change and security issues is a profound concern for many LDCs;
6. ***Note* with concern** the debt burden and high cost of capital in LDCs and that existing climate finance structures are increasing those burdens;
7. **Underscore** that geopolitical instability, increased debt burden growing economic uncertainty and declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) and climate finance from key providers threaten international cooperation and the delivery of existing commitments, and ***stress that*** these trends must not shift the burden of climate action onto countries that have contributed least to the climate crisis yet remain most vulnerable to its impacts;
8. **Recognise** continued leadership of LDCs in contributing to the global response to climate change, despite limited capacities and negligible contribution to global emissions, including through the submission of NDCs with 2035 targets (NDC 3.0) by 24 LDCs, NAPs by 27 LDCs, and Biennial Transparency Report by 15 LDCs;

9. **Call on all Parties,** in particular major emittors that have not yet done so to submit ambitious NDCs 3.0 without further delay, with emissions reduction targets aligned with pathways to limit warming to 1.5°C that requires rapid, deep, and immediate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions in all sectors; and call for accelerated implementation of NDCs consistent with the outcome of the First GST and the best available science;

10. ***Call on*** COP31 to deliver a strong outcome on mitigation that keeps 1.5°C and the best available science at its core, including continuation of the Mitigation Work Programme with a strengthened and permanent mandate that supports enhanced ambition and implementation and responds to the needs of LDCs;

11. ***Respectfully request*** the IPCC to deliver all three Working Group reports in 2028 in time to provide the best available scientific input to the Second GST to ensure the GST is informed by the latest and best available science, including expanded assessment of climate finance and loss and damage relevant to the needs and priorities of LDCs;

12. **Note with deep concern** that significant gaps remain in the provision of support to developing country Parties, particularly for adaptation and responding to loss and damage, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, while the costed needs identified in the NDCs of LDCs alone exceed USD 1 trillion;

13. **Stress** that achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience depend on translating the Belém Adaptation Indicators into implementation through the Belém–Addis Vision on Adaptation, supported by adequate, predictable and accessible finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building, without creating additional reporting burden and enable LDCs to strengthen adaptation and resilience planning at national and subnational levels;.

14. **Emphasise** that the COP31 outcome must reaffirm and accelerate implementation of the outcomes of the First GST, including through ambitious NDC 3.0, formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) by all LDCs, and progress in their implementation by 2030, and scaled-up grant-based support for LDCs, while ensuring that the Global Implementation Accelerator and Belém Mission to 1.5°C contribute to raising ambition and addressing implementation barriers;

15. **Underscore** that climate finance is a key enabler of climate action in developing countries, and call for urgent progress in the implementation and delivery of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, including on the goal of USD 300 billion per year by 2035, with developed country Parties taking the lead, and towards scaling up climate finance to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035, in a manner that reflects the special needs and circumstances of LDCs in line with Article 4.9 of the Convention;

16. **Stress** that effective implementation of the NCQG for LDCs must be underpinned by a substantial increase in the provision of grant based public finance, and resources that are predictable, easier and faster to access across all funding channels.

17. **Recognise** the growing adaptation needs of LDCs, and call on developed country Parties to urgently and substantially scale up their collective provision of adaptation finance to accelerate the delivery of the goal of tripling adaptation finance, aiming to reach an amount of at least USD 120 billion well in advance of 2035,

18. **Further call** for substantial new pledges and contributions to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), recognising the persistent gap between climate finance provided and mobilised and the resources required to meet the needs of our countries;

19. ***Request*** all funders to support grant-based finance to assist LDCs implement the Belém Gender Action Plan and to assist LDCs mainstream gender-responsive approaches across climate action including NDCs, NAPs, programmes and projects, in timely manner.

20. ***Call*** for the establishment of a group of legal experts to investigate the establishment of a loss and damage tribunal for the purposes of seeking reparations for the significant loss and damage being suffered by LDCs due to climate change;

21. ***Concerned*** with increased negative effects of climate change causing human mobility in the forms of migration, displacement, and planned relocation; and ***calls*** for a focused Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Change Displacement and Mobility to address the growing challenges faced by countries, particularly LDCs, who are confronted with climate change migration within their countries and across borders;

22. **Commit to** further advancing the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR), the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI), the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) and the LDC Mission 1.5°C Initiative; ***express*** appreciation to partners who have committed their support towards these initiatives; and ***call for*** further funding and support from the international community to accelerate the implementation of these initiatives in our countries;

23. **Welcome** the ongoing progress towards the full operationalisation of the permanent secretariat of the LDC Group on Climate Change;

24. **Welcome** the Republic of Türkiye, as the incoming COP31 Presidency, and Australia, as COP31 Presidency of Negotiations, and ***call on*** them to deliver fair, ambitious, inclusive and implementation oriented outcomes at COP31 that respond to the priorities, geographic realities, needs and special circumstances of LDCs;

25. **Affirm** the specific priorities of the LDC Group on different issues as set out in the **Key Messages** below; and

26. **Express** gratitude and appreciation to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, for its hospitality and leadership in hosting this Ministerial meeting and for its leadership as Chair of the LDC Group.

Annex: Key messages of the LDC Group

General

- The escalating climate crisis is already threatening human health, lives, livelihoods and development gains in LDCs.Ambitious and equitable climate action is urgently needed to protect vulnerable people and communities.
- Multilateralism and international cooperation remain central to addressing the climate crisis. COP31 must help restore trust through concrete outcomes that accelerate ambition, implementation and support.
- The shift towards implementation must not weaken ambition. Implementation of existing commitments must go hand in hand with higher ambition and scaled-up finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, reflecting the special needs and circumstances of LDCs.

Science

- Climate action must remain firmly guided by the best available science, particularly the work of the IPCC, and attempts to weaken references to science or the 1.5°C limit must be resisted.
- The IPCC Seventh Assessment Cycle should deliver all three Working Group reports in 2028 in time to provide the best available scientific input to the second Global Stocktake.
- Growing risks of 1.5°C overshoot reinforce the urgency of deeper emissions reductions to limit its magnitude and duration and bring temperatures back below 1.5°C as rapidly as possible.

Climate Finance

- LDCs require enhanced access to quality climate finance, including grant-based resources, particularly for adaptation and responding to loss and damage.
- COP 31 should reflect concrete progress in the implementation of the NCQG decision (Decision 1/CMA.6) including its USD 300 billion goal and broader USD 1.3 trillion mobilisation target.
- Developed countries should make efforts to accelerate the delivery of the target of tripling adaptation finance through a clear and sustained increase in their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation, aiming to reach at least USD 120 billion per year well in advance of 2035.
- COP 31 should host ambitious pledging events for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.
- COP 31 must resolve the transition of the Adaptation Fund to fully serve the Paris Agreement.
- The two-year work programme on climate finance should consider the implementation of agreed finance obligations and commitments, especially article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement. This work must be guided by the principles of equity and fairness, taking into account the needs and priorities of LDC.

Mitigation

- COP31 must keep 1.5°C and the best available science at the core of mitigation discussions and respond to the urgent need for deep emissions reductions this decade.
- The Mitigation Work Programme must continue with a permanent mandate, periodic reviews and stronger linkages to the Global Stocktake, ensuring that mitigation remains a standing part of the UNFCCC negotiating agenda.
- The MWP must be responsive to LDC needs, including by strengthening investment-focused events to connect LDC NDC priorities with finance, technology and investment opportunities.
- COP31 should strengthen the institutional arrangements supporting the MWP and its role in raising ambition and accelerating implementation.

Adaptation

- The Belém–Addis Vision on Adaptation must deliver an implementation-oriented outcome that ensures the Belém Adaptation Indicators is technically robust and translates the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience into strengthened resilience on the ground.
- The LDC Expert Group remains critical in supporting the evolving adaptation needs of LDCs, particularly NAP implementation.The COP31 midterm stocktake should strengthen its mandate, support and capacity to respond effectively to LDC priorities.
- Finance and other means of implementation are integral to achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation. The commitment to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035 should be firmly linked to implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and its targets.
- Dedicated finance, technical assistance and capacity-building for LDCs is essential to enable the timely testing and piloting of the Belém Adaptation Indicators in national planning and monitoring, without creating additional reporting burdens.

Just Transition

- Just transitions must reflect the unique socioeconomic circumstances, development priorities and energy needs of LDCs, while contributing to sustainable development, poverty eradication, decent jobs, clean energy access and debt relief.
- The UAE Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) must be continued beyond COP31 and continue fostering a common understanding of just transitions and strengthening international cooperation.
- The Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) should be distinct and LDC-responsive, providing dedicated support for implementation, facilitating coordination and ensuring meaningful LDC representation.
- Enhanced finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building are essential for LDCs in undertaking just transition assessments, and implementing nationally determined just transition pathways.

Loss and Damage

- COP31 must provide a strong message on the scaling up of resources for the FRLD's early phase Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM) to match demonstrated demand. The BIM has a total funding envelope of 342 million. However, the demand has far surpassed the resources available: 119 countries have submitted 176 funding requests worth USD 2.8 billion. Of this, 41 LDCs alone have submitted 72 requests amounting to a little over USD 1 billion.
- COP31 must provide clear guidance that as the Fund transitions to the long-term model, replenishment must be fast and ambitious to ensure the ability to meet the needs on the ground and the operational continuity of the Fund.
- Swift conversion of outstanding pledges into contributions is essential to lend predictability to the Fund's programming.
- Simplified,expedited and direct access, including direct budget support, must remain a defining feature of the Fund. Policies and procedures related to this access pathway must be designed to be responsive to the speed of materializing risks, as well as the capacity constraints of LDCs.

Global Stocktake

- Implementation of all outcomes of the first Global Stocktake must continue and accelerate, supported by enhanced ambition and adequate means of implementation.
- The second Global Stocktake must be firmly grounded in the best available science, with all three IPCC AR7 Working Group reports completed in 2028 in time to inform its technical assessment.
- GST-2 should provide sufficient time for a robust technical assessment and meaningful political consideration of its outcomes.

- The Global Implementation Accelerator and Belém Mission to 1.5°C should contribute to raising ambition, accelerating NDC and NAP implementation, and addressing LDC barriers related to finance, technology and capacity-building.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

- Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing is needed for implementation of Article 6.2, with core funding through the UNFCCC programme budget as the preferred basis for sustaining essential infrastructure and reporting functions, complemented, where necessary, by supplementary resources, without creating barriers to the participation of LDCs.
- Full and effective operationalization of the Article 6.4 mechanism should ensure environmental integrity, support higher ambition and sustainable development, and enable effective participation by LDCs, taking into account the special circumstances and capacity constraints

Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement

- Biannual Transparency Reports are essential for raising ambition, as they strengthen implementation, reporting, and assessment of progress toward national and global targets. All countries should be able to report, including LDCs submitting for the first time.

- Scaled-up, predictable, and timely provision of technical and financial support is critical for continued and sustained reporting. The provision of support should consider LDCs' special circumstances and needs.

- Parties should start discussing the review and update of the Modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs), as the backbone of the transparency framework, well ahead of the next mandated review.

Technology Development and Transfer

- Full and rapid operationalisation of the Belém Technology Implementation Programme (BTIP) is essential to address technology priorities, capacity gaps and implementation needs in LDCs.

- Regional and global dialogues under the BTIP should accelerate operationalisation and translate identified technology needs into concrete implementation and transformational outcomes in LDCs.

- Stronger linkages between the Technology Mechanism and Financial Mechanism are essential to mobilise adequate and accessible resources for implementing technology priorities identified through Technology Needs Assessments and technical assistance.

- The expanded mandate of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) should strengthen matchmaking and support developing countries in translating technical assistance and technology priorities into fundable and full-scale projects, with adequate resources to effectively deliver this mandate.

- The reappointment of UNEP as the host of the CTCN provides continuity for its work and should reinforce UNEP's support to the CTCN and developing countries in accelerating climate technology development, transfer and implementation.

Capacity-Building

- Capacity-building support must reach national and subnational levels and respond to nationally determined priorities, including through country-level platforms that strengthen coordination and reduce fragmentation.

- Adequate, predictable and accessible financial and technical support is essential to address persistent capacity gaps and enable LDCs to effectively implement and report on climate action.

Agriculture

- Climate change is increasingly threatening food security, agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of small-scale and vulnerable farmers in LDCs. Climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture must remain a priority for adaptation action and support.

- Implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security should deliver practical outcomes for LDCs, backed by adequate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building to strengthen resilient food and agricultural systems.

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)

- Effective implementation of ACE in LDCs requires adequate and accessible financial, technical and capacity-building support for education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information.

- ACE should be better integrated into national climate planning and implementation, with stronger support for country-driven priorities.

Gender and climate change

- The Belém Gender Action Plan needs concrete and adequately resourced implementation at national and international level.

- Gender-responsive approaches should be mainstreamed across climate action including NDCs, NAPs, programmes, projects and climate finance.

- National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points and relevant gender institutions need adequate resources and stronger roles in climate policy, implementation, monitoring and finance.

- Ensure gender institutions influence climate finance design, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

- Women, particularly grassroots women and those in vulnerable communities, need greater access to and participation in climate decision-making, finance, technologies and resilient livelihoods.