

BELIZE



STATEMENT BY HON. MINISTER ORLANDO HABET

MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO

THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE

CHANGE (UNFCCC COP 30)

THE 20TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING
AS THE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 20),

AND

THE 7th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS
THE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT (CMA 7)

17 NOVEMBER 2025

Belem, Brazil.

Mr. President,

Your Excellency, Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago.

Mr. President, Excellencies

This year marks **three decades of the COP process**, three decades of trying to build a global response to a crisis that continues to outpace us. It also marks **ten years since the Paris Agreement**, milestones that should have placed us on a safer path. Yet despite progress, Belize and our Caribbean neighbors still face the harsh realities of a warming world, with impacts that threaten our development, our stability, and our very existence. Hurricane Melissa's devastation in Jamaica and Cuba is the latest reminder.

For Belize and countries like ours, **COP30 is a fight for survival.**

And yet, instead of scaling up, climate finance is contracting, risking the reversal of years of effort. Our communities cannot adapt without resources; hope and prayers alone will not rebuild what storms destroy.

We welcomed the operationalization of the **Loss and Damage Fund** at COP29, a landmark step, but now it must grow and deliver. It needs rapid scaling and sustained commitments.

We must also move **carbon markets from discussion to implementation**. With the Article 6 rulebook complete, Belize calls for accelerated operationalization, supported by the technical and financial assistance required for full participation.

Closing the adaptation gap remains equally critical. We need concrete action to strengthen resilience, and protect the food and water security of our people.

Belize, though small, continues to lead by example. As host of the ICAT Regional Transparency Hub, we are strengthening transparency systems across eight nations. At home, we have submitted our Biennial Transparency Report and are advancing our Multisectoral National Adaptation Plan.

And in NDC 3.0, Belize has raised its ambition even further through concrete, measurable action:

- Expanding renewable electricity generation to **75% of domestic demand by 2030, and 80% by 2035**
- Accelerating the shift to electric mobility, reaching **10% of private vehicles and 25% of public transport** by 2035.
- Expanding marine biodiversity protection to **30% of Belize's ocean by 2030**, safeguarding ecosystems that support nearly one-third of our GDP
- And driving deep emission reductions across energy, waste, and agriculture.

But let me be clear: ambition can only succeed if matched by support. Delivering these targets requires **over USD 1.5 billion by 2035** — including **USD 609 million** for energy

and waste, **USD 412 million** for AFOLU, and **USD 534 million** for adaptation.

For small, climate-vulnerable nations like Belize, this means scaled, predictable finance; accessible technology; and genuine partnerships.

And in that vein, health must be at the center of climate action. Climate change is already growing health crisis. Extreme heat is driving more heat-related illness, shifting vector patterns are expanding dengue, and worsening air and water quality are increasing respiratory and waterborne diseases.

These impacts are real and immediate. A climate agenda that does not center human health will fail the people it is meant to protect.

The recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice marks a turning point for the world. It makes clear that States have legal obligations to prevent climate harm, to act on the best available science, and to protect those most at risk. This opinion strengthens the global case for climate justice and reinforces that inaction is not just a political failure it is a breach of responsibility under international law.

Mr. President,

Belize believes every capable partner, including the **Republic of China (Taiwan)**, should have the opportunity for meaningful and pragmatic participation in the UNFCCC process. Taiwan's clean-technology innovation and support for climate-vulnerable nations are contributions the global community cannot overlook. Its

alignment with the Global Collective Initiative launched by Brazil is another signal of coordinated action toward implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving a net-zero future.

Belize remains firm and hopeful in our commitment to climate action. Our message is simple: **this COP must deliver—now.**

This process must show that it can protect the world's most vulnerable, because anything less falls short of the urgency we face.

Thank you.