



OPEN LETTER

Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean Call for Bold Climate Action at COP28

The political outcomes at COP28 must uplift the role of civil society in translating the outcomes of the Global Stocktake into effective regional policies to unlock the synergies between social, economic, and sustainable development needs for the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Dear Global Leaders,

The appetite for bold climate action has never been greater. We know that the drive and desire to truly transform our world exists, and we are calling on you to use the findings of the Global Stocktake to drive action that has a real, sustainable impact after a record-breaking year of extreme weather. To execute this pivotal moment, inclusive, just, and regionally considered solutions must be the centerpiece of the political outcomes of the Global Stocktake, at COP28 and beyond.

In September, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) published the Technical Synthesis Report for the world's first Global Stocktake. The landmark review identifies the prevailing climate action implementation gap and will form the basis of conversations at COP28 in Dubai where leaders will reflect on progress and establish updated climate commitments. Where the Global Stocktake provides a roadmap for a decisive shift in the current, incomplete approach to addressing climate change, COP28 is the primary platform to execute this pivot.


We are calling on world leaders to continue to incorporate the unique risks and opportunities in the Latin America and Caribbean region in this decision-making process and to elevate the voices of communities most severely impacted by climate change. An adequate response cannot be a one-size-fits-all solution. Latin America and the Caribbean possess many of the solutions, and the voices of local experts and civil society cannot be overlooked by the global leaders at COP28.

Top regional considerations include:

- **Adaptation:** The Latin America and Caribbean region is home to diverse ecosystems, resources, economies, governments, communities, and

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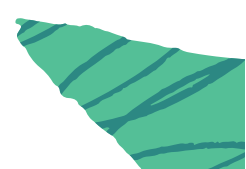
societies. Adaptation plans must be able to accommodate the range of unique needs in the region, be accompanied by sufficient funding, contribute to the realization of human rights, and prioritize the needs of the communities rendered vulnerable by climate change.

- **Loss and damage:** **Thirteen out of the fifty** most affected countries to climate change are part of Latin America and the Caribbean region. It is necessary to guarantee the existence and operation of the Loss and Damage Fund and compensate the most vulnerable countries, and the impacts on ecosystem services, cultural traditions, indigenous and afro-descendant communities considering human rights and gender equality norms and principles.
- **Finance:** The region experiences unequal access to climate finance flows which is limiting climate action and increasing the debt of the countries in the region. In light of the urgency communicated in the technical synthesis report, the global community needs to meet their Paris Agreement financial commitments and support the Global South in delivering adequate action, transforming the financial sector to sustainably deliver low greenhouse emissions solutions and climate resilient development.
- **Mitigation:** Currently in the region, **fossil fuels comprise 68% of the energy mix**, but **58% of electricity** comes from renewable sources. Country and sub-national governments must support a just energy transition based on the principles of transparency, equity, and fairness that utilizes the unique conditions of the region that can facilitate this development.
- **Equity:** The climate-related vulnerabilities of the Latin America and Caribbean region are aggravated by inequality, poverty, discrimination, and biodiversity loss. Climate solutions must be designed to center the needs of groups in vulnerable conditions including Indigenous Peoples, women and girls, people with disabilities, and low-income communities, among others, whose livelihoods are most at-risk due to the devastating effects of a rapidly changing climate.
- **Implementation:** Governments' goals and actions must be presented in a manner that is accessible to all people, including local communities. Non-state actors can play a principal role in enabling the delivery of specifically tailored and concrete local actions.

Climate change poses a unique threat to our region with extreme weather events, sea level-rise, deforestation, and biodiversity loss threatening our communities. Our societies, geographies, cultures, and skills offer hope that a proper understanding of the Global Stocktake in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean can result in climate solutions that put people and the Earth first, and advances social justice, as well as benefit our economy.

Therefore, we call on leaders to produce a Global Stocktake decision text that prioritizes locally-focused adaptation, including attention to ecosystem-based solutions; investment on public services that are essential for the realization of human rights, such as education, health, water and sanitation; re-commits to strong mitigation action, including through revised NDCs with strong and equitable just transition plans aligned with human rights and gender equality principles; provides for accountability mechanisms that are inclusive of local communities and non-state actors; and aligns financial flows to meet global commitments.

We implore the world's leaders to interpret the implications of the Global Stocktake that are specific to our region and to utilize these advantages, including:

- **Adaptation:** National Adaptation Plans must be grounded in science and allocate resources on a needs-based approach, considering human rights, particularly for the most marginalized, including Indigenous and rural communities, who are at the frontline of climate change. We
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need transparent, participatory, and measurable adaptation planning that considers local contexts.

- **Loss and damage:** Addressing loss and damage should prioritize the generation of participatory methodologies that facilitate the quantification, recording and monitoring of those events to design policies and goals aligned with human rights that contribute to addressing their economic and non-economic implications.
- **Finance:** Financial flows and progressive fiscal policies must reflect the spirit of the Paris Agreement, and include sufficient accountability mechanisms to ensure investments are right-aligned and climate-related. Developed countries have to comply with the commitment to transfer \$100 billion annually until a new collective and quantified goal on climate finance is designed and in operation. This financial support has to attend to the needs of developing countries, including the urgency to increase adaptation finance at least ten times.
- **Mitigation:** Community-based experiences from Indigenous Peoples and local communities can inform the just deployment of mitigation strategies, including scaling nature-based solutions and moving away from carbon-intensive industrial production.
- **Equity:** Climate commitments that consider regional equity establish lasting systems that can respond to climate, social, economic, and political needs, while respecting and realizing human rights. Governments should include non-state actors to develop plans that unlock social, economic, and environmental benefits simultaneously.
- **Implementation:** Local leaders and non-state actors are critical to designing and implementing the recommendations of the Global Stocktake to deliver actionable, equitable, and proportionate solutions that benefit their communities. Civil society can serve as a watchdog to ensure the Global Stocktake outcomes come to fruition.

Our call to action

The Latin America and Caribbean region is one of the most diverse regions in the world, making it subject to the impacts of climate change, but also uniquely positioned to combat it. An optimal political outcome of the Global Stocktake at COP28 would provide an opportunity for the region to address the damages of climate change to each individual country, and community, and prioritizing plans that are transparent in how they can scale sustainable development.

The Global Stocktake Technical Synthesis report identified the knowledge and action gaps that need to be addressed to adequately and equitably act on climate. To hold the planet's long-term average temperature to below the 1.5-degree threshold, it's never been more urgent to incorporate regional considerations into climate plans and deliver political outcomes at COP28 that protect the people of Latin America, the Caribbean, and beyond.





Signatories

Mariana Gutiérrez Grados, coordinator of the iGST LAC hub and climate policy manager at ICM

Miriam Garcia, Associate Director of Policy Engagement for CDP Latin America

Rogelio Barrios Rosas, President of REACCIONA

Sandra Guzman, General Director, GFLAC

Danaé Espinoza (behalf OLAC), Climate Justice Cluster Coordinator, OLAC

Vicente Silva, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR).

Maria Laura Rojas, Executive Director, TRANSFORMA

Quotes from regional stakeholders

“Correcting the course of climate action in the region to comply with the Paris Agreement requires more inclusive and transparent conversations and processes in decision making. With the GST results, countries are expected to submit more ambitious climate commitments in 2025. The new commitments must be much more ambitious, transparent and accompanied by a roadmap to ensure their implementation.”

Mariana Gutiérrez Grados, coordinator of the iGST LAC hub and climate policy manager at ICM.

“The GST should provide a common roadmap for both Parties and non-Party stakeholders to enhance the implementation of climate action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. To this end, the Global Stocktake decision should continue to recognize the importance of non-Party stakeholders in the NDC implementation. Non-Party Stakeholder climate action must rely on transparency and accountability and support the UNFCCC Recognition and Accountability Framework and the recommendations of the High-Level Expert Group on the Net Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities.”

Miriam Garcia, Associate Director of Policy Engagement for CDP Latin America

“The GST should urge all Parties to align their implemented actions with development pathways consistent with the goal of 1.5°C and guide the enhancement of the NDC, with clear sectorial recommendations for mitigation and adaptation. It should also include commitments to increase finance flows from the Global North to the Global South to address adaptation and loss and damage promptly and effectively. All with transparent mechanisms of evaluation and reporting, as well as keeping the focus in compliance with human rights, gender perspective, intergenerational equity, indigenous people, climate justice and poverty eradication.”

Rogelio Barrios Rosas, President of REACCIONA.

“The GST is an important opportunity to assess the gaps that exist on climate finance flows, such as the gap between adaptation and mitigation finance. But it is also an opportunity to call for a more systemic transformation of the financial sector, to significantly increase the climate finance flows but also urgently reduce the financial flows in the carbon intensive activities. The GST must provide important lessons from previous and failed commitments such as the USD 100 billion, but serve as a guidance for better and more transformative climate finance, starting with a strong new collective and quantified goal, and a transparent process to make all the financial flows consistent with a low greenhouse and climate resilient development. The GST has to provide important guidance ahead, or it will lose trust among parties and observers”.

Sandra Guzman, General Director, GFLAC.

“The GST is an important milestone for climate negotiations and, therefore, for global climate action. The participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, grassroots organizations and civil society will be crucial for a Just Energy Transition and for the Global Goal for Adaptation. It is important that, through the GST at COP28 the relevance of public participation, access to information, transparency and capacity- building are emphasized en route to the new cycle of NDCs where Latin America and the Caribbean have a crucial tool for strengthening them, the Escazú Agreement”

Danaé Espinoza, Climate Justice Cluster Coordinator, OLAC.

“As governments prepare for the GST, they must be ready to demonstrate how their fiscal policies are progressive and climate-conscious in order to comply with their commitments under the Paris Agreement. Given the scale of investment required for the just transition process, a right-based approach to taxation is a key tool to ensure that most responsible for the climate crisis pay their fair share. To achieve this, global leaders must work together through inclusive tax negotiations under the UN to reform the international tax system and support developing countries., which is crucial for financing climate action under the GST”

Vicente Silva, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR).