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Call to Action: Caribbean Civil Society Calls for Urgent Action for Climate Justice after Devastating Hurricane Melissa

We, the undersigned civil society organisations and individuals from across the Caribbean, issue this statement in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

With sustained winds exceeding 185 miles per hour and record-breaking rainfall, Hurricane Melissa caused catastrophic damage across western Jamaica and left destruction in its path in sections of Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic and The Bahamas from October 28-29, 2025. It also caused widespread flooding across parts of the eastern Caribbean before intensifying into a Category 5 hurricane.

To date, more than 90 lives have been lost across the region. Thousands have lost their homes, livelihoods, access to essential services and the natural environments that sustain us. Alongside these numbers are displaced communities and countless people who are now facing uncertainty and grief. The social, economic, and psychological impacts of this disaster will be long-lasting, particularly for the most vulnerable — including women, children, persons with disabilities, small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, those living in poverty and the LGBTQ+ community.

We stand in solidarity with everyone affected and call for urgent humanitarian assistance to ensure the safety, dignity and recovery of all impacted communities during this difficult period. We remember all those whose lives and livelihoods have been devastated by previous hurricanes and who are still suffering and trying to recover.

But Hurricane Melissa was not a 'natural' disaster – it was a profound manifestation of the deep climate injustice facing our region. Its unprecedented strength and rapid intensification were due to climate change – the result of rising emissions and continued fossil fuel dependence and expansion, corporate greed and decades of political inaction. Responsibility lies with countries with high historic and current emissions, with G20 countries collectively making up over 75% of global emissions. Yet, our Caribbean communities, who are least responsible for this climate crisis, are now paying the highest price. Our communities also have limited resources and capacity to withstand and recover because of historic and contemporary political and economic marginalisation, exploitation and oppression.

We call on governments and global leaders attending COP30 in Belem, Brazil to act with urgency, courage and clarity to address these climate injustices:

- **End fossil fuel expansion** and support a global phase-out of oil, coal and gas, including signing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

- **Keep the 1.5°C goal alive** through decisive and ambitious action that ensures the survival of small island developing states and frontline communities.
- **Deliver climate finance that is accessible, transparent and just**, including loss and damage finance that reaches affected communities quickly and supports equitable recovery in the wake of disasters and finance for long-term transformative resilience building in the face of escalating risks from interlinked hazards.
- **Prioritise community-led assistance, planning and rebuilding** to centre those most affected by the climate crisis in shaping their recovery and resilience.
- **Invest in innovative, climate-resilient and just nature-based solutions** in rebuilding that restore ecosystems and strengthen livelihoods.
- **Acknowledge and pay the climate debt and reparations** owed to Caribbean small island developing states, recognising the historical and current responsibilities of major emitters.
- **Recognise and safeguard the range of human rights** which have been affected, including the right to food, water, health, housing, livelihoods and self-determination, and the right of all people to a safe, liveable planet.

We must not return to broken systems as the region rebuilds and the world seeks to accelerate climate action. This is our moment, not only to repair what was lost, but to reimagine a more resilient future. The Caribbean and the world must act with courage and solidarity to phase out fossil fuels, prioritise people and planet over profit, and build systems rooted in fairness and justice. Our survival, dignity and shared future depend on the choices we make now.

Apèl pou Aksyon: Sosyete Sivil Karayib la Rele pou Jistis Klimatik Aprè Siklòn Melissa

Nou menm, òganizasyon ak moun ki siyen deklarasyon sa a nan tout Karayib la, ap pale aprè pasaj Siklòn Melissa.

Avèk van ki te rive plis pase 185 mil pa èdtan ak lapli san parèy, Siklòn Melissa te pote dega katastwofik nan lwès Jamayik epi li te kite tras destriksyon nan kèk zòn Kiba, Ayiti, Repiblik Dominikèn ak Bahamas nan dat 28–29 Oktòb 2025. Li te lakòz gwo inondasyon nan plizyè pati Karayib lès avan li te vin yon siklòn kategori 5.

Jiska prezan, plis pase 75 moun pèdi lavi yo nan rejyon an. Plizyè milye pèdi kay yo ak mwayen pou yo viv, sèvis esansyèl yo ak anviwònman natirèl ki soutni lavi nou. Anplis chif sa yo, gen kominote ki deplase ak anpil moun k ap viv nan lapèrèz ak lapenn. Enpak sosyal, ekonomik ak sikolojik trajedi sa a ap dire lontan, sitou pou moun ki pi vilnerab — fanm, timoun, moun ki gen andikap, ti peyizan ak pechè, ansanm ak moun ki ap viv nan povrete.

Nou kanpe an solidarite ak tout moun ki afekte yo epi nou rele pou asistans imanité prese prese pou garanti sekirite, diyite ak rekiperasyon kominote yo pandan moman difisil sa a. Nou sonje tout moun ki te pèdi lavi yo ak mwayen pou viv yo nan siklòn anvan yo, ki toujou ap souffri epi ap chache leve tèt yo.

Men Siklòn Melissa pa t yon “katastwòf natirèl” — se te yon gwo prèv enjistis klimatik ki ap frape rejyon nou an. Fòs san parèy li ak vitès li te pran se rezilta chanjman klimatik — akòz ogmantasyon gaz ki chofe tè a, depandans ak ekspansyon sou fosil, grèd kòporasyon ak inaksyon politik pandan plizyè dizèn ane. Responsablite a chita sou peyi ki gen gwo emisyon istorik ak aktyèl, kote peyi G20 yo reprezante plis pase 75% nan emisyon mondyal yo. Men kominote Karayib yo, ki pi piti responsab nan kriz klimatik la, se yo k ap peye pi gwo pri a. Nou gen resous limite pou nou reziste ak refè akòz majinalizasyon politik ak ekonomik istorik ak aktyèl.

Nou rele sou gouvènman ak lidè mondyal ki pral patisipe nan COP30 nan Belem, Brezil pou yo aji ak kouraj, prese prese ak klè pou adrese enjistis klimatik sa yo:

- **Fini ak ekspansyon fosil** epi sipòte yon faz mondyal pu fini ak lwil, chabon ak gaz, enkli siyati Trete Non-Pwoliferyasyon Fosil la.
- **Kenbe objektif 1.5°C la vivan** atravè aksyon desizif ak anbisyè ki asire siviv ti zile devlopman yo ak kominote ki sou premye liy yo.
- **Bay finansman klimatik ki aksesib, transparan ak jis**, enkli finansman pou pèt ak domaj ki rive vit nan kominote yo pou ede rekiperasyon ekita, ansanm ak finansman pou rezilyans transfòmatif alontèm.
- **Mete priyorite sou asistans, planifikasyon ak rekonstriksyon** ki dirije pa kominote yo pou mete moun ki pi afekte yo nan sant rekiperasyon ak rezilyans yo.
- **Envesti nan solisyon natirèl ki jis, ki rezistan ak klima** pou rekonstriksyon ki retabli ekosistèm yo epi ranfòse mwayen pou viv yo.
- **Rekonèt epi peye dèt klimatik ak reparasyon** ki dwe ti zile devlopman Karayib yo, rekonèt responsablite istorik ak aktyèl gwo emetè yo.
- **Rekonèt epi pwoteje seri dwa moun ki afekte yo**, tankou dwa pou manje, dlo, sante, lojman, mwayen pou viv, ak otodetèminasyon, ansanm ak dwa tout moun pou viv sou yon planèt ki an sekirite.

Nou pa dwe retounen nan sistèm ki kraze yo pandan rejyon an ap rebati ak mond lan ap chache akselere aksyon klimatik. Se moman nou pou nou pa sèlman repare sa ki pèdi, men pou nou reimajine yon avni ki pi rezistan. Karayib la ak mond lan dwe aji ak kouraj ak solidarite pou mete fen nan fosil, mete moun ak planèt anvan pwofi, epi bati sistèm ki chita sou jistis ak ekite. Siviv nou, diyite nou ak lavni pataje nou depann de chwa nou fè kounye a.

Llamado a la Acción: La Sociedad Civil Caribeña Pide Medidas Urgentes Para la Justicia Climática Tras el Devastador Huracán Melissa

Nosotros, las organizaciones de la sociedad civil abajo, firmantes y las personas de todo el Caribe, emitimos esta declaración después del huracán Melissa.

Con vientos sostenidos que superaron las 185 millas por hora y con lluvias récord, El huracán Melissa causó daños catastróficos en el oeste de Jamaica y dejó destrucción a su paso en secciones de Cuba, Haití,

República Dominicana y las Bahamas del 28 al 29 de octubre de 2025. También causó inundaciones generalizadas en partes del Caribe oriental antes de intensificarse hasta convertirse en un huracán de categoría 5.

Hasta la fecha, se han perdido más de 90 vidas en toda la región. Miles han perdido sus hogares, medios de vida, acceso a servicios esenciales y los entornos naturales que los sustentan. Junto a estos números hay comunidades desplazadas e innumerables personas que ahora enfrentan incertidumbre y dolor. Los impactos sociales, económicos y psicológicos de este desastre serán duraderos, particularmente para los más vulnerables — incluidas las mujeres, los niños, las personas con discapacidad, los pequeños agricultores y los pescadores, los que viven en la pobreza y las personas LGBTQ+.

Nos solidarizamos con todos los afectados y pedimos asistencia humanitaria urgente para garantizar la seguridad, la dignidad y la recuperación de todas las comunidades afectadas durante este difícil período. Recordamos a todos aquellos cuyas vidas y medios de subsistencia han sido devastados por huracanes anteriores y que todavía están sufriendo y tratando de recuperarse.

Sin embargo, el huracán Melissa no fue un desastre "natural", fue una manifestación profunda de la profunda injusticia climática que enfrenta nuestra región. Su fuerza sin precedentes y su rápida intensificación se debieron al cambio climático – el resultado del aumento de las emisiones y la continua dependencia y expansión de los combustibles fósiles, la codicia corporativa y décadas de inacción política. La responsabilidad recae en los países con altas emisiones históricas y actuales, con los países del G20 representando colectivamente más del 75% de las emisiones globales. Sin embargo, nuestras comunidades caribeñas, que son las menos responsables de esta crisis climática, ahora están pagando el precio más alto. Nuestras comunidades también tienen recursos y capacidad limitadas para resistir y recuperarse debido a la marginación, explotación y opresión política, económica, histórica y contemporánea.

Hacemos un llamado a los gobiernos y líderes mundiales que asisten a la COP30 en Belém, Brasil, para que actúen con urgencia, coraje y claridad para abordar estas injusticias climáticas:

- **Poner fin a la expansión de los combustibles fósiles** y apoyar la eliminación progresiva del petróleo, carbón y gas, incluida la firma del Tratado de No Proliferación de Combustibles Fósiles.
- **Mantener vivo el objetivo de 1.5 °C** a través de acciones decisivas y ambiciosas que aseguren la supervivencia de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo y comunidades de primera línea.
- **Ofrecer financiación climática que sea accesible, transparente y justa**, incluyendo la financiación de pérdidas y daños que llegue rápidamente a las comunidades afectadas, apoyar a la recuperación equitativa tras los desastres y fomentar la resiliencia transformadora ante la escalada de los riesgos derivados de los peligros interrelacionados.
- **Priorizar la asistencia liderada por la comunidad, planificando y reconstruyendo** a efecto de centrarse en la conformación de la recuperación y resistencia de los más afectados por la crisis climática.
- **Invertir en soluciones innovadoras basadas en la naturaleza, justas y resilientes al clima** en el proceso de reconstrucción, restaurando así los ecosistemas y fortaleciendo los medios de subsistencia.

- **Reconocer y pagar la deuda climática y las reparaciones** adeudadas a los pequeños estados insulares en desarrollo del Caribe, reconociendo las responsabilidades históricas y actuales de los principales emisores.
- **Reconocer y salvaguardar la gama de derechos humanos** que se han visto afectados, incluido el derecho a la alimentación, al agua, a la salud, a la vivienda, al sustento, autodeterminación, el derecho de todas las personas a un planeta seguro y habitable.

No debemos volver a los sistemas fallidos al tiempo que la región se reconstruye y el mundo busca acelerar la acción climática. Este es nuestro momento, no solo para reparar lo que se perdió, sino para volver a imaginar un futuro más resiliente. El Caribe y el mundo deben actuar con valentía y solidaridad para eliminar gradualmente los combustibles fósiles, priorizar a las personas y al planeta sobre las ganancias, y construir sistemas arraigados en la equidad y la justicia. Nuestra supervivencia, dignidad y futuro compartido dependen de las decisiones que tomemos ahora.

Signed by/ Siyen pa/ Firmado por:

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