CVF V20 | CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM | VULNERABLE TWENTY GROUP

# CVF FRONTLINE


Monthly Journal of CVF-V20's
Pathways to Progress

www.cvfv20.org

OCTOBER 2025 | Issue No. 13

# CVF FRONTLINE

October 2025 | Issue No. 13

In this month's issue of CVF Frontline, we spotlight how climate-vulnerable nations are advancing bold financial reforms, accelerating climate prosperity strategies, and demonstrating leadership in resilience and adaptation. From decisive calls to shift the global financial system toward growth-generating investments to country-led breakthroughs in early warning systems, carbon finance, and long-term climate planning, this edition captures the momentum shaping COP30 and beyond.

## CVF AT WORK

A look back at the most significant CVF-V20 activities

### V20 Finance Ministers Call for a Global Reset from Austerity to Growth-Generating Investments


*The V20 Finance Ministers urged a shift from austerity to growth-generating investments at the 15th Ministerial Dialogue.*

The V20 Finance Ministers, representing the world's most climate-vulnerable economies, convened on October 18 at the 15th V20 Ministerial Dialogue at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to advance the Debt–Growth Agenda—a bold call to replace austerity-driven policies with investment-led growth and climate resilience.

The dialogue brought together finance ministers alongside leaders of international financial institutions and development partners to discuss strategies for turning debt into a tool for sustainable growth.

H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, stressed, "Austerity does not deliver resilience. Investment does. Investment in adaptation, renewable energy, and resilient infrastructure is not reckless—it is responsible, rational, and right." This approach seeks to make debt work for climate and development. Debt needs to be at the right volume, at the right time, and at the right cost, in order to match the already climate-insecure positions and the need to transform growth models to deliver climate prosperous futures.

Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, commended the CVF-V20's Debt–Growth Agenda and Climate Prosperity Plans (CPPs) for reframing climate borrowing to create opportunity and make progress from survival to growth. "Borrowing for renewable energy and resilience infrastructure is not government consumption; it is sound economic policy, good risk management against climate and fiscal threats," said Stiell.

H.E. Seedy K.M. Keita, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of The Gambia and Chair of the African Caucus of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, called on major shareholders to equip Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) with the flexibility to participate fully in debt restructuring and emphasized the importance of innovation in global finance.

He noted, "We need partners who believe in our capacity to recover and to grow. This means finding innovative ways, for example, through special purpose vehicles and other models, to bring in new, flexible sources of finance that allow us to invest in the future rather than just service the past."

### *A Call For Action: The Debt–Growth Pathway*

The 15th V20 Ministerial Communiqué, adopted at the close of the meeting, calls for:

- A standstill while restructuring happens. The existing mechanisms are too unpredictable and uncertain. A standstill will provide the incentive for all creditors to come together to expedite the process.
- Integrating climate risks and investments into debt sustainability analyses will be a key instrument. However, climate-informed DSAs cannot be mere exercises. They need to undergo debt negotiations so that the extent of the haircut on the table is directly supported by climate investment needs alongside other development investments.
- Debt for climate swaps, under specific conditions, can be an important addition to the overall toolkit. We need to work harder to bring down the transaction costs and the size of the transactions so that we open up fiscal space in a meaningful way, including through new guarantee facilities.
- Tripling multilateral development bank (MDB) lending capacity and expanding concessional finance for adaptation and health resilience.
- Expanding pre-arranged disaster risk finance to account for at least 20% of total Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) financing by 2035, with the broader financial system achieving 20% pre-arranged support by 2030, including through regional risk pools.

Mr. Bo Li, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, acknowledged the growing fiscal pressures faced by vulnerable economies, noting that "for the median low-income country, interest payments on total debt have doubled in the past ten years—from 4 percent of total government revenues to 8 percent. Cuts to development assistance will only compound these challenges." Given this context, there is a greater need for international financial institutions to demonstrate leadership in making finance available for an investment push toward climate prosperity.

Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director of the World Bank, emphasized that effective DSA requires greater transparency and a thorough understanding of both external and domestic public debt. "We are working on debt sustainability analysis to have a better picture of this," he said. From the perspective of the V20, DSAs should clearly reflect the financing terms that permit these investments to be macro-feasible, setting out the full financing mix required — including both private and public capital, strategic debt relief, credit enhancements, and the volume of concessional capital needed for countries to meet the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda.

### *Looking Ahead: COP30 and UN Permanent Observer Status*

The Ministerial Dialogue established clear mandates for international cooperation leading up to and during the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025.

The V20 Communiqué underscored its support for the CVF Leaders' call for an Adaptation Package as an outcome of COP30, demanding that adaptation finance commitments be significantly enhanced and delivered at a speed and cost vulnerable nations can actually afford. As a starting point, the Finance Ministers reiterated the demand for the rapid delivery of at least USD 4 million for every country completing a National Adaptation Plan, with resources disbursed directly to governments to accelerate implementation.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Mottley stressed the urgent need to fully capitalize the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), noting that its USD 738 million capital base falls far short of the trillions required. "We must push together, all of us, in Belem for the Fund to be properly capitalized. If not, this whole thing would be regarded as a farce."

Finally, the CVF-V20 reaffirmed its bid for Permanent Observer Status at the United Nations. This institutional step is considered necessary to secure a formal and stronger voice for climate-vulnerable economies in global economic decision-making, thus aligning financial reform with climate action priorities. The CVF-V20 calls for the support of all partners and Member States in advancing this effort.

In closing, H.E. The Most Honorable Elizabeth Thompson, Barbados Ambassador for Climate Change, Small Island States (SIDS) & Law of the Sea, and CVF-V20 Sherpa to Prime Minister Mottley, noted that there is widespread distrust among global populations toward politicians, international institutions, and formal processes. "Yet we have to overcome all of that to deliver what is most needed—socially and economically—at this time, to move from vulnerability to prosperity," she said.

### Global Shield Roundtable Highlights Progress: Advancing Climate and Disaster Risk Financing at Scale

*In the margins of the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund Meetings, Global Shield beneficiary countries and partners met to review progress and chart the next phase of climate and disaster risk finance and insurance.*

Beneficiary countries and partners of the Global Shield against Climate Risks gathered at the premises of the CVF-V20 in Washington, D.C., to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Global Shield initiative, exchange lessons learned, and explore ways to scale up climate and disaster risk financing and insurance (CDRFI).

#### *Germany Pledges EUR 40 Million in New Support to Global Shield*

Germany expressed "full confidence in the Global Shield's country-led processes and its proven instruments to build lasting resilience. With our new contribution of EUR 40 million, we reaffirm our commitment to scaling this vital initiative by working in partnership with countries and stakeholders to deliver protection before the next climate shock strikes," said Ms. Katharina Stasch, Director General, Multilateral Development Policy, Transformation, Climate, from BMZ, Germany.

The roundtable, convened by the Global Shield against Climate Risks, including its financing vehicles, and hosted by the CVF-V20 Secretariat, on the margins of the 2025 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, brought together beneficiary and donor governments, regional risk pools, private sector leaders, civil society, and philanthropic organizations.

#### *Country Leadership at the Centre of Climate Protection*

At the heart of the discussions was the leadership of climate-vulnerable nations in driving their own financial protection agendas.

Hon. Seidu Issifu, the Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability of Ghana, shared their journey through the in-country process, including how priorities were set and interventions were tailored to national needs. With support from the Global Shield and its partners, Ghana secured its first parametric drought insurance through the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Ltd. A USD 960,202 payout was triggered in the fall of 2024, and a second payout of about USD 1.9 million in 2025. These funds will further support rapid response efforts in drought-affected regions.

"Beyond drought insurance, we are now working with the Global Shield Solutions Platform and partners to design additional programs. This initiative demonstrates how pre-arranged finance can safeguard fiscal stability, reduce reliance on emergency borrowing, and deliver rapid response when it is most needed," Minister Issifu said.

The high-level panel explored how countries are integrating Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) solutions into national financial and planning systems. The discussion examined the Global Shield's role in catalysing pre-arranged finance, shared lessons from early implementation, highlighted the value of regional risk pools, and outlined strategies to expand private sector participation to close the protection gap. The panel featured:

- Ms. Isatou F. Camara, Director of Climate Finance, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, The Gambia;
- Mr. John Adrian Narag, Director, Climate Finance Policy Group, Department of Finance, The Philippines;
- Mr. Isaac Anthony, Chief Executive Officer, Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC); and

- Mr. Michael Roth, Public Sector Practice Lead, Munich Re.

Reactions and interventions were provided by H.E. Salehuddin Ahmed, Honorable Finance Adviser, Ministry of Finance of Bangladesh; Ms. Kilisitina Tuaimei, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Tonga; Mr. Gerald Mugabe, Head of Development Finance Department, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of Rwanda, and Mr. Mohamed M. Qamar, Economist, Ministry of Finance, Somalia.

### *Building Complementarity With the FRLD*

"The Global Shield is a bridge from risk to resilience. We see strong convergence and valuable lessons from the Global Shield program that could significantly complement the development of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)," said H.E. The Most Honorable Elizabeth Thompson, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary Climate Change, Small Island States (SIDS) & Law of the Sea, Barbados; and Sherpa to Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, S.C. M.P., Chair of the CVF-V20

"The Global Shield in-country process is something the FRLD can leverage. [We need to] finance across the layers of the risk, so it is reduced up front, and loss and damage is addressed," Ambassador Thompson added.

### *Scaling up Global Cooperation and Financing for Protection*

Ms. Marike Brady, Team Lead of the Global Shield Secretariat, stressed that "Closing the climate protection gap requires coordinated, decisive action to expand pre-arranged financing where it is needed most. The Global Shield's inclusive, country-led approach is proving that when countries take the lead – supported by strong partnerships – solutions that truly reflect local priorities can be implemented. From Global Shield beneficiary countries, we have seen how the in-country process empowers governments to design and implement financial protection solutions tailored to their risk profiles."

The event reaffirmed the Global Shield's role as a collaborative instrument, enabling climate-vulnerable countries to take the lead in shaping the solutions they need through stronger partnerships with donors, regional mechanisms, the private sector, and other key stakeholders.

## Carbon Finance Program Upscales Efforts to Close Climate Investment Gap in Climate-Vulnerable Nations

*[L-R] Usha Rao-Monari, VCMI Steering Committee Chair; H.E. The Most Honorable Elizabeth Thompson, Sherpa to Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, S.C. M.P., Chair of the CVF-V20; and H.E. Mohamed Nasheed, CVF-V20 Secretary-General.*

The CVF-V20 will work with the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI) to upscale the Carbon Finance Program in reach and impact, supporting more climate-vulnerable countries to host high-integrity carbon projects that yield tangible climate, nature, and sustainable development benefits.

"This marks a pivotal step in restoring climate equity. High-integrity carbon markets have the potential to unlock billions in private finance, precisely the scale of investment needed by climate-vulnerable nations. Therefore, it is essential to empower these nations to leverage carbon markets effectively to close the climate finance gap," H.E. Mohamed Nasheed, CVF-V20 Secretary-General and former President of the Maldives, said.

Launched in June 2024, the Carbon Finance Program supports CVF-V20 member countries to leverage high-integrity voluntary carbon markets to finance their Climate Prosperity Plans—multi-phase national strategies for investment and technology access designed to transform climate risks into bankable opportunities. The program has already provided policy guidance and capacity building on carbon markets across Benin, Kenya, and Bhutan.

The partnership identifies carbon markets as one of several key levers to help unlock an additional USD 20 billion in annual financing for V20 countries, which can be used to support the implementation of Climate Prosperity Plans, boost nature-based solution investments, strengthen climate resilience, and advance broader sustainable development goals.

To enhance V20 nations' access to these fiscal revenues, the Carbon Finance Program will be scaled to reach more countries and broaden technical support. The announcement was made during the 2025 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, a month before COP30, where carbon markets, including the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, are expected to be high on the agenda.

"Yet, for too long, the architecture of international climate finance has marginalised those on the frontlines of the climate crisis. This expanded Carbon Finance Program aims to reverse that paradigm—empowering climate-vulnerable nations which have the natural resources to actively participate in high-integrity carbon markets, uphold their agency, and fully capture the benefits they deserve. This is critical as we note that there is still a significant gap in the ability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Barbados to reap the benefits from these instruments since many SIDS do not have the scale of terrestrial natural capital like forests, and efforts related to marine carbon dioxide removal (Blue Carbon) remain difficult due to inherent challenges in pursuing conservation and restoration in the marine space, paired with lower levels of access to finance for these projects." H.E. The Most Honorable Elizabeth Thompson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Climate Change, Small Island States (SIDS) & Law of the Sea, Barbados and Sherpa to Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, S.C. M.P., Chair of the CVF-V20, explained.

By enabling vulnerable countries to leverage their natural wealth and climate potential, the program fosters resilience, accelerates sustainable growth, and promotes both climate justice and shared prosperity. Through the Carbon Finance Program, V20 nations will gain access to a tailored guidance that aligns with their specific needs, priorities, and strategic goals. This strengthened partnership will also empower climate-vulnerable countries to advance the development and implementation of robust climate finance strategies and policy frameworks through high-integrity carbon markets.

The Carbon Finance Program extends its support to climate-vulnerable countries through 2028, offering policy advice, carbon credit transaction support, climate finance mechanisms, and measures to aggregate demand across voluntary, compliance, and Article 6 markets.

"The world cannot achieve its climate targets without dramatically scaling up flows of finance to climate-vulnerable nations, which are home to many of the world's natural carbon sinks, as well as being ripe for climate-positive innovation and prosperity. As carbon markets grow, it is vital that climate-vulnerable nations are supported to leverage these channels of finance to support domestic priorities and global goals, and I am delighted that the VCMI and CVF-V20 Carbon Finance Program has been launched to deliver expert support to CVF-V20 member states," said Usha Rao-Monari, VCMI Steering Committee Chair and former Under-Secretary General to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The expansion of the Program is a crucial step toward building the in-country capacity and expertise of V20 nations to effectively harness growing carbon markets in support of national priorities and global climate goals.

## The Gambia Validates Bold Climate Prosperity Investment and Financing Strategy to Unlock Green Growth and Resilience

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR), in collaboration with the CVF-V20 Secretariat, hosted a national validation workshop in October for The Gambia's Climate Prosperity Investment and Financing Strategy in Banjul.

The workshop brought together government agencies, development partners, civil society, youth leaders, and the private sector to review and endorse a unified national strategy that will guide climate-resilient investments and sustainable economic transformation.

Opening the event, Mr. Baboucarr Jobe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economic

Affairs, underscored that climate change is not a distant threat but an urgent economic and development challenge. Rising sea levels, erratic rainfall, floods, and droughts are already impacting livelihoods and straining national resources. He emphasized that the Strategy consolidates fragmented initiatives into a single national investment framework aligned with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Long-Term Climate Strategy, National Development Plan, and sectoral plans.

According to Mr. Jobe, "This Strategy speaks with one voice to our partners. It is nationally owned, anchored in our development priorities, and capable of unlocking financing at scale." He called for all stakeholders to support the Country Platform mechanism that will coordinate implementation across government, development partners, and the private sector.

Delivering the keynote, Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed, Managing Director of the CVF-V20 Secretariat, highlighted the structural injustices of the international financial system that have left vulnerable countries paying the highest price for adaptation despite contributing the least to global emissions. She stressed that the Gambia's Strategy demonstrates how climate action can drive resilience, competitiveness, and prosperity.

"Climate vulnerability is not destiny. The Climate Prosperity Strategies are designed to break this cycle and leverage our demographic dividends. The Gambia's Strategy shows that climate action and economic growth can go hand in hand," Ms. Ahmed noted.

She assured that the CVF-V20 Secretariat will continue to support The Gambia from strategy validation through to implementation, including pipeline development, mobilization of capital, and technical support on modeling for decision making and financial structuring.

Mr. Bubacarr Zaidi Jallow, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MECCNAR, emphasized the importance of embedding resilience across all sectors—agriculture, energy, industry, and urban development—while safeguarding natural ecosystems. He reaffirmed MECCNAR's commitment to ensuring that environmental sustainability remains central to implementation.

Ms. Isatou F. Camara, Director of the Climate Finance Directorate at MoFEA, provided an overview of the rigorous and inclusive process that shaped the Strategy. She noted that it was built on background research, macroeconomic modeling, and extensive consultations with ministries, private sector actors, civil society, and youth groups. She highlighted that "the strength of the Gambia Climate Prosperity Investment and Financing Strategy lies in the ownership and shared responsibility across all actors." "Our priority now is to shift from planning to delivery—mobilizing financing, partnerships, and innovations needed to transform climate risks into opportunities for every Gambian," she added.

The validated Strategy sets out a clear pathway for The Gambia:

- Doubling GDP growth by 2050 compared to business-as-usual.
- Cutting poverty by more than half, lifting hundreds of thousands into prosperity.
- Creating over 25,000 new green jobs by mid-century.
- Achieving universal electricity access by 2026 and near-universal clean cooking by 2050.
- Unlocking innovative financing through blended capital, guarantees, and domestic market deepening.

With validation complete, The Gambia will now operationalize the Strategy through its Country Platform, a national coordination mechanism that brings together government, the private sector, civil society, development partners, and youth leaders to ensure delivery and accountability.

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Charts Path for Climate-Linked Investments

As part of the ongoing in-country consultations for the Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan (CPP), the CVF-V20 delegation held a high-level roundtable with the Planning and Development Department (P&DD) of the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on October 9 in Peshawar. The session brought together key provincial departments, including forestry, environment, wildlife, transport, energy, and infrastructure, to align KP's climate priorities with the CPP framework and explore financing pathways for sustainable development.

The discussions centered on forestry, renewable energy, carbon credit generation, glacier monitoring, and nature-based infrastructure, with a strong focus on making provincial projects bankable and investor-ready. The P&DD emphasized the importance of strengthening carbon credit frameworks and project feasibility standards, drawing lessons from CVF-V20 international precedents such as those in Ghana and Sri Lanka. Officials also highlighted ongoing work on Chilghoza pine forestry, wildlife conservation, and renewable energy expansion, noting the potential for these initiatives to attract green investment and support local livelihoods.

Participants emphasized the need to establish Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and explore provincial debt-swap mechanisms to leverage public and private financing for climate projects. Departments also identified capacity-building needs for carbon certification, insurance coverage for climate-sensitive sectors, and digital systems to monitor glacier and ecosystem changes.

The CVF-V20 delegation, including Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan (CPP) Lead Anam Rathor and Project Lead Muhammad Haseeb Khan, reaffirmed their support in aligning KP's initiatives with the CPP's investment structure, including guidance on carbon finance models, investor engagement, and template-based project preparation. It was agreed that the province would refine its priority projects for inclusion in the CPP investment pipeline and participate in upcoming investor dialogues.

The consultations concluded with a shared commitment to advance KP's climate agenda by linking its rich natural capital with innovative financing and investment solutions, ensuring that the province continues to play a leading role in Pakistan's journey toward climate prosperity.

# FROM WHERE WE STAND

Thought pieces and reflections by CVF-V20 leaders, fellows, and partners

## Malawi's NDC Implementation: Lessons From the Past and Youth Priorities for NDC 3.0

By: Tarcizio Kalaundi
CVF Youth Fellow

Malawi, like many climate-vulnerable nations, has taken steady strides toward implementing its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. It has reaffirmed its commitment to reducing emissions, enhancing adaptation, and building climate resilience through its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and National Communication submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Despite the commitment, there are efficient gains to be made in its next round of NDC 3.0, as revealed by the NDC 2.0 stocktake.

### *Reflections on the existing gaps in NDC 2.0*

The BTR1 highlights several challenges that affect Malawi's ability to effectively track progress toward its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It notes limited historical data, particularly in the land use and forestry sectors, and the lack of country-specific emission factors, which undermines the robustness and accuracy of its tracking systems. Additionally, some indicators used to monitor progress are considered too broad and not disaggregated by youth, thereby reducing the visibility of youth participation in climate action.

The projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, and their comparison to national targets, have been relatively weak in some sectors, such as waste management, making it difficult to clearly determine whether Malawi is on track or needs additional measures. Furthermore, institutional capacity for regular data collection, processing, and quality assurance remains limited, so is the link between progress tracking and broader aspects such as climate finance flows, youth employment outcomes, and private sector participation, signaling the need for a more integrated and inclusive monitoring framework in NDC 3.0.

### *Toward NDC 3.0: Youth-Centric Climate Priorities*

The next NDC cycle offers Malawi an opportunity to mainstream youth leadership into climate action. Based on youth-led policy statements such as those from the 2025 National Youth Conference on Climate Change and the Local Conference of Youth. Priorities have emerged on the need for a specialized Climate Youth Investment Fund, developing and supporting national youth incubation hubs that are rooted in promoting climate just transition, and integration of climate change and green technology skills in technical colleges and youth training programs, to necessitate the building of local patented innovation for community-based adaptation projects, supported by decentralized, robust climate financing.

### *Strengthening NDC Accountability and Monitoring*

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), as Malawi's UNFCCC focal point, plays a pivotal role in ensuring transparency through Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks. Citing the efficiency gains as highlighted by the NDC stock take, Malawi could establish a National NDC Accountability Portal backed by the EAD's Information Management Systems for Climate Finance, drawing lessons from countries, like Rwanda and Ghana, that have adopted a national NDC implementation platform that is used to publish live dashboards on emissions data and climate project progress. This could be supported with periodic multi-stakeholder NDC reviews, linking district-level climate reports to the BTR cycle, and integrating M&E indicators into the Malawi 2063 development framework.

### *Expanding Climate Finance Opportunities for Malawi*

Despite efforts to tap into the UNFCCC climate financial operating entities that are the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF), as well as the Adaptation Fund, Malawi's access to climate finance remains low. Unlocking climate finance for a youth-centric implementation of the NDC requires rethinking debt and development strategies, as outlined in *The Resilience Effect- 10 Super lever to catalyse finance in climate-vulnerable countries* and *Making Financial Flows Consistent with Climate-Resilient Development: The Role of International Financial Institutions and Standard Setters*.

### *Key Opportunities for NDC 3.0*

Malawi's climate change planning for the next five years has the potential to leverage investment strategies that integrate development, climate, and nature through the development and implementation of its Climate Prosperity Plan. By collaborating with multilateral institutions, Malawi could negotiate debt-for-nature or debt-for-climate swaps to free fiscal space for NDC investments.

The next round of NDCs should not be seen as a standalone climate policy but as a core pillar of the Malawi Vision 2063. Embedding NDC actions into the national development agenda ensures coherence, sustained funding, and accountability.

Climate action is not just about emissions, it's about jobs, innovation, and sustainable livelihoods. By placing youth at the center of NDC 3.0, Malawi can redefine its development trajectory toward a resilient, inclusive, low-carbon future.

## Samoa Shows Leadership in Early Warning System and Disaster Risk Management

Early warning and early action are among Samoa's national strategic priorities, embedding multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk financing frameworks into the country's governance landscape.

The frequent tropical cyclones, floods, tsunamis, and droughts, magnified by its climate vulnerabilities and exacerbated by climate change, have taught Samoa to prioritize the establishment of comprehensive early warning systems. These systems are designed to deliver timely and actionable information that supports community preparedness, response, and resilience-building. The country's National Disaster Management Office and Meteorological Service has been leading these efforts toward a well-coordinated system among different government agencies, local authorities, and community leaders.

This forward-looking initiative has positioned Samoa as a regional leader in disaster preparedness across the Pacific region. The country is distinguished for its highly structured disaster preparedness model, characterized by a coherent governance framework that clearly delineates responsibilities from the national level down to individual villages. This approach embraces an inclusive principle,: every constituency receives up-to-date disaster-related information and correspondence, ensuring communities are well-informed and equipped to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Moreover, Samoa is among the first countries across the Pacific region to integrate concepts of early warning systems into the national policy landscape and domestic financing. With a solid legislative and financial framework in place, the country is assured that its disaster risk management initiatives will be sustained and effectively implemented. This institutional integration strengthens preparedness for anticipatory action and rapid response, when necessary.

Women's leadership is also a significant component of its multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk financing frameworks. The meaningful involvement of women guarantees that gender perspectives and considerations inform all stages of the process.

To further solidify its commitment to enhancing early warning capabilities, disaster risk financing mechanisms, and anticipatory action frameworks, Samoa joined the Early Warnings for All (EW4All)—a dedicated global initiative aimed at addressing gaps in disaster risk reduction and advancing early warning systems. As part of this initiative, Samoa is finalizing its national EW4All roadmap, structured around the four priority pillars: (1) disaster risk knowledge, (2) detection, monitoring, and forecasting, (3) warning dissemination and communication, and (4) preparedness and response.

These pillars will seek to expand risk mapping at the local level, adopt village-based warning dissemination systems, strengthen impact-based forecasting systems, incorporate public health emergencies and technological disasters into the typology, leverage both scientific and indigenous knowledge, and enhance pre-positioned early warning resources and proactive disaster financing.

By ensuring that early warnings trigger timely and proactive responses, it prioritizes the protection of the most vulnerable. It strengthens the inclusiveness and effectiveness of national disaster preparedness and response efforts.

## Lebanon Accelerates Climate Action, Launches Climate Policy Package

Risks of breaching the 1.5 °C Paris Agreement goal urged the Lebanese Republic to develop a climate policy package that brings together three key climate roadmaps—National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2025–2035), the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), and the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS).

The package outlines Lebanon's strategies to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions, expand renewable energy, and enhance climate resilience. It also reaffirms the country's commitment to and solidarity with the Paris Agreement, significantly advancing global efforts to combat climate change.

Witnessing the unusual changes in climate patterns—more prolonged droughts, shorter winters, frequent floods,and stalled snows—that cause large-scale water shortages and reduced productivity has raised alarming signals to the government. Despite its insignificant global carbon emissions, climate and economic vulnerabilities have still struck the country. Lebanon has lost 5% of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually, with a probability to rise by 32% in 2080, due to climate shocks alone. Heat stress also claimed USD 1.3 billion in productivity, affecting more than 110,000 jobs in agriculture, construction, and services.

These cross-cutting issues of climate change required urgent attention from the government. Their NDC 3.0 identified operational, technical, political, and financial enablers to facilitate effective mitigation and adaptation activities. This includes improving governance and institutional capacities to reform and regulate climate and sustainable development actions, upscaling partnerships between key stakeholders, and mobilizing external financial resources.

Part of Lebanon's priorities is the adoption of the new Climate Change Law, which will formalize the NDC Committee and the Climate Secretariat, both critical to the long-term direction of sustainability efforts. Moreover, the country anticipates the creation of a dedicated Climate Change Directorate, transforming the Ministry into the Ministry of Environment and Climate.

The government also prepares to position the Lebanon Green Investment Facility (LGIF) as the central vehicle for mobilizing climate finance, enhancing the economic viability of investments and reducing risk for stakeholders. The facility is anchored on blended financing through support and assistance from development finance institutions, private investors, endowments, and aid agencies. Projections reveal that every USD 1 invested in the country could generate USD 5 revenue, demonstrating the bankability of its climate-driven reforms.

Lebanon rises against its harsh climate realities, using vulnerabilities and threats as evidence to develop strategies for a climate-resilient and equitable future—a remarkable benchmark across the Middle East and other CVF-V20 member countries.

## Costa Rica Runs on Renewable Energy, Leaves Fossil Fuel Behind

Almost 100% renewable energy powers Costa Rica's energy mix, with electricity harnessed from hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, and wind energy. Successful with its green transition that peaked a decade ago, the country now gears toward carbon neutrality by 2050.

Costa Rica has proven that legislation translates environmental commitments and climate ambitions into actionable development. Institutionalization is the cornerstone of implementing and sustaining development projects. In the early 2000s, the government of Costa Rica prioritized national policies and frameworks to provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for renewable energy investments and projects.

Costa Rica's commitment to becoming a net-zero emissions economy by 2050 is underpinned by two central policy frameworks: the National Decarbonization Plan (2018–2050) and the National Energy Plan (2015–2030).

The country has been capitalizing on its geographic landscape and domestic resources to develop its energy potential. Costa Rica's steep mountain slopes and frequent rainfall create favorable conditions for harnessing hydroelectric power, which currently accounts for approximately 70% of the country's electricity production. With its volcanic belt traversing the Pacific Ring of Fire, geothermal energy is an investment, specifically contributing 15% to the power mix. Moreover, wind energy has the potential to be a significant source in Costa Rica's rich coastal areas. Solar energy has also begun to enter the market and the grid within the country.

This diversification characterizes a flexible, variable power grid for the people of Costa Rica, unbounded by the limitations of fossil fuels, unreliable generation, and volatile prices. The average residential electricity price amounts to USD 0.183 per kWh, with the business electricity price at USD 0.247 per kWh. Affordability and accessibility of power are among the long-term byproducts of a renewable energy-powered economy, which the country and its constituency are incentivized with this transition.

Costa Rica frequently reaches 99% renewable energy generation, a significant step toward reducing its energy sector carbon footprint. Much more, helping the global climate community accelerate mitigation efforts.

As the country solidifies its roadmap toward a renewable energy transition, Costa Rica progressively reduces its dependence on fossil fuels in its domestic operations. Its Legislative Assembly sits to discuss the repurposing of its fossil fuel industry—including the re-skilling of the employees of fossil fuel companies—promising green jobs for its people.

Apart from greening its energy sector, the country intends to integrate renewable energy and decarbonization across key sectors, including transportation, agriculture, rural and urban governance, and tourism.

This renewable energy transition exemplified impressive results for Costa Rica and demonstrates a strategic model for other CVF-V20 member states. The country once held the Presidency of the organization, indicative of a wide array of initiatives and priorities in its climate journey.

## INDEPENDENCE OBSERVANCES

We extend our sincere congratulations and warmest wishes to our esteemed member countries celebrating their independence and founding days this October.

| | |
|---|---|
| Fiji | Oct. 10, 1970 |
| Guinea | Oct. 2, 1958 |
| Palau | Oct. 1, 1994 |
| Tuvalu | Oct. 1, 1978 |
| Uganda | Oct. 9, 1962 |