

CVF FRONTLINE



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The world may have surpassed the 1.5°C threshold, but the unified call from the 74 member nations of the CVF-V20 for bold climate action, supported by a reformed international financial architecture, has never been stronger. This issue of CVF Frontline explores the group's call for an urgent Adaptation Package at the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), new solutions to reform punitive sovereign risk ratings, and the critical role of Climate Prosperity Plans in driving green growth. We also cover key dialogues with China and a powerful call to action from African youth and parliamentarians, building a resilient future from the ground up.

CVF AT WORK

A look back at the most significant CVF-V20 activities

As World 'Hurtles' Past 1.5, Climate Vulnerable Nations Demand Urgent Adaptation Finance



The CVF Leaders Meetings highlighted the need to move beyond fragmented coordination to mission-driven, government-led platforms that crowd-in capital, align with national ambitions, and deliver real outcomes.

Noting that the world has now “hurtled past” the 1.5°C limit of the Paris Agreement, leaders of the CVF-V20, representing 74 nations and 1.8 billion people, issued a strong call for adaptation financing to help vulnerable developing countries cope with the massive climate impacts that are now unavoidable.

In particular, CVF-V20 ministers and heads of government, meeting on the sidelines of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

80) in New York, committed to work hard for a comprehensive Adaptation Package at COP30—anchored in prosperity, affordable long-term finance, technology access, and strengthened national institutions—to close the adaptation gap and secure a resilient future for the most climate-exposed nations.

Leaders noted that the world was above 1.5°C for all of 2024, and stressed that the climate crisis is a driver of structural and systemic macroeconomic and financial instability. Specifically, climate change shocks are compounded by inflexible debt and high servicing costs, which drain fiscal space and constrain the ambition and ability of many nations to invest in the adaptation and resilience urgently needed to protect their people and economies.

The CVF-V20 calls for urgent steps to strengthen delivery, expand access to affordable, long-term finance for adaptation, resilience and economic transformation. Leaders emphasised that multilateral development banks (MDBs), and development finance institutions (DFIs) must scale up concessional lending to rates below countries' medium-term GDP growth rates.

"With the world having passed 1.5 degrees and the imminent threat this poses to our countries, we must now mobilise the adaptation finance needed to tackle the hurricane of climate damages that will follow. We must reshape a global financial system that is too slow, delivers too little, and burdens the next generation with

the cost of today's delays. It is not enough to pledge more finance or declare new commitments. What matters is scale, acceleration, and delivery," H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of the Barbados CVF-V20 Presidency, emphasised during the meeting.

The CVF Leaders Meeting took place against the backdrop of the landmark International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion, which affirmed that all countries have binding obligations to act ambitiously to limit global warming.

A Flawed System Penalizes The Vulnerable

The CVF-V20's demands are backed by data from the Global Emerging Markets (GEMs) risk database, which reveals a significant flaw in how risk is assessed. The data shows that low-income countries have a real default rate of just 6.3%, yet their sovereign ratings imply a much higher risk of 14.2%. A similar distortion is seen in lower-middle-income countries, where the real default rate is 4.4% but market price risk is at a staggering 14.6%.

These distortions inflate borrowing costs and discourage private investment, essentially forcing the nations least responsible for emissions to pay the highest price for adaptation. The leaders declared that this unjust system must end, framing their declaration as a roadmap to turn climate vulnerability into economic prosperity.

Key Outcomes From The Leaders' Declaration

- **Adaptation Package at COP30:** To close the adaptation finance gap with grants and results-based funding of at least USD 4 million for any developing country that has completed a National Adaptation Plan, the strengthening of national adaptation funds to channel resources effectively, adaptation targets for MDBs, renewed adaptation finance commitments from developed countries, and the establishment of a global guarantee facility to anchor debt-for-resilience/climate swaps and crowd in private capital.
- **Climate Prosperity and Investment:** Reaffirmation of Climate Prosperity Plans (CPPs) as roadmaps to attract private and institutional investment, supported by seed funding to signal bankable opportunities.
- **Country Platforms for Delivery:** Urge programming to guarantee direct access to funds for Country Platforms. For example, upon submission of a fully

completed Climate Prosperity strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) portal, each country will receive USD 8 million immediately for a "running start", enabling rapid delivery and accelerating resilience and prosperity investments.

- **Fiscal Space and Debt Solutions:** The scale of debt solutions for fiscal space must align with the climate and development investment needs of vulnerable economies.
- **Loss and Damage:** Urgent need for greater capitalisation of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) by its Board, including rapid grant disbursements through the Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM). They called for swift clarity on implementation of the FRLD, matched with adequate resources, to ensure the fund can deliver at scale and protect hard-won development gains now at risk of collapse under the weight of a climate crisis they did not create.
- **Voice and Representation:** Support for CVF-V20's bid for UN Observer Status and formal intergovernmental status at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Call For A Global Methane Agreement Next Steps

Prime Minister Mottley also urged CVF-V20 nations to support rapid emissions reductions, particularly through a global methane agreement. She stressed that such measures could significantly reduce global emissions without threatening key fossil fuel or livestock sectors.

"I suggest that if CVF member countries were to support a global methane agreement, we could lower global emissions to all our benefit, stop the rising heat levels and buy ourselves more time," Prime Minister Mottley said. "More specifically, such an agreement must recognise that our agriculture and livestock sectors should stand to be the first beneficiaries of access to finance, technology, and transition support" she added.

Next Steps

CVF-V20 leaders committed to carrying the Declaration into upcoming global processes, including COP30 in Belém, Brazil, reform of the international financial architecture, and ongoing negotiations on climate finance, debt solutions, and representation in international institutions.

"Our call is clear: justice, finance, and resilience for the most vulnerable are not optional—they are the foundation of global stability and prosperity," the Declaration concludes.

CVF-V20 Countries Push for Climate Prosperity Initiatives with China

CVF-V20 countries called for deeper collaboration with China to advance the implementation of Climate Prosperity Initiatives (CPIs)—investment blueprints aimed at transforming climate vulnerability into climate-driven economic growth.

The call was made during the event Shared Leadership for Climate Prosperity: A High-Level Dialogue on Climate Leadership between China and the CVF-V20, organized by the CVF-V20 Secretariat, People of Asia for Climate Solutions (PACS), and the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC), as a side event of the Global Trade in Services Summit on September 13 in Beijing, China.

At the heart of the dialogue is a clear message: CVF-V20 countries want trade, investment, and equitable partnerships—not short-term tied aid. Leaders emphasized that China's global leadership in renewable technologies, manufacturing, and logistics can serve as a cornerstone for climate-smart growth within the world's most climate-vulnerable economies.

"We offer our Climate Prosperity Plans as investment hubs," said H.E. The Most Honorable Elizabeth Thompson, Ambassador of Climate Change, Law of the Sea, and Small Island Developing States Affairs of Barbados and Sherpa to Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, S.C., M.P., Chair of the CVF-V20. "These plans can benefit your business sector while we enhance prosperity and climate resilience amongst our members. Let's shape together an inclusive, well-governed, and ever-growing renewable energy trade with China—anchored on local needs, equitable terms, and mutual respect," she added.



CVF-V20 countries called for deeper collaboration with China to advance Climate Prosperity Plans, seeking long-term investment, trade, and equitable partnership over short-term aid.

Investment, Not Charity: The Call From the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis

Climate change is no longer just an environmental concern—it is a development and security crisis. From devastating floods in Pakistan to historic droughts across sub-Saharan Africa, climate shocks are reversing hard-won gains in education, health, infrastructure, and human security.

"Climate shocks are human development shocks. For us to move towards prosperity, we need climate justice. We need trade and investment. We need just transitions and clear pathways towards implementation," said Honorable Shaista Pervaiz, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Chairperson of the National Assembly Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Unlocking the Power of South-South Cooperation

CVF-V20 countries are seeking to anchor a new era of South-South cooperation with China—one based on transparency, ownership, and shared prosperity. Key areas of cooperation proposed include technology transfer and renewable energy trade; equity investments, joint ventures, and special purpose vehicles; green Economic Zones linked to global supply chains; carbon markets and non-debt-creating instruments; and regional energy infrastructure and climate risk pooling.

"Technology access remains an issue for us [CVF-V20 countries], but China shows the world every day that there is technology available. We just need to seize the opportunity and figure out the business models to make this work. We have a huge amount of growth opportunities in our countries, and so equity investments and other types of funding could do well with the right regulatory environments," said Sara Jane Ahmed, Managing Director of the CVF-V20 Secretariat.

Renewable Energy and Youth Employment

Representatives from The Gambia and Ghana also highlighted Africa's untapped potential as a green manufacturing hub. Despite holding nearly 40% of global renewable energy potential, the region accounts for just 1% of installed capacity.

"Shandong Province [in China] alone has 80-90 gigawatts of solar power installed. This is four times

what we see across the continent of Africa. If we move from 1% to just 10%, 50% [of the 500-600 million Africans lacking access to electricity] get solved," explained Dr. Philip Osafo-Kwaako, Executive Director of the Akosombo Industrial Company Limited, a textile manufacturer based in Ghana that promotes climate resilience through green manufacturing, circular economy, and renewable energy.

"The partnership we are seeking with China must really focus on closing this vast energy access gap, while also addressing the global failure to remain within the 1.5-degree temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. It's quite a threat for the African continent because research has shown that it would push millions of Africans back to poverty and eradicate hard-won development gains," noted Isatou F. Camara, Director of Climate Finance of The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Countries like Sri Lanka are also uniquely positioned to link agriculture and renewable energy to build sustainable trade platforms with China.

"Tea could be a great platform for commercial collaboration between China and Sri Lanka. We have a 70% renewable energy target, but Sri Lanka hasn't been as good as China at implementing plans. We have 500,000 acres of tea and 60 gigawatts of potential wind energy—and our wind efficiency is supposed to be one of the highest in the world. These are the projects that we should look into," said Sheran Fernando, Consultant of the Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company based in Sri Lanka.

With energy affordability critical for labor-intensive industries like textiles and agriculture, CVF-V20 leaders urged China to invest in cost-effective renewable infrastructure to bring power prices further down and help unlock green industrialization and mass employment.

Security Through Resilience

Partnership with China is not only an economic imperative, but also a matter of national security for many CVF countries.

"In Pakistan, security now means climate resilience. Our military often becomes the first responder in disasters, but the real path to stability is through investing in prosperity and resilience. Working with China is critical to climate protection because scale and speed now determine the difference between surviving the next disaster and being overwhelmed by it," said Zeb Jaffar, Member of the

National Assembly of Pakistan and Parliamentary Secretary for Defense and Aviation.

The importance of regional cooperation in the face of increasingly frequent and interconnected climate shocks was also emphasized.

"What I've learned from recent COPs [Conference of the Parties] is that regional support is essential. When Pakistan was suffering from floods, Africa was battling droughts. The region must stand together. We must deepen South-South cooperation and look at how we can create a regional risk pool and support on climate risk management," said Romina Khurshid Alam, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change.

With shared ambition, transparency, and trust, CVF-V20 countries believe that a new model of global partnership—rooted in climate prosperity—is not only possible, but already within reach.

African MPs Deliver Bold Call for Climate Finance and Green Development



The question is not what the world can do FOR Africa—but what the world can do WITH Africa. This powerful message set the tone at the Africa Climate Summit II Parliamentary Dialogue, where legislators came together to discuss how to unlock billions in green investment for the continent.

Lawmakers from 21 African parliaments¹ convened at the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) on 08 September 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to issue a powerful, unified message: Africa has the solutions for a green and resilient future, but global partners must step up with the financing to match its ambitions.

¹ Botswana, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Pan-African Parliament (PAP), Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, and Zambia

At the Parliamentary Dialogue themed “Financing for Africa’s Resilient and Green Development: Parliamentary Pathways”, lawmakers issued a joint communiqué pledging to champion Climate Prosperity Plans (CPPs), leverage green economic zones, pass stronger climate legislation, and introduce new accountability tools to unlock billions in green investment for the continent.

Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira, President of the Pan-African Parliament, urged fellow lawmakers to “change the gear” and take a proactive role in Africa’s green transition. He also urged them to seize opportunities to engage in both global and local climate conversations, ensuring that the voices of the people are represented. “When you have something that’s a crisis involving people, they should be part of the solution. Don’t isolate them. You have to go to the grassroots, go to the people themselves, so that they also make an input into what we are trying to do,” he said.

The Promise of CPPs

The Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Finance Ministers (CVF-V20), a coalition of 74 countries most vulnerable to climate change, has been championing CPPs as national blueprints focused on growth-guided investments, technology transfer, and job creation, all while lowering climate-related financial risk.

“What we have in these plans are scenario analysis, socioeconomic outcomes, a green industrial policy to take advantage of supply chain and value chain expansion, and a detailed composition of the financing needs, projects and programs, and delivery mechanisms so that we hit the ground running, and it doesn’t remain as a plan sitting on a shelf,” Sara Jane Ahmed, Managing Director of the CVF-V20 Secretariat, said.

Hon. Yaya Gassama of The Gambia emphasized the parliament’s role in driving the implementation of CPPs. “Investors need confidence, and this is where parliamentarians play a decisive role. As lawmakers, we assist with passing enabling legislative frameworks, from tax incentives for renewables to frameworks for public-private partnerships. By turning plans into laws and conducting oversight on legislative implementation, we can ensure that climate finance delivers real results for the people,” he said.

“CPPs align development with climate goals—and it is very important that we consider this framework and adopt it,” Hon. Dr. Gladness Salema of Tanzania added.

Concrete Commitments for a Green Future

To create an enabling environment for CPPs, lawmakers at the dialogue committed to accelerate climate legislation by leveraging the Model Climate Change Law for Africa. They will also institutionalize oversight tools such as the Climate Finance Monitoring and Accountability Tool, champion climate-smart budgeting with dedicated funds for clean energy and adaptation initiatives, and strengthen collaboration through networks like the Africa Network of Parliamentarians on Climate Change (ANPCC) and CVF Global Parliamentary Group (GPG) to amplify Africa’s unified voice on climate.

Hon. Émile Kohou Guirieoulou of Côte d’Ivoire and Chairperson of the ANPCC emphasized that these are “not abstract concepts, but practical parliamentary pathways to address climate change by securing and enhancing climate investment, creating green jobs, and building clean, climate-resilient economies.”

A Call for Global Action and Innovative Solutions

According to the Climate Policy Initiative, Africa needs up to \$2.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030, but only 12% of this funding has been committed. Exacerbating this challenge, African nations face prohibitively high borrowing costs, making essential climate finance expensive.

Closing this gap will require both global financial reform and innovative solutions. As Hon. Moses Kajwang of Kenya stated, “The debt-for-climate swap is a conversation Members of Parliament should have.” He also pointed to new market opportunities, adding, “I want to encourage the [development] partners that are here that members are extremely interested in carbon markets and carbon trading, because we think that those could provide certain opportunities for local communities to benefit.”

The dialogue concluded with a powerful call for a new kind of partnership. Hon. Mohamed Nasheed, Secretary-General of the CVF-V20 Secretariat and former President of the Maldives, reframed the case for global support: “Africa is a powerful and colossally

diverse continent, a willing partner in the global pursuit of climate justice and sustainable prosperity. The question is not what the world can do for Africa but what the world can do with Africa. Because investing in Africa is investing in a better tomorrow for the rest of the world."

The Parliamentary Dialogue was convened by the CVF GPG, the World Future Council's Global Renewables Congress, in collaboration with AGNES, ANPCC, the Climate Parliament, the Kenyan Parliament, the Ethiopian Parliament, and the UN Environmental Programme.

Sindh Consultations Engage Private Sector and Financial Institutions for Climate Prosperity



CVF-V20 delegation and Sindh stakeholders discuss public-private partnerships, green finance, and innovation for a resilient, climate-smart future.

As part of the ongoing in-country consultations for the Pakistan Climate Prosperity Plan (CPP), the CVF-V20 visited the city of Karachi in Sindh on September 3 to 4 to engage with the province's public-private ecosystem on climate investment and innovation.

The delegation including Regional Lead South Asia Hamza Ali Haroon, Pakistan CPP Lead Anam Rathor, Project Lead Muhammad Haseeb Khan, and South Asia Coordination Officer Zeshan Masood held a series of meetings with the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Unit Sindh, Pakistan Business Council (PBC), Pakistan Agriculture Coalition (PAC), JS Bank, and Davaam, focusing on project integration, financing pathways, and green market opportunities.

The consultations underscored Sindh's dynamic role in advancing climate-smart growth through private-sector participation. At the PPP Unit, discussions centered on large-scale infrastructure and clean-energy projects, including electric bus and charging networks, afforestation, wastewater treatment plants, circular railways, carbon credit programs, solid waste

management, and green economic zones linked to foreign investment. The PPP Unit expressed a strong interest in aligning its project pipeline with the CPP to enhance bankability and investor outreach.

In meetings with the Pakistan Agriculture Coalition (PAC), the CVF-V20 explored opportunities in solar irrigation, electronic warehouse receipts, and climate-resilient rice and wheat value chains. PAC shared its existing partnerships with financial institutions and highlighted barriers, including machinery costs, heat stress, and limited insurance coverage. Discussions focused on integrating PAC's initiatives into the CPP, improving access to concessional finance, and exploring climate insurance and re-insurance mechanisms.

With the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), the dialogue focused on accelerating bankable climate projects across sectors, including renewable energy, transport, agriculture, waste management, and export competitiveness in the context of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Both sides emphasized collaboration among the government, the private sector, and development partners to advance sustainability bonds, risk-guarantee instruments, and blended finance access.

The meeting with JS Bank highlighted the growing interest of Pakistan's financial institutions in climate-aligned lending. Discussions covered the bank's GCF pipeline of renewable-energy and agri-financing projects, its participation in a USD 1.5 billion wind-energy venture, and ongoing work on a Green Bond with Bank Islami. Opportunities were identified for joint seminars and financing frameworks under the CPP to mobilize concessional and private capital.

The delegation also met with Davaam, a Karachi-based circular-economy start-up deploying automated refill machines for detergents, oils, and personal-care products to reduce plastic waste and emissions. CVF-V20 encouraged Davaam to include its national expansion plan within the CPP to attract climate investment and scale women-led micro-franchise models.

The Karachi consultations showcased Sindh's vibrant climate investment landscape anchored in entrepreneurship, innovation, and financial sector engagement. They also reaffirmed the CPP's role as a

unifying national platform connecting public and private actors to design, finance, and scale climate-resilient development.

Youth Climate Leadership in Action: Building Pakistan's Voice for COP30



Youth, government, and civil society representatives come together in Islamabad to shape Pakistan's climate priorities for COP30.

The CVF-V20 Secretariat convened a Youth Roundtable on Climate Non-Negotiables in Islamabad, Pakistan, on September 17, bringing together youth leaders, climate advocates, and representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, academia, and civil society. The dialogue, organized in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), served as a national platform for youth to reflect on Pakistan's recent climate catastrophes and define priorities for the upcoming COP-30 in Belém, Brazil.

Discussions centered on five key themes: Climate Justice and Equity, Adaptation and Resilience, Climate Finance and Carbon Markets, Governance and Accountability, and Mitigation and Energy Transition. Participants shared their lived experiences from flood-affected regions, raised concerns over recurring heatwaves and glacier loss, and called for transparent, fair, and predictable climate finance that supports locally led resilience and youth-driven innovation.

The roundtable culminated in the adoption of the "Communiqué of the CVF Youth Roundtable on Non-Negotiables for COP30", articulating a unified youth vision for climate justice and intergenerational equity. The communiqué emphasizes that climate action is a matter of rights, not charity, and calls for operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund, accelerating a just transition, and ensuring direct access to adaptation finance for vulnerable communities. It further demands meaningful youth

inclusion in global climate governance, capacity-building in green skills, and transparent climate finance systems.

In closing, the youth declared, "Our future cannot be negotiated," reaffirming their determination to contribute to a fairer, more resilient world. The outcomes of the roundtable will feed directly into Pakistan's national position for COP-30 and the broader CVF-V20 youth engagement process.

FROM WHERE WE STAND

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

Africa's Youth Don't Need a Seat at the Table; They're Building a New One

By: Yordanos Getachew-Ethiopia and Denise Ayebare-Uganda,
CVF Youth Fellows



When the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS II) ended in Addis Ababa, one thing was obvious: Africa's youth are done waiting. The conversation wasn't about who should be invited into climate spaces; it was about how young Africans are already leading the work that others are still debating.

The Addis Ababa Declaration, adopted at the summit, captured that shift. It commits Africa to mobilize USD 50 billion a year for African-led climate solutions, deliver 1,000 home-grown innovations by 2030, and treat adaptation finance as grants, not loans.

But the real work isn't happening in boardrooms or conference halls. It's being done by youth leaders in workshops, start-ups, and farms, solving energy, water, and waste problems with tools they built themselves.

What Youths Are Doing

Across Africa, young people are building the foundation of a green transition from the ground up. In Kenya, they are running electric bus fleets through the streets of

Nairobi. In Nigeria, they're delivering solar kits on motorcycles to off-grid towns. In Ghana, young engineers are turning waste into affordable construction materials. In Ethiopia, youth cooperatives are reforesting coffee zones and protecting watersheds.

More than 60% of Africans are under 25, according to the African Development Bank (2024). That's not just a demographic fact; it's the continent's greatest resource. Studies by Brookings (2024) and Dalberg (2025) show that if properly supported, African youth could create over 3 million green jobs by 2030. The Addis Declaration acknowledges this potential and calls for direct financing for local communities and youth-led initiatives, bypassing the layers of bureaucracy that often kill innovation before it begins.

The Bigger Picture

Africa is often described as the frontline of climate impacts. True, but it's also becoming the frontline of climate solutions. The continent holds 60% of global solar potential and about a third of the world's critical minerals for clean energy. Combine that with the youngest population on Earth, and you get a region capable of powering its own transformation.

The Addis Declaration sets a goal for Africa to generate 20 percent of global renewable energy by 2030. That's not wishful thinking. It's already happening through solar cooperatives in Burkina Faso, hydropower mini-grids in Rwanda, GERD in Ethiopia, and green manufacturing pilots across Southern Africa.

The Africa Climate Innovation Compact (ACIC) and the African Climate Facility (ACF) created under the Declaration, were designed to scale such efforts. If implemented properly, they can flip Africa's climate narrative from dependency to self-determination.

Moving Past Tokenism

For years, "youth inclusion" meant panels and photos. But the Declaration marks a change. It calls for youth and women to be part of governance and accountability systems. That change is already visible. Young negotiators are joining national climate teams. University researchers under 30 are designing adaptation models for ministries. Community groups are tracking local emissions and demanding public reporting. They aren't waiting for permission; they're

setting the pace.

And they support the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Justice, endorsed in the Declaration, because they understand that climate fairness isn't charity, it's accountability.

From Addis to Belem: Proving the Point

The road from Baku→Addis→Belem isn't a timeline of events; it's a test of delivery. Africa's youth are done with promises; they want proof.

They're calling for:

- *Launching and funding real projects through the African Climate Facility.*
- *Financing youth-led initiatives directly, not through filtered grants.*
- *Creating climate programs that generate real jobs, not just "capacity building."*
- *Building public dashboards to track where climate money goes.*
- *Moving from declarations to delivery – this one must deliver.*

A Simple Truth

Africa's youth don't need saving. They need space, trust, and investment that matches their pace. They're already powering homes, restoring forests, building apps, and running circular businesses that keep waste out of the environment. Every solar panel, reforested hill, and electric motor is a quiet rejection of the idea that Africa must wait to be helped.

To governments: less ceremony, more action.

To investors: bet on those who've built something from nothing.

To global partners: move from sympathy to real partnership.

Africa's youth have already started building the table. If the world wants a seat, it should bring more than applause.

A Layered Defense: Forging Climate Resilience and Prosperity in Nepal and Vulnerable Nations

By Sara Jane Ahmed, Managing Director,
CVF-V20 Secretariat



The CVF-V20 is a group of 74 climate-vulnerable developing economies, including Nepal, representing 1.74 billion people and contributing to 7.3% of global emissions, with the potential to leapfrog into the global transition towards climate-resilient low-carbon development. The CVF-V20 is currently chaired by H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados. Nepal joined the CVF in 2009, during its founding, and was also part of the original 20 countries when the V20 Finance Ministers were founded in 2015.

Global temperatures are rushing past 1.5°C with immediate and long-term implications for climate-vulnerable countries. Extreme events will become more frequent and severe. The 1.5°C breach will force a reassessment of the change that is arriving and that which is yet to come. For Nepal, this reality is already evident in the melting of Himalayan glaciers, erratic monsoons, and the heightened risk of floods and landslides that threaten lives, livelihoods, and hydropower infrastructure.

The CVF-V20 is developing Climate Prosperity Plans (CPPs) that support the implementation of development plans, sector plans, and Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Strategies with the explicit aim of mobilizing resources and fostering collective action through green industrialization, best practices in implementation, and collaborative innovation alongside traditional funding channels. CPPs support climate-vulnerable nations in transforming climate risks into bankable opportunities. More than just a fully costed roadmap for low-carbon and climate-resilient development, a CPP is a multi-phase national investment, technology access, and knowledge transfer strategy that focuses on the

convergence of development, climate, and nature. A key driver of growth in the CPPs is MSMEs, the backbone of the economy and resilience, providing livelihoods.

According to the 2024 ADB Asia SME Monitor, in 2023, Nepal had around 592,000 registered MSMEs, representing nearly 99.8% of all business establishments in the country. The majority were small enterprises (about 524,000), alongside approximately 42,000 micro and fewer than 2,100 medium-sized enterprises, not to mention over 23,600 cottage industries. MSMEs provided employment to approximately 11 million people, accounting for about 72.6% of Nepal's total estimated labor force of 15.2 million in 2023. Additionally, MSMEs experienced a robust growth rate of 6.7%, while employment within this sector grew by just over 3%. Sector-wise, MSMEs were predominantly active in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (33.6%), manufacturing (20.1%), and tourism (9.7%), underscoring their critical role in driving inclusive growth, sustaining livelihoods, and building resilience across both rural and urban areas.

This underscores the urgent need for resilience, a rapid scale-up of adaptation, pre-arranged financing, health system resilience, water security, and food sovereignty, and powered by renewable energy, and grid-transportation-logistics modernization. It is a mistake to choose one set of actions over another: To realize resilience, modernization of the economy is vital. To modernize the economy, achieving resilience is essential.

Investment and affordable capital are critical for MSMEs to build resilience early. The V20's 100-banks initiative for example, targets three critical layers to enable this: (1) addressing the base layer of risk through climate-smart lending to Nepalese MSMEs; (2) strengthening local infrastructure and capacity within banks to adapt existing products rather than build from scratch; and (3) developing the data and business case needed to scale with private capital, creating a path from public-good demonstration to private-sector adoption. The Nepal Insurance Authority, aggregators for MSMEs, and domestic financial institutions have an important role to play in enabling this transformation by aligning regulatory frameworks, enhancing risk management tools, and crowding in investment to support MSMEs as

engines of growth and resilience.

To build a truly climate-resilient financial ecosystem, we must embrace a layered risk approach.

- 1. Adaptation:** To adapt is to strengthen coastal defenses, climate-proof infrastructure, diversify crops, improve water systems and flood controls, and protect ecosystems. Adaptation lowers the scale of losses faced, but to make it work, access to lower-cost capital is urgently needed.
- 2. Risk Retention:** It is time to set aside funds members control, such as national and local disaster reserves, so that recovery from smaller, more frequent shocks can be rapidly financed.
- 3. Preparedness and Response:** Emergency systems, evacuation plans, early warning systems, and pre-positioned supplies are vital.
- 4. Risk Transfer:** It is time to protect ourselves against catastrophe that involves losses we cannot adequately prepare for, losses we cannot retain, and losses that we currently cannot adapt to. Through tools like insurance, catastrophe drawdown options, regional risk pools, and forecast-based financing, part of the financial burden is shifted from governments, communities, and businesses to insurers, reinsurers, and capital markets. Risk transfer can help us access funding quickly when the worst happens.

By combining adaptation, retention, preparedness, and risk transfer, we can build a more resilient system. Moreover, the V20 Central Banks Working Group, chaired by Central Bank Governor Kevin Greenidge of Barbados, last week discussed the potential of a 'Lifeline Mechanism' to provide balance of payments finance to cushion the impacts of climate shocks—such as tropical cyclones, floods, and droughts—while also mobilizing medium-term investment finance. While still in its early stages, Nepal's central bank can play an important role by sharing its insights and perspectives as the critical design details are resolved over the next nine months. This will ultimately determine the Lifeline's usefulness and potential for operationalization.

For Nepal and the CVF-V20, there is a unique opportunity to harness their young demographic

profile, technological advancements, and climate action imperatives to shape a future that is both prosperous and resilient. Nepal, as a founding member of the CVF-V20, can position itself as a proactive architect of a new and equitable green economy that leverages its abundant hydropower potential not only to meet domestic needs but also to trade electricity with Bangladesh and cooperate with Bhutan on cross-border energy connectivity.

At the same time, MSMEs, Nepal's backbone of resilience, stand to benefit from a range of enablers, from greater access to affordable renewable energy to improved finance, technology, and market opportunities, helping to lower costs, enhance productivity, and secure their central role in sustaining livelihoods and inclusive growth.

This op-ed was published by the [Mero Tribune](#).

STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE

Inspiring accounts of climate action and leadership from CVF-V20 countries

Kyrgyz Leads Global Efforts in Mountain Ecosystem Conservation



At UNGA 80, The Kyrgyz Republic's President, H.E. Sadyr Japarov, issued a powerful call to the international community: to support and endorse the Declaration of COP-29 on Climate, Mountains, and Glaciers as a decisive step in mobilizing ambitious initiatives to protect the mountain ecosystems across the globe.

Key priorities cited in the declaration include deepening scientific understanding of climate change impacts on mountain ecosystems, integrating indigenous knowledge and practices into sustainable conservation efforts, and advocating for global policy implementation to preserve the ecological balance of mountain regions.

The Declaration acknowledges that even the stillness and heights of mountains are not immune to the impacts of climate change. The drastic shifts in temperature are altering the biodiverse ecosystems of mountain ranges, posing significant challenges to the lowland regions they sustain.

Kyrgyzstan stands as a living witness to environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem imbalance driven by frequent glacier melts, intensifying climate disasters, and diminishing glacial flows. Its mountain ecosystem, which also boasts 2% of the planet's known flora and 3% of its known fauna, is under pressure which threatens its crucial function in sustaining communities with clean water, food, fertile soils, and natural protection against disasters.

Kyrgyzstan recognizes that these challenges transcend its borders since neighboring countries with similar geographic and climatic conditions confront similar urgent climate threats. This understanding has driven the country to scale its efforts at the regional and global space, addressing the shared challenges and opportunities on mountain ecosystems.

Demonstrating global leadership in mountain sustainability, Kyrgyzstan has been a steadfast advocate for sustainable development in mountain regions. In 2022, the country proposed the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2027), which was subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through a formal resolution. At COP29, Kyrgyzstan stood among the leading nations championing mountain ecosystem conservation through the landmark Declaration on Climate, Mountains, and Glacier. The government also ensures that policy infrastructure and climate-smart investment on its mountains align with the global frameworks of the Sustainable Development Goals, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Paris Agreement. These initiatives underscore Kyrgyzstan's role as a

leading example within the CVF-V20, demonstrating its commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development.

Bringing Climate Adaptation Finance Closer to Filipino Communities



The Philippines' Department of Finance (DOF) is leading the charge to enhance local government access to the People's Survival Fund (PSF), the country's flagship climate adaptation financing mechanism.

As part of this effort, a nationwide caravan set for this quarter will capacitate local governments with knowledge and tools to better access local climate finance and deliver community-led climate adaptation projects. It targets vulnerable municipalities and provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, including the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, offering technical assistance through the Fund's application and implementation processes. The rollout began in September 2025 at the Mindanao region and will continue with activities across the remaining regions in the final quarter of the year.

Created in 2012 by Republic Act No. 10174, the People's Survival Fund (PSF) provides long-term finance streams to the Philippines' most climate-vulnerable communities. Crucially, the PSF shifts the decision-making power away from the national government and directly to those experiencing climate impacts. This innovative, bottom-up approach promotes local resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of escalating climate disasters. To date, the PSF has awarded PHP 1.42 billion (approximately USD 24 million), covering 24 adaptation projects and project development grants.

The PSF caravan empowers subnational leaders by providing hands-on training to develop competitive

PSF proposals, mobilize institutional resources, and efficiently manage implementation. Critically, the sessions also promote the alignment of local plans like the Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan and the Annual Investment Plan with national plans like the National Adaptation Plan. This strategy aims to move the country beyond a fragmented approach to climate action, instead reinforcing the cohesive development of adaptation initiatives.

INDEPENDENCE OBSERVANCES IN SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Costa Rica	Sept. 15, 1821
Guatemala	Sept. 15, 1821
Eswatini	Sept. 6, 1968
Honduras	Sept. 15, 1821

Nicaragua	Sept. 15, 1821
Papua New Guinea	Sept. 16, 1975
Vietnam	Sept. 2, 1945

sectoral activities;

- Mandate comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments to reveal and mitigate the negative effects of human activities; and
- Facilitate knowledge and technology transfer for marine protection, particularly to developing countries.

Preparatory work is already underway at the UN to establish the necessary institutions, including the Conference of Parties (COP), which must convene within a year of entry into force. This is strongly supported by the BBNJ High Ambition Coalition, co-hosted by Palau and Seychelles, which continues to galvanize political support for robust implementation.

LOOKING AHEAD

Key dates and upcoming meetings

November 10-21, 2025 - 30th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Belém, Brazil)

December 8-12, 2025 - Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya)

HIGH SEAS TREATY SET TO ENTER FORCE IN JANUARY 2026

Global efforts to safeguard ocean biodiversity will take a major step forward as the first-ever treaty to protect the international waters, the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement (BBNJ Agreement), enters into force on January 17, 2026.

The agreement was adopted in June 2023 and has seen a rapid mobilization of support. It garnered 145 signatories, 53 of which are CVF-V20 member states. It achieved the crucial milestone of 60 ratifications on September 19, guaranteeing its entry into force 120 days thereafter. The Republic of Palau set the pace by being the first country to ratify.

The treaty's key provisions aim to:

- Establish fair and equitable mechanisms for accessing and sharing the benefits of Marine Genetic Resources;
- Establish Marine Protected Areas and other area-based management tools to govern