



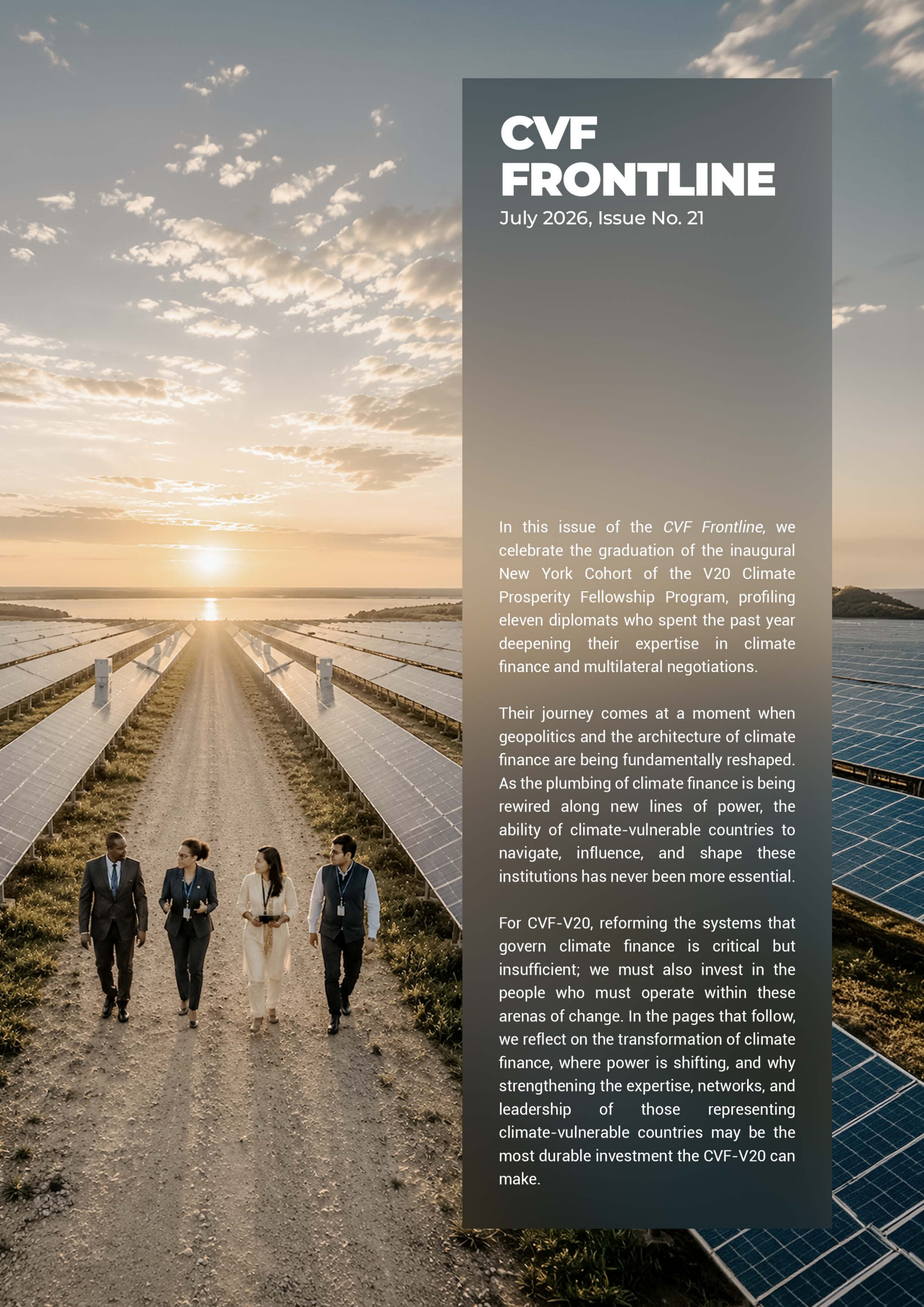
CVF
V20 | CLIMATE
VULNERABLE
FORUM
VULNERABLE
TWENTY
GROUP



CVF FRONTLINE



Monthly Journal of CVF-V20's
Pathways to Progress



CVF FRONTLINE

July 2026, Issue No. 21

In this issue of the *CVF Frontline*, we celebrate the graduation of the inaugural New York Cohort of the V20 Climate Prosperity Fellowship Program, profiling eleven diplomats who spent the past year deepening their expertise in climate finance and multilateral negotiations.

Their journey comes at a moment when geopolitics and the architecture of climate finance are being fundamentally reshaped. As the plumbing of climate finance is being rewired along new lines of power, the ability of climate-vulnerable countries to navigate, influence, and shape these institutions has never been more essential.

For CVF-V20, reforming the systems that govern climate finance is critical but insufficient; we must also invest in the people who must operate within these arenas of change. In the pages that follow, we reflect on the transformation of climate finance, where power is shifting, and why strengthening the expertise, networks, and leadership of those representing climate-vulnerable countries may be the most durable investment the CVF-V20 can make.

SHIFTING GEOPOLITICS, RISING RISKS

The international system is now being remade, and world leaders agree: the rules, alliances, and institutions that shaped the post-war order are increasingly under strain. Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz has said that the "normative west" as it was once understood no longer exists. At the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2026, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney told delegates the world order is "in the midst of a rupture, not a transition," a system now defined by a renewed great-power rivalry rather than shared rules. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has offered his own one-word verdict: "chaos," a world marked by conflict, impunity, inequality and unpredictability.

This geopolitical retrenchment is also reshaping the international development and climate architecture: Since 2025, the US has moved to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, formally rejected the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), withdrew from the Green Climate Fund, and shuttered USAID entirely.

The turbulence runs directly through the plumbing of climate finance. Climate-vulnerable economies are navigating a polycrisis in which climate shocks, debt vulnerabilities and financial instability now intersect. Climate risk has now become macroeconomic risk.

As a result, the center of gravity of climate finance is inexorably shifting. Finance ministries are taking a more central role, working increasingly closely with central banks, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and development finance institutions (DFIs). Climate finance is becoming more explicitly connected with debt sustainability, the global financial safety net, domestic investment strategies, and the broader architecture of development finance.

Moving forward, the role of the United Nations will remain indispensable. Its comparative advantage lies increasingly in upholding climate justice and equity, sustaining political momentum, convening coalitions, and connecting climate-vulnerable countries to the institutions that control the levers of implementation. This is precisely why sustained CVF-V20 engagement within the UN system remains essential.

As the international system becomes more fragmented and climate finance more complex, the CVF-V20 must strengthen the expertise and institutional capabilities of member countries to navigate negotiations, shape financial decisions, and translate climate commitments into investable programs and bankable pipeline projects.



THE V20 NEW YORK FELLOWSHIP

Capacity acceleration sits at the center of the CVF-V20's mission to advance climate resilience, reform the global financial architecture, and strengthen collective representation in multilateral processes. Through its fellowship programs, the CVF-V20 invests in emerging and mid-career leaders across finance ministries, diplomatic missions, negotiating teams, and youth movements, ensuring climate-vulnerable nations engage with sustained expertise in the processes that shape their futures.

The V20 Climate Prosperity Fellowship Program is a flagship capacity-accelerator initiative of the CVF-V20, in partnership with Boston University's Global Development Policy Center, that equips government officials of member countries with the knowledge, technical expertise, and collaborative networks needed to advance climate prosperity through finance-led climate action. It is called capacity acceleration because that is what the initiative is: it recognizes—and enables—capacity already inherent in the institutions of CVF-V20 members. The program thus seeks to cultivate

and accelerate the rise of a new generation of climate leaders capable of complementing and enhancing achievements realized by elders in the bureaucracy while driving ambitious, finance-centered climate policies within national institutions and strengthening the collective leadership and voice of climate-vulnerable countries in regional and global decision-making processes.

In 2025, the V20 Climate Prosperity Fellowship Program was expanded from finance ministry senior officials to diplomats serving as representatives of CVF-V20 Member States to the United Nations in New York. It aims to deepen expertise on climate prosperity, development finance, and the CVF-V20's flagship initiatives.

Through technical discussions and policy exchanges, the following selected fellows strengthened their capacity to advance finance-led climate action and champion the priorities of climate-vulnerable countries in multilateral processes.



MEET THE V20 NEW YORK CLIMATE PROSPERITY FELLOWS



Farida Yasmeen

Minister

Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Ms. Yasmeen is currently responsible for the UN General Assembly Third Committee (human rights, social and cultural affairs) and the Sixth Committee (legal affairs, including International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court matters), as well as issues concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

She has been part of Bangladesh's delegation to COP26, COP27 and COP28, contributed to sessions held during Bangladesh's CVF chairmanship, and was a core drafter of Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan under the Doha Program of Action. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws from the University of Dhaka.



Kereeta Nicole Whyte

Deputy Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations

Ms. Whyte provides senior advisory support on sustainable development, financing for development, and climate change. She has played a critical role in advancing Barbados' engagement in multilateral negotiations affecting Small Island Developing States over nearly two decades of diplomatic service.

She previously served at the Barbados High Commission in Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. She holds a Master of Laws in Public International Law from the University of London, a Master of Arts in International Relations from Middlesex University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology from the University of the West Indies.



Dofini Aubin Tiahoun

First Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations

Mr. Tiahoun leads the Mission's climate and finance work as lead expert for the UN General Assembly Second Committee, coordinating Burkina Faso's national positions on development financing.

He previously served as First Vice-President of the National Coordination Committee for the G5 Sahel Point Focal (2017–2020), coordinating regional climate adaptation strategies, and took part in FfD4 preparatory sessions in 2024. He holds a Diploma in Diplomacy and International Relations and a Master's in Private Law from the University of Ouagadougou.



Sharon Juárez Argueta

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations

At the Mission since 2018, Ms. Juárez covers the UN General Assembly Second Committee's economic, social and environmental agenda, drawing on more than ten years of multilateral experience.

She previously served as Chief of Staff at Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in its multilateral policy office, the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Organization of American States (OAS), the UN, and others. She holds a Master of Arts in International Affairs and Diplomacy from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Trade from Universidad Francisco Marroquín.



Shamiso Nandi Banda

First Secretary

Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations

A sustainable development and climate change management specialist with 26 years in environmental governance, Ms. Banda joined Malawi's foreign service in November 2024 and covers Second Committee sustainable development and climate issues. She previously worked with Malawi's Environmental Affairs Department from 1998 up to deputy level. She served as national focal point for Carbon Markets, the Global Environment Facility, and the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Malawi. She is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Climate Change and Adaptation at the University of Nairobi.



Pedro Filipe Nhacota Júnior

Second Secretary

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations

A Mozambican diplomat since 2015 and at the UN Mission since June 2022, Mr. Nhacota Júnior covers the Second and Sixth Committees, as well as humanitarian and climate issues, UN agencies and programs, and press liaison. As a Security Council expert during Mozambique's 2023-2024 non-permanent term, he co-chaired the Informal Expert Group on Climate, Peace and Security, including its first successful field mission to the Lake Chad Basin and Maiduguri, Nigeria, to observe the impacts of climate change and terrorism on the region and its communities. He holds a BA in Political Science and a Degree in Public Administration from Eduardo Mondlane University, a Postgraduate Diploma in African and Development Studies from the Catholic University of Lisbon, and an MA in International Politics from Complutense University of Madrid.



Shivani Basnet

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations

Ms. Basnet is a Nepalese career diplomat assigned to the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly, which focuses on economic and financial matters, including sustainable development, development financing, and related global economic issues. For more than a decade, Ms. Basnet has represented Nepal across diplomatic missions in New Delhi, Abu Dhabi, and the United Nations, working on sustainable development, climate change, economic cooperation, and digital transformation.



Hiba Abuhaj
Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sudan to the United Nations

Ms. Abuhaj oversees economic and financial matters, coordinating between the Sudanese government and agencies including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and represents Sudan within the Group of 77 (G77) and China framework.

She previously served as Third Secretary at Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as Vice Honorary Consul at the Royal Thai Honorary Consulate. She holds a Master of Microfinance, an MBA, and a High Diploma in Human Rights.



Jesus Enrique "Hendrik" Garcia II
Deputy Permanent Representative and Minister
Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations

A diplomat with over 20 years' experience, Mr. Garcia serves as Expert for the Second Committee and was a G77 and China coordinator on the Global Digital Compact. He co-facilitated the Second Committee resolution on the Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and is a G77 coordinator for the FFD4.

He previously served as Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and Second Secretary in Geneva, and helped finalize the Philippines' UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2024–2028). He holds an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Joseph Aron Mwasota
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

Mr. Mwasota engages across the full range of Second Committee issues, including climate change, trade, investment promotion and sustainable development, and reports on Tanzania's SDG implementation. He previously served as Senior Economist at Tanzania's Ministry of Foreign and East African Cooperation. He holds an MSc in Economics and Finance for Development (University of Bradford) and a BSc in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness (Sokoine University). He is pursuing an MA in International Affairs and Diplomacy through an online program with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in collaboration with the Open University of Catalonia.



Tinai Temamila Taniela Kepa
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations

Ms. Kepa supports Tuvalu's Permanent Representative and Deputy Ambassador on climate change, diplomacy, peace and security, human rights and sustainable development, and oversees the Mission's administrative functions. She previously worked with Tuvalu's Ministries of Education and Finance, and served as a Finance Manager for climate resilience projects with UNDP and the Pacific Community. She holds a BEd in Accounting from the University of the South Pacific and a Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigation.

VOICES FROM THE COHORT

As the New York Cohort marked the end of its fellowship year, CVF Frontline sat down with a few of the graduating fellows to hear, in their own words, what the experience meant for their work. How did the program shape their approach to advancing their countries' priorities with the UN system? They answer below, in their own words:

"As I conclude this fellowship today, I can confidently say that it was a wonderful journey with some other fellows from CVF-V20 countries. Together, we shared our experiences and knowledge... I think those discussions and sharing have strengthened my understanding of a wide range of climate-related issues and topics. While I was doing this fellowship, I participated in some negotiations in the UN on climate change-related issues. I got current information on some real-time impacts on climate-vulnerable countries, and I could carry those examples to the negotiation room, which really helped me. Definitely, this fellowship has increased my understanding of climate issues and how I am going to use these to advance the priorities of my country.

The new set of knowledge, the practical skills that we learn through this fellowship, and also this network, the professional network we built with one another, I think it would be helpful for carrying forward or advancing my country's priorities and the priorities of other countries as a team. Because as CVF countries, we would like to advance our priorities together. We want to cooperate with each other so that we can raise our voice on the international platform."

FARIDA YASMEEN

V20 New York Climate Prosperity Fellow
Bangladesh



VOICES FROM THE COHORT

"It's been a great experience, and I want to thank the CVF for accepting me as a fellow. First of all, on a personal level, I got to know a great cohort. I got to understand better what CVF does, not only in New York but also in Washington, in Ghana, and across the world.

I got a better understanding of the intricacies and complex discussions surrounding climate change and climate finance. It widened my perspective on the challenges that developing countries and climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines face. It helped me understand how to better navigate the different processes relating to climate, and thus better position the Philippines, including through the CVF, in promoting our interest for more climate financing, better resilience, and disaster risk reduction, and most of all, capacity building and technology transfer for climate adaptation.

JESUS ENRIQUE "HENDRIK" GARCIA II

V20 New York Climate Prosperity Fellow
Philippines



CVF-V20 Concludes New York Cohort of the V20 Climate Prosperity Fellowship Program

The CVF-V20 Secretariat celebrated the graduation of the New York Cohort of the V20 Climate Prosperity Fellowship Program in July, capping a mission of high-level engagements with the United Nations (UN) and member-country Permanent Missions ahead of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81).

During the fellowship's final session, UN Assistant Secretary-General Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, encouraged the graduating fellows to remain steadfast in advancing ambitious climate action despite growing global challenges. Reflecting on the realities facing climate-vulnerable countries, Mr. Hart urged the next generation of climate leaders to remain united, focused, and innovative.

"I remain optimistic that despite all of these challenges, small countries can navigate this transition in a way that does not undermine their principles, but instead provides opportunities not only to survive, but to thrive," Mr. Hart emphasized.

Speaking on behalf of the fellowship, Mr. Hendrik Garcia, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, expressed appreciation for Assistant Secretary-General Hart's longstanding leadership in advancing the interests of climate-vulnerable countries.

"We are grateful for your leadership on climate issues and for providing climate-vulnerable countries with a platform to elevate our shared challenges. The initiatives supporting NDC implementation and broader climate action have been invaluable to our countries," Mr. Garcia said.



The final session of the NYC Cohort of the V20 Climate Prosperity Fellowship was graced by the presence of UN Assistant Secretary-General Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition.



[From second to the left] Ms. Ajita Singh (Office of ASG); Ms. Farrah Brown (CVF-V20 Secretariat); Mr. Pankaj Singh (CVF-V20 Secretariat); Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed (CVF-V20 Secretariat); Mr. Selwin Hart (UN Assistant Secretary-General); Ms. Carolina Aguirre Echeverri (Office of ASG); Ms. Nazrin Castro (CVF-V20 Secretariat); and Mr. Christian Soqueño (CVF-V20 Secretariat), during a bilateral meeting ahead of UNGA81 to discuss shared priorities, with a focus on advancing ambitious and just climate action.

Ahead of UNGA81, CVF-V20 Builds Momentum for V2V Compact, Lifeline Fund, and Climate Prosperity Agenda

In the lead-up to the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81), the CVF-V20 Secretariat intensified its diplomatic engagements with New York Permanent Missions to the United Nations (UN), raising support for its key initiatives, including the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Compact, the Lifeline Fund, and the broader Climate Prosperity Agenda.

Through a series of high-level bilateral meetings and strategic engagements with UN officials and member-country Permanent Missions in July in New York, the CVF-V20 built momentum for its flagship priorities to expand access to concessional capital, strengthen financial resilience, and unlock investment for climate prosperity.

Advancing Shared Priorities with the United Nations

During a bilateral meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General Selwin Hart, Special Adviser

to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, discussions centered on shared priorities in UNGA81.

Mr. Hart emphasized three (3) overarching priorities for global climate action: accelerating a just and orderly transition, mobilizing affordable and accessible climate finance, and strengthening adaptation and resilience-building measures. He also mentioned a convening of world leaders in September which would address three (3) key questions on how countries are implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), how they are working individually and collectively to overcome barriers to climate action; and how they are deploying solutions across mitigation, adaptation, and climate finance.

She noted that the **V2V Compact, which was launched in Vienna, Austria, by more than 15 DFIs and CVF-V20 member states**, seeks to transform the scale, speed, and affordability of development finance for climate-vulnerable countries, prioritizing investments in water, education, and health. The V2V Compact is co-chaired by **the Government of Barbados (Chair of the CVF-V20) and the OPEC Fund**.

The Compact brings together the 74 CVF-V20 member countries and more than 15 partner development finance institutions to catalyze systemic reforms in development finance and is underpinned by four strategic pillars:

- Expanding access to concessional and long-term capital;
- Creating greater policy space to mobilize private investment and crowd in capital;
- Strengthening country platforms and delivery systems to accelerate implementation; and
- Promoting shock-resilient instruments that enhance fiscal resilience in the face of climate-related crises.

Ms. Ahmed also highlighted the convening of a high-level technical meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados for the Lifeline Fund, an innovative multi-regional financial arrangement designed to provide rapid and targeted liquidity to climate-vulnerable economies experiencing balance-of-payments stress following climate-induced disasters. Led by Dr., The Most Honorable Kevin Greenidge, F.B., Governor of the

Central Bank of Barbados and Chair of the V20 Central Bank Governors Working Group, discussions with central bank governors and officials provided recommendations on activation mechanisms, eligibility triggers, pricing, financial sustainability, capitalization, governance, and the Fund's operational model.

Strengthening Pacific Leadership

The Secretariat also met with H.E. Filipo Tarakinikini, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN, and H.E. Ambassador John Silk, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the UN, to discuss delivery mechanisms and priorities for the science and climate prosperity agenda.

Discussions with Fiji focused on the Pacific's leadership in the Lifeline Fund and updates on the V20 Pacific Loss and Damage Program, as well as planned technical assistance for the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) to assess the efficacy of establishing a reinsurance window. If the study confirms the proposed facility is technically feasible, the CVF-V20 will assist PCRIC in setting it up to help domestic insurance providers better protect



[FROM L. to R] Ms. Farrah Brown (CVF-V20 Secretariat), Mr. Christian Soqueño (CVF-V20 Secretariat), Ms. Tina Eonemto Stege (Republic of the Marshall Islands), Ambassador John M. Silk (Republic of the Marshall Islands), Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed (CVF-V20 Secretariat), Mr. Caleb Christopher (Republic of the Marshall Islands), and Ms. Nazrin Castro (CVF-V20 Secretariat).



[FROM L to R] Ms. Farrah Brown (CVF-V20 Secretariat), Mr. Pema Tobgay (Bhutan), Mr. Habib Gademi (Chad), Amb. Rahajarizafy Lanto (Madagascar), Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed (CVF-V20 Secretariat), Mr. Nicholas Cox (Barbados), Ms. Dina Hinds (Barbados), and Ms. Josie-Ann Dongobir (Nauru) during the Briefing for CVF-V20 New York Permanent Missions.

micro, small, and medium enterprises from climate-related risks.

The Secretariat likewise exchanged views with the Marshall Islands on the Forum's priorities ahead of UNGA81, including the importance of a science agenda, and ways to reinforce cooperation on initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience and climate prosperity among vulnerable countries.

Briefing with New York Permanent Missions

As part of preparations for the General Assembly, the Secretariat convened a Special Briefing for the Permanent Missions of CVF-V20 Member Countries in New York, hosted in the Permanent Mission of Barbados, the CVF-V20 Presidency.

The briefing provided updates on the organization's expanding portfolio of initiatives and Presidency Priorities, such as the V2V Compact, Lifeline Fund, and the Science and Health Agenda, and touched on the priorities and focus of the upcoming CVF Leaders' Meeting in September.

The session enabled Permanent Missions to align priorities ahead of the high-level meetings of UNGA81 and identify opportunities for deeper collaboration across the CVF-V20 membership.

As preparations for UNGA81 continue, the CVF-V20 remains committed to advancing

practical solutions that place climate-vulnerable countries at the center of global decision-making. Through its flagship initiatives, the Forum continues to champion a development pathway that strengthens resilience, expands access to finance, and enables vulnerable economies not only to withstand the impacts of climate change, but to achieve long-term prosperity. The agenda focused on enabling new leaders ready to sustain the hard work ahead is further evidence of CVF-V20's commitment to a viable, prosperous, and peaceful future.