



Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

The Gambia comes to this meeting with a clear sense of what this reset requires: not another strategy document. That is why we recently adopted our NDC 3.0, aligned with our Climate Prosperity Investment and Financing Strategy, so that we can translate ambition into concrete, investable programs, and implementation.

To support delivery, we are advancing the Gambia Climate Change Fund as our national climate platform, and working with our central bank and domestic financial institutions to develop a green finance taxonomy and a climate risk disclosure framework. Together, these efforts are intended to strengthen the enabling environment for mobilizing public and private capital toward our climate and development priorities.

We are not alone in this. We thank the CVF-V20 Secretariat for its close partnership in this work, and our other partners for their continuous engagement and support throughout this journey. This is what we need.

But Excellencies, this is not only a good story; there is also a negative side. The Gambia faces a climate finance gap of more than US\$2 billion in just the first phase of this strategy. The 2022 floods alone cost us an estimated US\$20 million in loss and damage, on top of the everyday pressure that climate shocks place on a small, fiscally constrained economy under an active IMF program.

Our experience therefore demonstrates why strong country ownership and credible national investment platforms must be matched by equally serious international partners, and by climate finance at the right scale, on the right terms, and at the right speed.

The Gambia, therefore, recognizes Ghana's position that we should support Barbados for another year. The Gambia welcomes not only the continuity of the term but also, warmly, His Excellency Carlos Alvarado of Costa Rica as our second Secretary-General.

On behalf of my President, The Gambia fully endorses the CVF Leaders Declaration before us today, including its call for grant-based and highly concessional finance for countries like ours, and its call for recognition of the CVF-V20 as a UN Observer. I thank you.

H.E. ROHEY JOHN MANJANG

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
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