Joint Statement of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union and its Member States in view of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Towards COP31 and beyond: from priorities to delivery

The European Union and its 27 Member States and the 77 Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) signatories of the Samoa Agreement, reaffirm their commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and strengthen cooperation on climate action, ahead of COP 31 and beyond.

Having regard to the EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement (Samoa Agreement), founded on a shared commitment to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, ***we, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU) and its Member States:***

- **Reaffirm** our commitment to fully implement the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
- **Urge** all countries, particularly major emitters, to act with the highest possible ambition to keep the Paris Agreement objectives within reach, in a manner that reflects equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.
- **Note with concern that global GHG emissions** have continued to increase and that global warming is likely to exceed 1.5°C in the coming decades and that the magnitude and duration of this temperature overshoot must be radically limited.
- **Stress the urgency of deep, rapid and sustained reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C and reaffirm our commitment** to return to a 1.5°C-compatible trajectory and to minimise the magnitude and duration of the overshoot, recognising that overshoot risks irreversible consequences for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- **Call** on all countries, particularly major emitters, to submit and implement ambitious, science-based Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) aligned with the 1.5°C goal, with economy-wide emission reduction targets covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories, in the light of different national circumstances, with developed countries continuing to take the lead and support provided to developing countries.
- **Look forward** to the submissions of the Second Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) by 31 December 2026 and calls on Parties that have not yet submitted their first BTRs to do so as soon as possible.
- **Emphasise** the need to move from commitments to implementation and to ensure that climate action delivers tangible benefits for people, economies and communities, recognising that climate change is also a fundamental development challenge, notably for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and SIDS.
- As we look towards COP31 in Antalya and beyond we see the **Global Climate Action Agenda** as an opportunity to strengthen OACPS-EU cooperation around practical solutions, investment and partnerships.

- ★ The Global Climate Action Agenda also provides an opportunity to capture outcomes from COP31 beyond the negotiated items and to **provide markets with a clear signal** of the accelerating transition to net-zero globally.

- ★ **Express our solidarity with the people and Government of Nepal** following the devastating floods and associated impacts in the Himalayan region. This tragedy is a stark reminder of the growing risks faced by vulnerable countries and communities from climate-related hazards, and the urgency of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

- ★ **Emphasise** the need to collectively implement all outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST-1) and to build on the lessons learned from that process as we begin preparations for GST-2 and recognize the importance of timely delivery of the IPCC's Seventh Assessment Report to ensure that the most up to date and best available science informs the GST-2.

- ★ **Commit** to promote conditions that can attract greater domestic and international investment (public and private) for climate action, including strong institutions, effective regulatory frameworks, transparent governance and climate-informed public investment planning.

We therefore intend to strengthen cooperation around the following actions:

01. **Strengthen climate resilience and support implementation of adaptation objectives**, in line with the Global Goal on Adaptation and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, by supporting the elaboration and implementation of National Adaptation Plans, including by supporting national capacity, locally-led adaptation, climate-data readiness, project preparation, vulnerability and risk assessments, including for mountain and highland ecosystems, , resilience including for transboundary water-basins and oceans, and restoration including for large-scale landscapes, and afforestation efforts in line with sustainable forest management, so that nationally identified adaptation priorities can be translated into adequately financed and implemented programmes and projects, while mobilising private investment where appropriate. We will build on existing initiatives and partnerships to accelerate the delivery of these investments.

02. Unlock fit-for-**purpose climate finance** from all public and private sources for delivering the Paris Agreement, used more effectively and in better coordination. We will work to improve access to finance, especially grant-based and highly concessional support for the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities, while ensuring finance responds to country priorities and supports adaptation, including responding to loss and damage, and resilience.

We support implementation of the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG). This includes the goal of mobilizing at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035 with developed countries taking the lead and all actors in a position to do so contributing, including developing countries on a voluntary basis, while working together to enable the mobilisation of climate finance from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources. In that context, we support the call for efforts to triple adaptation finance by 2035.

We recognise that public, grant-based and highly concessional finance remains essential for the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities, notably SIDS and LDCs.

We support efforts for the effective operation and capitalisation of the multilateral climate funds, with simplified access for the developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including direct access. We support strengthened direct access through national and regional entities and accelerated accreditation.

We will support effective, and accessible funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, including simplified and effective access for particularly vulnerable developing countries.

In this context, we encourage the further contributions to and call for the full operationalisation of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, including direct access modalities for developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change maintaining the minimum allocation floor for LDCs and SIDS for the long-term mode and enabling timely delivery in line with FRLD's mandate and scope.

We invite multilateral development banks, vertical climate funds and other financial institutions to consider the use of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), as a complement to their existing practices and policies to inform eligibility and access to climate finance, including concessional finance.

We will also strengthen the role of guarantees, risk-sharing and blended finance, including blue and green investment instruments, taking account of the needs of OACPS countries, while safeguarding debt sustainability and use the Global Gateway and Team Europe approach to mobilise investments.

03. **Accelerate clean electrification and energy access**, to deliver on the transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner, and cooperate to support international agreements and initiatives that advance the uptake and deployment of renewable and low-carbon energy, improved grid connectivity and flexibility, energy storage, the energy efficiency first principle, and the clean electrification of end-use sectors, and through cooperation on regional cross-border grid interconnections, clean cooking technologies, grids, mini-grids and community-based solutions.

We will promote practical cooperation and investment, while supporting inclusive energy transitions that expand energy access, skills, decent employment and opportunities for local value creation. The Belém Mission to 1.5°C and the Global Implementation Accelerator reports can reflect useful solutions in that regard. In this context, we also note the launch of the Electrify Now initiative as a high-level platform to accelerate the electrification of the global economy.

04. **Strengthen cooperation on climate data, science, technology, skills and capacity-building**, with a focus on enabling countries to innovate, develop and scale solutions.

We will build on existing regional cooperation and tools such as Copernicus to improve access to Earth-observation and climate information for risk assessment, early warning, resilience planning and investment decisions. This includes initiatives such as Space for Early Warning in Africa and EU–Caribbean cooperation on Copernicus services.

We will strengthen support for OACPS countries to implement the enhanced transparency framework, including sustained institutional capacity for emissions inventories and tracking NDC implementation, taking account of applicable flexibility provisions.

05. **Strengthen the resilience of food systems, water, the ocean, forests and ecosystems**, including through climate-resilient agriculture, drought-proof irrigation infrastructure, pastoralist and livestock resilience programmes, agroforestry, sustainable fisheries, sustainable ocean and coastal management, water management, nature-based solutions and practical support for vulnerable communities and livelihoods.

We look forward to the United Nations Water Conference in December 2026 as an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation on the interlinkages between water and climate change.

We will support enhanced efforts towards the sustainable management of carbon sinks, including by halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 and by restoring and conserving at least 30% of terrestrial, marine and coastal areas by 2030. **We** emphasize the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergetic manner, **the interlinked global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.**

06. Strengthen cooperation on international ocean governance, including cooperation onconservation and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and enhancing ocean observation efforts.

We recognise the ocean-climate nexus as integral to climate action and support its meaningful integration across UNFCCC processes, including through ocean-informed NDCs and adaptation plans, and improved access to climate finance for sustainable ocean-based mitigation and resilience.

We recall the UN Declaration on Sea Level Rise and stress the need for stability of maritime zones in response to physical changes resulting from sea-level rise. Once established in accordance with UNCLOS, we affirm that States can accordingly maintain their maritime zones in the face of physical changes resulting from sea level rise, without prejudice to the State's ability to update them.

COP31 should provide an opportunity to turn these priorities into delivery. The EU and OACPS will work together to promote concrete initiatives, investment pipelines and partnerships that strengthen adaptation and resilience, accelerate clean electrification and wider climate action, and deliver measurable and sustainable results on the ground, particularly for countries and communities most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.