

**Top Line Messaging**  
**ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**  
**FOR COP28**

IASC Sub-Group on the Climate Crisis

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Endorsed by the IASC Deputies Group

## I. Top Line Messaging

Climate change is already driving major increases in humanitarian need across the globe. Urgent and ambitious action is needed at COP28 to avert the worst outcomes and protect the most vulnerable.

This includes:

- **Leave no-one behind and prioritize the most vulnerable** – The impacts of climate change are profoundly unequal – with the people least responsible suffering worst, and first. Increased investments are desperately needed to build resilience and support adaptation for the most vulnerable and worst affected, especially people in fragile and crisis-affected contexts. The Relief, Recovery and Peace Day at COP 28 is a seminal moment to ensure that climate action leaves no-one behind.
- **Dramatic steps are needed to mitigate climate change** – Without a step up in mitigation ambition and action, the humanitarian impacts of the climate emergency, already immense, will be catastrophic. Bold steps are needed now to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent additional loss and damage from extreme and slow onset events. It is critical that governments commit to the implementation of their national determined contributions (NDCs) upholding global mitigation goals to contain global mean temperature increase below 1.5 degrees.
- **Adaptation saves lives** – Risk-informed investments can help build resilient and adapted human and natural systems, including in fragile and crisis-affected communities, especially when they are focused on those worst affected and most at-risk. Investment in locally led adaptation and disaster risk reduction is essential. The Paris Agreement with its Global Goal on Adaptation and as well as the national adaptation plans (NAPs) decided under the Cancun Adaptation Framework as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction need to deliver on this, and the amount invested must dramatically increase to reach global commitments.
- **Loss and Damage** – Vulnerable developing countries need urgent action now to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. COP28 is the moment to deliver an effective new fund and funding arrangements for Loss and Damage, building on the outcome of the Transitional Committee. This must be a comprehensive, global, and multi-sectoral effort. It will be critical that the new fund operates in coherence with new and existing arrangements, including those in the humanitarian sector. Funding should support actions complementary to life saving humanitarian actions, including for recovery. Funds need to be accessible in all countries and communities in need, including in fragile and crisis-affected countries and communities. The new fund should ensure the meaningful inclusion of women, children, displaced people, and other vulnerable groups in decision making, and guarantee the rights to those affected by climate change to access justice and effective remedy.
- **Early Warning and Anticipatory Action** – One third of people, mainly in least developed and small island developing states, are not covered by effective early warning of climate-related disasters. Urgent new investments are needed to improve and extend early warning, in support of the Secretary General’s Early Warnings for All initiative. These early warning systems must ensure coverage for the most at-risk people and enable more effective and scaled-up anticipatory action. It is critical for early warnings to be linked to shock-responsive social protection and other emergency preparedness and response measures. These can help save lives and livelihoods, particularly when they empower people through participatory and inclusive decision-making.
- **Meaningful, effective, and safe participation** – Meaningful and effective participation of observer organizations and of civil society is key to the success of future climate policy processes. Climate decision-making, including at COP28, must be transparent, inclusive, and accountable, particularly to the people most affected and threatened by climate change. Participants in the negotiations should not suffer any act or attempted act of intimidation, threats, harassment, or punishment for their engagement at COP28. We encourage efforts to better include the voices of affected communities, especially children and youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees, and internally displaced and stateless persons, who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and associated adverse impacts.