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## **Costa Rica Troika Statement at the CVF COP21 Leader's Event**

Honorable Chair, President Pranab  
Excellences,  
Dear Colleagues, Friends,  
Buenos Tardes,

I am very pleased to join this group today as a member of the Troika of this increasingly active and relevant Climate Vulnerable Forum. Credit goes to Philippines for all they have done to elevate and expand our collaboration since the start of the year.

We believe the argument that emission cuts harms economic growth or human development is pure myth. Costa Rica has aggressively expanded its renewable energy supplies over the past decade together with deforestation reversal and now forest growth. At the same time as we made progress in reducing emissions, over the entire last decade we have also been amongst the fastest growing economies in our region and we have been attained and sustained the "high human development" category in the human development index .

And it is not just us. The same happened to the world only last year: emissions growth temporarily stalled in 2014 but the world economy enjoyed some of the most robust economic growth in years. So it is true that when a nation makes a commitment to reduce emissions it does not curtail economic growth or human development.

We therefore see huge scope for the Paris agreement to progress ambition forward and take us off track from the 3 degree world implied by commitments on the table today, and to drive global economic prosperity and human development at the same time. But the urgency could not be greater to raise our ambition now.

Our own region, Central America, has been declared by the fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as one the most vulnerable in the world.

Double current warming at 2 degrees more than doubles the dangers we face, some of them irreversible. For one, the coral reefs we treasure will all very likely be lost. But it is the human toll of the dramatic droughts, floods, storms and heat waves that are the heartbreaking sacrifice of a hotter planet, especially for the hundreds of millions of vulnerable women, children and poor.

It also means that the international agreement we adopt here in Paris has the greatest potential of any action before the world's governments for improving the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. We launched the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action, that we are pleased this Forum is promoting in the draft documents. Keeping warming to a minimum—to below 1.5 degrees—won't simply deliver safety and prosperity, it will also deliver justice.

As small vulnerable countries, I would like to respectfully invite all your countries to consider the strong linkages between Human Rights and Climate Change and to incorporate this vision in your positions during the negotiations.

There is now widespread recognition that climate change undermines human rights and a failure to integrate human rights into climate action can hinder people's rights.

We are convinced that ensuring a people-centered approach to climate action and the integration of human rights into climate change policies, can improve effectiveness and result in benefits for people and the planet.

Integrating a rights perspective is important to understand our obligations as an international community when what is at stake is the right to life and, as Pope Francis rightly pointed out, the right to the existence of human nature itself.

Intensifying international collaboration will be essential to enabling greater ambition. Our national achievements on climate change would not have been possible without significant international support. And fulfillment of our carbon neutrality ambition can be bolstered through international collaboration, and serve as an inspiration for all.

Last month, the V20 group of CVF finance ministers was launched last month because we know \$100 billion a year from 2020 is far short of what is required by more than 150 developing countries to develop as resilient nations.

So we have committed to do all we can to mobilize resources domestically, to work with regional opportunities for mobilization, and to ready ourselves for expanded international finance delivery. In doing so we aim to leverage a maximum of private finance to compensate for deficiencies in public resources.

But we do also expect countries with per capita incomes 5 or 50 times our economies to stand in solidarity with us and support communities on the frontline whose contribution to emissions is

absolutely marginal. Without public financing for adaptation, despite our best efforts, we know people and the environment will suffer because at one point we do have finite limits on our capabilities.

We have a historic opportunity in Paris. Big or small, you are all like Costa Rica, without an army to defend your borders against climate change. It means we are all at the mercy of the international system's collective ability to keep peace vis-a-vis climate change. It's time we do just that.

Thank you very much.