



*Misión Permanente
de Costa Rica
Ginebra*

**Statement by Ambassador Elayne Whyte
Paris Agreement Partner #1.5C Event
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Distinguished Speakers, Dear Colleagues, Friends

I am pleased to join today as a member of the Troika of Climate Vulnerable Forum. Credit goes to Philippines for all they have done to elevate and expand our collaboration.

For Costa Rica, the Paris Agreement is one of the main achievements of multilateral diplomacy in recent times, as it sends a strong signal to the world on the type of development model and public and private investments that should prevail in the future. The frames climate action in the context of sustainable development, making visible a fundamental shift in how we think about the climate.

The inclusion of the 1.5°C limit in the Paris Agreement is one of the most important accomplishments. This is why Costa Rica believes that we must seize the momentum and start right now to implement effective measures, so that it goes into effect, even before 2020.

The vulnerable groups are the ones that most suffer the adverse impacts of climate change. The international agreement we adopted in Paris has the greatest potential for improving the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. 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. That is why Costa Rica launched the Genève Pledge for human rights in climate change in February 2015. As a result, we seek the implementation climate change policy at the international and national levels with a human rights perspective.

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

Costa Rica ratifies our national aspiration towards carbon neutrality by 2021, further deepen its long-term commitments to the decarbonization of the economy. We are making efforts for the reduction of emissions in critical sectors such as transport, our Government is implementing economic and fiscal incentives, such the program for the purchase of

efficient vehicles (PAVE) which are part of the Project Law of incentives and promotion for electric transportation.

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.