

## BRAZILIAN PHILANTHROPY COMMITMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Extreme weather events have been seen in every region of the country and the planet, with increasing and more significant impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable populations, precisely those who have contributed least to this phenomenon.

Ensuring that temperature increases do not exceed safe limits for mankind and promoting the necessary adaptations to live within this context is both urgent and complex. It requires coordinating strategies to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, implementing consistent and broad adaptation measures, and setting up swift and fair mechanisms to address climate-related loss and damage. It implies addressing nature, people and the economy in an integrated manner, acknowledging that inequalities increase due to climate change.

***'Our world needs climate action on all fronts -  
everything, everywhere, all at once.'***

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES,  
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Along its history, Brazilian philanthropy has promoted, in different ways and levels of intensity, the creation of public good aimed at social justice. It is time to acknowledge the pivotal role of climate change in fulfilling this mission. Engaging in this task does not necessarily require placing the climate agenda in the center of philanthropic action, but rather understanding how it relates to and impacts on causes, territories and action models prioritized by the different organizations in the field. The commitment of Brazilian philanthropists and social investors to the climate agenda follows the sector's global movement, specially regarding the particularities of our country and the Global South.

Brazil is one of the largest global economies and one of the largest contributors to per capita GHG emissions<sup>1</sup>. Our biggest challenge to reduce GHG emissions depends on halting deforestation and adopting regenerative agricultural practices, as well as avoiding emission increases in other areas such as energy and transportation. Conservation and restoration of our forests and biomes is key and strategic for climate regulation. They provide rich biodiversity and the pathway to development at scale of nature-based solutions that can drive and sustain a new economic agenda.

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[https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions?breakBy=countries&calculation=PER\\_CAPITA&end\\_year=2019&regions=TOP&start\\_year=1990](https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions?breakBy=countries&calculation=PER_CAPITA&end_year=2019&regions=TOP&start_year=1990)

We acknowledge and value the indigenous and traditional communities<sup>2</sup> and their knowledge about biomes conservation, natural heritage, and about developing solutions. In view of their vulnerability and high exposure to climate change, it is paramount that we act to ensure their rights and for the creation of fair mechanisms of compensation and reparation.

Our cities also require attention. The urbanization process intensifies the challenge and urgency of adaptation measures, including enhancing urban resilience infrastructure. Among the different social groups, the black and suburban population is the most exposed to environmental imbalance and climate events. This leads us to think that facing climate change must be associated with a social justice and racial equity agenda.

Brazil holding the Presidency of G20 in 2024 and hosting COP 30 in the Amazon in 2025 means a strategic opportunity for the protagonism of our country and the Global South in the development of international agreements on climate change. Brazilian philanthropy has the opportunity to advocate and influence practical and consistent commitments from a new development perspective, playing a subsidiary but strategic role in the achievement of national goals. It should also act as a catalyst of national and international financial resources, supporting the strengthening of local government capabilities to formulate, implement and evaluate policies and action plans. The different types of civil society organizations should also count on the financial and strategic support of philanthropy to ensure that transformative actions are carried out in the territories.

Due to Brazil's continental dimension, climate change circumstances and impacts change according to the region, biome and populations affected. Our well-structured and diverse philanthropic work has the ability to deal with all these particularities, supported by the autonomy of each organization to devise and implement its strategies. Nevertheless, we can expand the sector's capacity to offer relevant and consistent contributions, making use of and creating cooperation networks to work in a cooperative and integrated manner.

Understanding this context as an urgent call to action, we invite the several Brazilian philanthropists and social investors to adhere to this document, committing to the following actions:

### **1. Education and learning**

We will ensure that our supporting entities, boards of directors, investment committees, teams, volunteers, donees and stakeholders are informed about causes, impacts and systemic solutions of climate change and their potential implications for our work.

### **2. Allocation of Resources**

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<sup>2</sup> Traditional peoples and communities are defined in Executive Order 6.040/2007 as culturally differentiated groups that have their own forms of social organization. The territories and natural resources that belong to these peoples are necessary 'for their cultural, social, religious, ancestral and economic reproduction, using knowledge, innovations and practices generated and transmitted by tradition'. See more at: <https://censo2022.ibge.gov.br/pt/sobre/povos-e-comunidades-tradicionais.html>

Understanding the urgency of the situation, we will concentrate our resources and efforts on accelerating mitigation of climate change, adaptation to its impacts and addressing its related loss and damage. We will catalyze more resources ensuring that they reach the community-based organizations that are in the front line of this challenge. Whenever possible, we will be ready for emergencies resulting from climate change-related extreme events.

### **3. Systems View**

Within the scope of our work, we will contribute to a fair and long-lasting transition, integrating actions aimed at a world with net-zero emissions, to the adaptation to climate change-related impacts, and to the compensation of loss and damage in affected communities.

### **4. Net assets, funds and financial assets**

We will oversee the origin of our resources and will manage our operating funds and endowment funds aimed at reducing their impacts on climate change. We will strive to align our investment strategy and its implementation with a swift and fair transition to a net-zero economy.

### **5. Operations**

We will take measures to minimize the climate-related impact of our own operations, including, for instance, travels, transportation, premises and purchases.

### **6. Alliance building, influence and advocacy**

We will use our networks and connections to work in an organized and cooperative manner. We will seek to fund, strengthen and enhance the voices of front line communities. We will uphold and support more daring and concrete actions along with our key stakeholders: businesses, supporting entities, local and national administrations, multilateral organizations, donors and funders, civil society individuals or movements.

### **7. Stance and identity**

We acknowledge the peculiarity of our reality and take our stances within the Brazilian and Global South context. We will value our unique characteristics to diversify and expand visions and approaches on the climate agenda, differentiating our actions from the roles of governments, multilateral organizations and the private sector. We will seek to inspire and cooperate with the philanthropy sector of other Global South countries.

### **8. Transparency and learning**

We will disclose annual information about our actions regarding the seven actions listed above to share our progress and identify potential improvements. We will continue to develop our practice, cooperate and learn with everyone.