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NATIONAL ALLIANCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD SIGNAL DOMESTIC MOMENTUM FOR CLIMATE ACTION ON ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Washington D.C. – December 12th marks the five-year anniversary of the world coming together to sign on a shared blueprint to address climate change -- the Paris Agreement. While adopted by national governments, the accord calls on all actors across society to do their part. Many institutions have heeded this call by taking climate action, not only individually, but also collectively in the form of national alliances that are championing decarbonization in their countries. This week, their statements signal a new era momentum in support of domestic implementation driven by cooperation across every sector of society.

“Five years ago the world set itself the formidable challenge of working together to tackle the climate crisis. Today, with the growth of national alliances that bring together city, business, university and other domestic leaders to drive higher climate ambition and action through collaborations, that challenge is increasingly doable,” said **Mariana Panuncio-Feldman**, Senior Director of International Climate Cooperation at World Wildlife Fund and the coordinator of the Alliances for Climate Action (ACA). “However, the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement is not only a moment to celebrate. It’s a moment for each country to recommit itself to the goals of the agreement, with new national pledges aligned with science, attuned to the climate urgency, and backed not just by the will of the Heads of State and national governments, but also by the support of the actors who make up each society.”

Alliances for Climate Action is a diverse network of national alliances dedicated to ambitious climate action, increasing public support for addressing the climate crisis, and engaging their respective national governments to decarbonize faster. Convened by **World Wildlife Fund in partnership with AVINA Foundation, C40, CDP, CAN-International, The Climate Group**, and the **We Mean Business Coalition** and leading national partners, these alliances are in countries that account for 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. They boast more than 4,500 individual partner institutions working together to set and ultimately achieve emissions reductions that align with the goals of the Paris Agreement to which each country has committed. These alliances include **We Are Still In**, the **Japan Climate Initiative**, the **Alliance for Climate Action-Mexico**, **Alliance for Climate Action-Argentina**, **Viet Nam Coalition for Climate Action**, and the **Alliance for Climate Action-South Africa**.

“This week alone we have heard from the city halls in Mexico, CEOs of multinational companies in the United States, farmers in Argentina, academia in Viet Nam, faith institutions in Japan, and local business leaders in South Africa, all joining forces with other institutions in their respective countries to say that there will be no recovery or long-term prosperity without

addressing the climate crisis,” continued Panuncio-Feldman. “Each alliance provided a powerful statement to its national government that it must do more, but it doesn’t have to do it alone.”

Below are excerpts from statements made by some of the ACA national alliances around the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement and the UN Climate Ambition Summit:

From the “America Is All In” statement from We Are Still In signed by over 1,600 leaders across the United States: “...We call on the incoming administration and other federal policymakers to join us in a national response to ensure our safety and prosperity by taking immediate action to: drive economic growth across every sector of the economy through job-creating sustainable investments....; expand U.S. leadership at home and abroad; ...and reimagine community partnership to advance just and equitable climate solutions and build resilience to climate change....We pledge to support these policies at the national and local level, and place climate considerations at the core of our own institutions: how we do business, how we invest, how we govern, how we educate, how we serve.”

From the latest Japan Climate Initiative statement: “On October 26, 2020, the Japanese government finally declared its intent to pursue a net-zero GHGs goal by 2050. For Japan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society as called forth by the Paris Agreement, there is still much work to be done....Now, it is essential for the government to articulate the path to net-zero in concrete terms, and put in place the enabling policies---including a revised NDC target and increased renewable energy target-- so Japanese non-state actors can accelerate this transition towards net zero by 2050 through their own contributions....JCI commits to working with its members to maintain its commitment to bold climate action and to partner with the national government to pursue – together – a meaningful transition to a decarbonized Japanese society for the benefit of all our people.”

From the Alliance for Climate Action-Mexico: “ACA-Mexico calls for our new national commitment to aim for the highest level of climate ambition, aligned with 1.5°C and to incorporate the active participation of non-state actors as a key element for the fulfillment of this ambition. Greater ambition and actions in our NDC will trigger the improvement of our public policies, as well as the creation of programs and actions that steer public and private investments to achieve a just transition to a resilient and low-carbon economy.... The federal government can be assured that our call goes hand in hand with our own climate commitments. The signatory organizations will continue to take action and coordinate our efforts to bring about, through collaboration, the future that we all want.”

All the above statements can be found in full through www.alliancesforclimateaction.org/news.

Alliance for Climate Action - Argentina has also engaged in the consultation process for the revision of the national NDC with constructive proposals for how the overall ambition of the NDC and climate action in the country can be improved. They shared 10 proposals across five key sectors – energy, land use, transport, cities and private sector and finance. Recommendations include a call for energy demand to be uncoupled from economic growth, with a focus on

policies that foster rational and efficient energy use, a decarbonized energy supply aligned with the well below 2C and decentralized renewable energy generation ACAA also encourages the country's pledge to lean strongly into emission reduction opportunities within the land use sector.

The Viet Nam Coalition for Climate Action: In its position paper recently submitted to the Vietnamese government, VCCA called for a decisive implementation of Viet Nam's NDC target. VCCA encouraged the government of Viet Nam to implement its target through a proactive collaboration--particularly in the energy sector-- with the private sector and other subnational and non-state actors in the country, and provided concrete recommendations to unleash the potential of the private sector and other actors in support of the NDC.

The latest statements and significant updates from all the national alliances can also be found [here](#).

NOTE TO EDITORS: The Paris Agreement marked a watershed moment for the global community to collectively address climate change. 197 countries gathered on December 12, 2015 to create a concerted global response to climate. The Agreement combines the bottom-up flexibility of "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) with top-down mutual accountability through a transparency framework and an "ambition" ratcheting mechanism every five years. While national governments are the official "parties" to the Agreement, the Paris Agreement recognizes the critical role of cities, states, businesses, and civil society -- collectively known as "subnational and non-state actors." Therefore, the Agreement belongs to every nation and every actor in society.

For more information about the Alliances For Climate Action, visit:
<https://www.alliancesforclimateaction.org/>

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