

Dear World Leaders,

There is a crisis in multilateral cooperation and in the financing of global public goods and development aid — one that is compounding the already worsening challenges of poverty, ill health, illiteracy, and environmental breakdown. From surging droughts and floods to raging fires, the evidence of our planetary emergency is clear. Unfortunately, at this critical moment, support for humanitarian action and sustainable development is faltering. We must come together to ensure that such support is not only sustained but strengthened.

We write as former Heads of State and Government from every continent with an urgent appeal to leaders today. 2025 sees era-defining disruption, but also a chance to begin to remake our world in response – beginning in Sevilla.

We come from differing backgrounds and politics, but all of us are committed to human dignity and to the promise of democracy.

Volatility orders our world today. Inequality spirals across nations. Trillionaires could emerge this decade, while near half of humanity lives in poverty. 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on interest to pay sovereign debt than on education or health. Climate breakdown outpaces green transitions. Across too many places, children are being buried under states' belligerence as any sense of a rules-based order is violently displaced by a power-based one. The multilateralism to solve global problems that grew out of two World Wars is in disarray. Global problems that need global solutions and cannot be solved by nation states on their own remain unaddressed.

A powerful shift is possible. Countries are designing economies that prioritize human security. The powerful principle remains: from climate to taxation, solving our great challenges – especially at a time of rising new powers – depends upon cooperation. But there are new realities too: alone, any one country – and its people – is left vulnerable when another chooses narrow unilateralism above all else. We need international cooperation, revamped for our era.

2025 presents an opportunity for leaders to revive multilateralism with a renewed sense of purpose. Together, we call for a new economic coalition of the willing of countries to cooperate – to combat extreme inequality, end poverty and meet human rights. One that is founded upon values of solidarity and sovereignty.

Leaders must seize the chance to spark a new agenda in Sevilla, at the IV Financing for Development Conference being boldly led by Spain. Then, we can build on it at the G20 led by South Africa— and we should support the development objectives that have been set out to ensure its success. Likewise, we should be actively supporting preparation efforts for a successful COP30 in Brazil, which will be a vital moment for advancing climate action on a global scale. These important political summits provide essential platforms for nations worldwide to act together.

The practical agenda matters. First, we urge you to push together for financing for public goods. Trillions of dollars exist for financing development – but too much public money is captured by private power. Most urgently, we require life-saving aid – not haemorrhaging cuts

by rich nations. The aid cuts could cause 2.9 million more children and adults to die by 2030, from HIV/AIDS causes alone. Taps are being turned off. Medicine isn't being delivered. This is the moment to fund resilience—in places hit hardest by conflict, fragility, and climate change.

Vitally, we should resolve the debt problems of the poorest countries. Coordinated Jubilee debt relief is due, as the late Pope Francis urged and akin to what the Jubilee campaign won twenty years ago, while reforming the financial architecture to prevent the recurrence of unsustainable debts. Moreover, financing should include the transfer of Special Drawing Rights and the use of innovative finance guarantees alongside loans and grants.

Central to inequality-busting financing is international tax cooperation. We need global minimum taxes on the profits of multinationals, to ensure they pay their fair share in all the countries they operate. Brazil's historic 2024 G20 global agenda to tax high-net-worth-individuals must advance. The UN Tax Convention offers the visionary path to follow.

Second, we need ambitious reform for our new multipolar reality. Global entities are not sacrosanct; the IMF must play the strategic role it can, aiding nations sustainable development rather than prescribing shackling austerity that undermines it. New trade formations can raise labor and environmental standards and support green industrial policy. Dynamic global efforts can unlock the immense potential of artificial intelligence for all. Reform is due to intellectual property rules that can have devastating human costs, as seen in the vaccine inequity of the COVID-19 pandemic. The breakthrough Pandemic Agreement offers inspiration for what we can achieve.

In turn, third, we must uphold values for our world as it is in 2025. Listening to people in every continent. Prizing cooperation while respecting sovereignty. Today's economic system, shaped in 1944 in Bretton Woods by wealthy nations at a time when colonialism still defined much of the world, is outdated. A more inclusive global order is needed—one that accurately reflects the leadership of Global South countries that are at the forefront of change.

Working together is not only a moral imperative—it is a shared interest. for what is now a more multipolar world. Let's move past outdated economic models, and instead, build: not back, but boldly anew. We ask you to act together to take the decisive turn this century needs. You will find support from us and from people in every country. We're counting on you.

Signed,

1. Carlos Alvarado	President of Costa Rica (2018-2022)
2. Óscar Arias	President of Costa Rica (1986-1990; 2006-2010)
3. Jan Peter Balkenende	Prime Minister of the Netherlands (2002-2010)
4. Valdis Birkavs	Prime Minister of Latvia (1993-1994)
5. Kjell Magne Bondevik	Prime Minister of Norway (1997-2000; 2001-2005)
6. Gordon Brown	Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (2007-2010)
7. Helen Clark	Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999-2008)
8. Cellou Dalein Diallo	Prime Minister of Guinea (2004-2006)
9. Dalia Grybauskaitė	President of Lithuania (2009-2019)
10. Tsakhia Elbegdorj	President of Mongolia (2009-2017)
11. Natalia Gavrilita	Prime Minister of Moldova (2021 – 2023)
12. Alfred Gusenbauer	Chancellor of Austria (2007-2008)
13. Tarja Halonen	President of Finland (2000-2012)
14. Han Seung-soo	Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea (2008-2009) & Club de Madrid Vice-President
15. Mehdi Jomaa	Prime Minister of Tunisia (2014-2015)
16. Ivo Josipovic	President of Croatia (2010-2015)
17. Mari Kiviniemi	Prime Minister of Finland (2010-2011)
18. Milan Kučan	President of Slovenia (1991-2002)
19. Chandrika Kumaratunga	President of Sri Lanka (1994-2005)
20. Aleksander Kwaśniewski	President of Poland (1995-2005)
21. Zlatko Lagumdžija	Prime Minister of Bosnia & Herzegovina (2001-2002)
22. Stefan Löfven	Prime Minister of Sweden (2014-2021)
23. Moussa Mara	Prime Minister of Mali (2014-2015)
24. Sanna Marin	Prime Minister of Finland (2019-2023)
25. Rexhep Meidani	President of Albania (1997-2002)
26. Carlos Mesa	President of Bolivia (2003-2005)
27. James Michel	President of the Seychelles (2004-2016)
28. Anand Panyarachun	Prime Minister of Thailand (1991-1992)
29. George Papandreu	Prime Minister of Greece (2009 – 2011)
30. Andrés Pastrana	President of Colombia (1998-2002)
31. José Manuel Ramos-Horta	President of Timor-Leste
32. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero	President of the Government of Spain (2004-2011)
33. Francisco Sagasti	President of Peru (2020-2021)
34. Hanna Suchocka	Prime Minister of Poland (1992-1993)
35. Jigmi Thinley	Prime Minister of Bhutan (2008-2013)
36. Martín Torrijos	President of Panama (2004-2009)
37. Aminata Touré	Prime Minister of Senegal (2013-2014)
38. Danilo Türk	President of Slovenia (2007-2012) & Club de Madrid President
39. Cassam Uteem	President of Mauritius (1992-2002)
40. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono	President of Indonesia (2004-2014)