

Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation to reduce deforestation, protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development between the governments of the Republic of Colombia, the Kingdom of Norway, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The governments of the Republic of Colombia (Colombia), the Kingdom of Norway (Norway), the Federal Republic of Germany (Germany), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), hereinafter referred to as the 'participants', hereby:

Reaffirm their commitment to continue the alliance established with the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) signed in Paris on November 30, 2015, and renewed in Madrid on December 11, 2019, based on the efforts, progress, and achievements made under the previous JDIs.

Express their recognition of Colombia for its results and efforts in consolidating deforestation reduction over three consecutive years, compared to the 2021 baseline, achieving the two lowest figures in recent history since monitoring data has been available. They acknowledge the fundamental role of national policy reflected in instruments such as the Integral Plan for Deforestation Containment and the National Restoration Strategy, among others.

Praise Colombia's role and leadership in the regional and global context for its efforts to integrate biodiversity and climate change agendas, recognizing forests as strategic assets for climate action and sustainable development.

Recognize that despite efforts and progress, pressures on forests persist, preventing the achievement of national goals for sustainable forest management, making it necessary to promote and deepen cooperation actions to significantly reduce deforestation and forest degradation in alignment with the goals established in the Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity; Colombia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC); the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to 2030 (NBSAP); the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use and its implementation platform, the Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP); the Escazú Agreement; and national long-term public policies such as CONPES 4021 "Countering Deforestation" and the National Council for Combating Deforestation and Other Environmental Crimes (CONALDEF).

Therefore, the participants have reached the following understanding:

I. Objective

Participants understand this alliance as a **platform for political dialogue and cooperation** with the aim to:

- Contribute to the high ambitions of Colombia in fighting climate change and protecting biodiversity
- Significantly reduce deforestation and forest degradation and related greenhouse gas emissions
- Protect and conserve biodiversity
- Promote inclusive, just and sustainable development
- Coordinate and align participant activities around forest protection in Colombia.

II. Thematic Priorities

The participants declare their disposition to focus on the following thematic priorities:

1. **Reduce deforestation and forest degradation** at the national level.
2. **Promote restoration strategies** in ecologically degraded areas with ambitious forest recovery goals integrating environmental, social, and economic benefits.
3. **Strengthen biodiversity-based economies** by promoting sustainable and inclusive economic alternatives.
4. **Enhance monitoring systems for deforestation-free supply chains**, especially livestock and other significant drivers of forest loss.
5. **Strengthen territorial governance and territorial planning, including a focus on water and** recognizing the central role of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant, Raizal, Palenquero, and rural communities, with a special focus on women.
6. **Strengthen the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system** of mitigation actions at a national level, in coherence with the principles recognized in the IPCC guidelines.
7. **Publish the regulation for the carbon market** with a solid and transparent legal framework including high-integrity standards and social and environmental safeguards.
8. **Promote cross-border cooperation** recognizing the social, ecological, and cultural connectivity of the Amazon biome.
9. **Promote public safety and prevention of socio-environmental conflicts** with active civil society participation, including protection measures for environmental defenders in ecologically important areas.
10. **Strengthen interinstitutional coordination** to combat environmental crimes associated with biodiversity and forest loss, with a human rights approach.

III. Implementation Principles

The implementation of actions to fulfill these priorities will be carried out ensuring:

- Involvement of public, private, and community actors at national, regional, and local levels.
- Effective participation mechanisms for civil society, including Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, *Raizales*, *Palenqueros*, *Campesinos*, and youth, ensuring inclusivity and interculturality.
- Intersectoral and interinstitutional cooperation to align public policies, legal frameworks, and sustainable development programs and their proper implementation.
- Human rights protection and both articulation and recognition of community governance mechanisms of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, *Raizales*, *Palenqueros*, *Campesinos*.
- Transparency and accountability through open information, monitoring, and participatory evaluation.
- Coherence with international and national commitments, ensuring that the implemented actions are aligned to multilateral environmental agreements and long-term policies of the country.
- Establishment of a governance structure of the JDI to guarantee for an effective, transparent, and coordinated implementation.
- Donor coordination across bilateral and multilateral programs and technical cooperation.

IV. Contributions from the participants

Participants will align programmatic and financial initiatives on forests and climate change to achieve the goals of this declaration, promoting fund complementarity, coordinated technical support, and greater interinstitutional articulation among national and international actors.

The participants intend to make their contributions through the main modalities detailed below:

Modality A: payment for results based on REDD+

This modality includes financial contributions based on results for verified reductions in emissions coming from deforestation and forest degradation at the national level. The contributions will be subject to third-party verification of the results reported by Colombia. Under this modality the results for verified emissions reductions will not be subject to transfers and will be maintained for the national accounting of Colombia to fulfil its climate change goals.

Disbursements under this modality will be subject to the availability of funds and the presentation of verified emissions reductions from deforestation and forest degradation, certified by high integrity standards such as Architecture for REDD+ Transactions – ART or other standards that guarantee high levels of transparency and rigor and will be accompanied by benefit sharing plans. Any applied standard must be aligned with the principles of the UNFCCC and the guidelines of good practices from the IPCC.

As a provisional measure, the participants may agree to develop a MRV protocol that guarantees a high level of social and environmental integrity. Said protocol should conform with the relevant decisions under the UNFCCC convention (CMNUCC) and the Paris agreement, with technical requirements and transparency that guarantee a high level of social and environmental integrity. The results should be calculated based on a reference component: the historical average of Colombia's Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL), submitted and evaluated by the UNFCCC for deforestation. The protocol will include a simplified deduction to account for emissions reductions claimed by REDD+ projects that are not used for the fulfilment under the national scheme of the carbon tax of Colombia.

Modality B: Programmatic Support

This modality includes technical and financial support provided directly by cooperating countries through programs and projects with Colombia that align with the objectives of this declaration. Programmatic and financial initiatives should include both existing and future.

NOTE: Participants may consider exceptional payments for the achievement of strategic policy milestones that are critical to consolidating the new phase of emissions reductions. These would be made from the remaining resources allocated to previously agreed milestones that were not fully achieved, as reflected in the 2022, 2023 and 2024 reports.

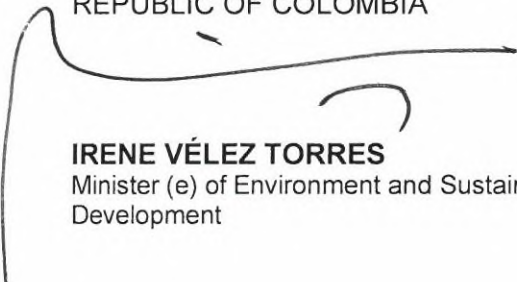
V. Validity and other considerations

- a) Details of this alliance will be outlined in two annexes, to be elaborated. The first annex will include details of the specific contributions from the partners. The second annex will define the governance structure for the implementation of the JDI. This will serve as the foundation for the participants' work and will outline the functioning of the JDI as a political and cooperation platform.

- b) This Joint Declaration of Intent becomes effective upon signing and remains valid until the end of 2030. Any participant may terminate their cooperation under this JDI at any moment and should inform their intention with at least three (3) months prior notice, by means of a written notification addressed to the other participants.
- c) This JDI can be modified at any time through the written consent of all the participants.
- d) This JDI, including its annexes, does not create any legally binding rights or obligations for the participants. Its content solely reflects the political intention and good faith purpose of the participants to cooperate in the areas established herein.
- e) The participants will meet periodically, at least once per year, to promote and review the implementation status of this Declaration. The meetings will be attended by Government representatives of the participants.

The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed on 10 March 2026 in four copies in English and Spanish. In case of conflict between the two versions, the English version will be used.

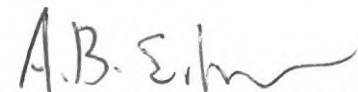
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA



IRENE VÉLEZ TORRES

Minister (e) of Environment and Sustainable
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FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF NORWAY



ANDREAS BJELLAND ERIKSEN

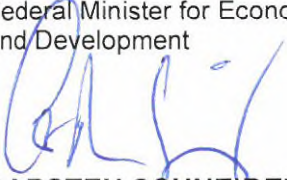
Minister of Climate and Environment
Oslo, Norway. 17 March 2026

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



REEM ALABALI-RADOVAN

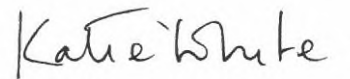
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation
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CARSTEN SCHNEIDER

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FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
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Minister for Climate in the Department for
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London, UK 15 April 2026