OPEN LETTER

Antalya, 19 November 2026

His Excellency
Murat Kurum
Minister of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye
President of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The Honourable
Chris Bowen
Minister for Climate Change and Energy of Australia
COP31 President of Negotiations

Antalya, Republic of Türkiye

Excellencies:

I extend my respectful greetings and thank you for the time and attention you may give to this letter. We also recognize your tireless efforts on behalf of COP31 and our mutual objectives.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Panama and in our national capacities, I write to formally convey our country's position ahead of the adoption of the decisions of this Conference, and to formally communicate what I expressed before you at the High-Level Ministerial Round Table on the evening of 18 November.

We are grateful for the contributions of each country and respect every position. We have listened carefully to the speeches of these days. They are beautiful speeches. But while we listen to endless oratory, the planet is being destroyed. I thank every delegation for participating in good faith. Good faith, however, is not enough. Outside this room and this Conference, the world needs and expects radical change from us, and we are not delivering it.

You asked us for the truth. The truth is that the world has already breached the 1.5 °C threshold. We are in dire straits, and we keep increasing oil production while pontificating endlessly on the need to reduce emissions. Overshoot is a unacceptable. That is precisely why 1.5 °C cannot be treated as a negotiable aspiration. It is the strict limit science imposes on us, and every additional tenth of a degree is paid for in lives, ecosystems and economies.

Accordingly, I inform you that Panama will not join any consensus, and will formally object in the closing plenaries, to the adoption of any decision that does not lead to an outcome satisfactory to our principles and our values. For Panama, a satisfactory outcome is one that considers, at a minimum, the following elements:

1. Science as the foundation—Every decision must be based on the best available science and follow the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC must be fully funded and supported.

2. Real transparency—Texts must acknowledge, without euphemism, the gap between the current trajectory and the 1.5 °C limit, and Parties must report truthfully on what they are doing to close it. We Will not accept language that fails to recognize the failure of the 1.5°C.

3. New rules of engagement—A path must be opened to adopt decisions by simple majority when consensus is not possible, as in the United Nations General Assembly, so that the will of a few cannot paralyze the action of all. We will object to any decision that fails to reform the current failed rules of engagement.

4. The three Rio conventions, together—Negotiations under the three Rio conventions (climate change, biological diversity and desertification) must be joint and coordinated, as Panama proposed in its Nature Pledge (2025), so that small countries without large delegations or large resources can participate fully in these vital processes. We will only support language and resolutions that reflect our position.

5. A cap on oil production—Global oil production must be capped at current levels, as a first verifiable step in the transition away from fossil fuels. Special and urgent efforts must be made immediately to eliminate methane. Panama will not support any language nor any resolution that omits this vital principle.

6. Those who produce the problem must help to solve it—Developed countries, oil-producing countries, and carbon emitters should make an immediate and proportional contribution to adaptation, to mitigation, and to a clean energy fund. It is simply common sense that those who produce the oil and generate the carbon dioxide that cause the problem, contribute to solving it. All contributions, support, ODA, environmental, clean energy, and climate financial support should be made public in a transparent manner. These principles must be in all language and resolutions. Panama will formally object to any other outcome.

7. Urgent conservation—Priority national action plans for combatting climate change and for the conservation of biodiversity, forests, rivers, mangroves and the ocean of each country must be advanced immediately. The planet is dying, and nature is our first

adaptation infrastructure. Final language must reflect this urgent priority for it to be acceptable to us.

8. Clean and immediate electrification—There must be an immediate push for electrification based on renewable energy, with special funding to be provided by the biggest polluters, carbon dioxide emitters, and petroleum producers. not electrification of any kind.

Panama has the moral authority to support our position. We are one of the few carbon-negative countries in the world, and we ask of no one what we have not already done ourselves.

We fully respect the position of every country. And we demand equal and full respect for our position.

Panama will not lend its name to an outcome that continues to ignore and attempts to excuse each nation's individual responsibility, and by so doing prolongs and worsens the crisis. We would rather speak the truth than endorse inutile, complacent, or ineffective language. We trust that the Presidency and the Presidency of Negotiations will lead the closing stage with the ambition this moment demands, and we stand ready to work with you in the coming hours to achieve it, in accordance to the principles held forth in the present letter.

I remain at your disposal, as does Eng. Valeria Bernal (vbernal@miambiente.gob.pa), for any matter related to this request.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration and respect. We remain at your disposal should you require clarification or any further information regarding our position, as expressed in the present letter.

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Navarro
Minister of Environment
Republic of Panama

cc: Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Steering Comitee, Asociación Independiente de Latinoamérica y del Caribe, AILAC