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Promises to Keep against Climate Change: A Stylistic Analysis of Iran, China and Brazil's Statements at COP26

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1. Iran's statement, given at COP26 by His Excellency Mr. Ali Salajegheh, Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Tuesday, 9 November 2021

[1] In the name of God

[2] Mr. President,

Executive secretary of UNFCCC, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

[2a] It is indeed a pleasure to be present in this august meeting,

[3] First of all, I would like to inform that my president his excellency Dr Mahammad Ebrahim Raisi was very much willing to attend this summit for not only his personal attachment to climate change and environmental issues, but also for the legal obligations according on domestic laws and regulation of my government to protect the collective right to clean and protect environment of Iranian nation. [4] However, on his behalf I would like to extend his best wishes for the success of this conference.

[5] Mr. president

[5a] The government of Islamic republic of Iran is committed alongside with other nations to combat climate change and global warming with the full support of the Supreme Leader. [6] The government and Iranian environment department whose head is of the rank of vice president, devise a very ambitious national plan to cope with the consequences of climate change. [7] However, Mr. President, when it comes the international cooperation and all stakeholders globally unfortunately my country faces an obstacle which is economic terrorism.

[8] Mr. president

[8a] We are facing a relevant questions raised by members of parliament when they are in the legal process of ratification of Paris Agreement, that question is: [8b] if the Islamic republic of Iran becomes the full member of Paris agreement while unilateral coercive sanction or measures are imposed on the whole country of Iran, how the government would be able to implement its commitments if it is unable to receive any international assistance being financial or technical assistance from international community. [9] That question still remains unanswered. [10] And I put the same question before you Mr. president and all member state around this table why blind

coercive measures are imposed on my country and few others which not only are inflicting sufferings on a nation but also is undermining the global efforts to combat climate change to the benefit of the humanity.

[11] This is the sad long story of taking human issues as a hostage for political objective of a few if not one.

[12] Thank you Mr. president.

(Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/311029>. Last accessed July 2023)

2. China's statement, submitted for COP26 by His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, on Monday, 1 November 2021

[1] Unite for Action To Protect the Planet, Our Shared Home

Written Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At the World Leaders Summit

1 November 2021

[2] Honourable Prime Minister Boris Johnson,

[2a] Colleagues,

[3] It gives me great pleasure to attend the World Leaders Summit and discuss ways to address the climate challenge. [4] As we speak, the adverse impacts of climate change have become increasingly evident, presenting a growing urgency for global action. [5] How to respond to climate change and revive the world economy are challenges of our times that we must meet.

[6] First, we need to uphold multilateral consensus. [7] When it comes to global challenges such as climate change, multilateralism is the right prescription. [8] The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement provide the fundamental legal basis for international cooperation on climate. [9] Parties need to build on existing consensus, increase mutual trust, step up cooperation and work together to deliver a successful COP26 in Glasgow.

[10] Second, we need to focus on concrete actions. [11] Visions will come true only when we act on them. [12] Parties need to honour their commitments, set realistic targets and visions, and do their best according to national conditions to deliver their climate action measures. [13] Developed countries should not only do more themselves, but should also provide support to help developing countries do better.

[14] Third, we need to accelerate the green transition. [15] It is important to harness innovations in science and technology to transform and upgrade our energy and resources sectors as well as the industrial structure and consumption pattern, promote a greener economy and society, and explore a new pathway forward that coordinates development with conservation.

[16] Colleagues,

[16a] Guided by the vision of a community of life for man and Nature, China will continue to prioritize ecological conservation and pursue a green and low-carbon path to development. [17] We will foster a green, low-carbon and circular economic system at a faster pace, press ahead with industrial structure adjustment, and rein in the irrational development of energy-intensive and high-emissions projects. [18] We will speed up the transition to green and low-carbon energy, vigorously develop renewable energy, and plan and build large wind and photovoltaic power stations. [19] Recently, China released two directives: Working Guidance for Carbon Dioxide Peaking and Carbon Neutrality in Full and Faithful Implementation of the New Development Philosophy, and the Action Plan for Carbon Dioxide Peaking Before 2030. [20] Specific implementation plans for key areas such as energy, industry, construction and transport, and for key sectors such as coal, electricity, iron and steel, and cement will be rolled out, coupled with supporting measures in terms of science and technology, carbon sink, fiscal and taxation, and financial incentives. [21] Taken together, these measures will form a “1+N” policy framework for delivering carbon peak and carbon neutrality, with clearly-defined timetable, roadmap and blueprint.

[22] Ancient Chinese believe that “successful governance relies on solid action”. [23] I hope all parties will take stronger actions to jointly tackle the climate challenge and protect the planet, the shared home for us all.

[24] Thank you.

(Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/308159>. Last accessed July 2023)

3. Brazil’s statement, given at COP26 by His Excellency Mr. Joaquim Leite, Minister of the Environment of Brazil, on Wednesday, 10 November 2021

[1] Mr President,

Honorable Heads of State and Government, Honorable Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

[1a] It is an honor to be here, representing Brazil, at this important Conference of the Parties in Glasgow. [2] I thank, on behalf of our delegation, for the kind reception and I congratulate the COP26 team for the organization. [3] In our case, this effort was mutual, because Brazil also received Glasgow. [4] We set up an interactive structure and promoted the participation of 10 ministers of state, connected in real time to our pavilion here in Glasgow, demonstrating the integrated action of the Brazilian government in the international climate agenda. [5] Thus, it was also possible to present cases of a real Brazil in several panels.

[6] This is part of a greater effort, with already clear outcomes. [7] Brazil, as a key player in the negotiations, made important moves during the first days and we announced even more ambitious climate targets: 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050; eliminate illegal deforestation by 2028; and support the global methane reduction. [8] We proactively gave clear signs that Brazil is part of the solution to overcome this global challenge to reduce emissions.

[9] Brazil is gigantic by nature, so our actions reflect the proportions of our territory and our people. [10] Our low-carbon agriculture has already restored nearly 28 million hectares of degraded pastures and will increase this number to 58 million by 2030; [10a] we have the world's

largest biofuels operational program, our renewable energies contribute to 84% of our electricity matrix, generating a record of 380 thousand jobs in solar and wind; [10b] we have 16 million hectares of native forests in recovery; [10c] and our solid waste management program has already reduced the number of dumpsites by 20%.

[11] We particularly highlight the Águas Brasileiras Program, which aims to plant 100 million trees in the Cerrado, Pantanal and Caatinga biomes. [12] Also, the New Basic Sanitation Framework, which gives the opportunity for the private sector to provide wastewater treatment to over 100 million people. [13] Also, the incredible transformation from the logistical modal to railroads, with more than 5,000 km of new rails, representing a 75% reduction in emissions of GEE in cargo transport and equating the Brazilian modal to that of developed countries. [14] Results like these demonstrate the strength of the current and real Brazilian environmental policy.

[15] But the Government of Brazil wants more. [16] Less than a month ago, we launched the foundations of the National Green Growth Program, to give priority to green initiatives, whether public or private, aimed at reducing emissions, forest conservation and rational use of natural resources, hence contributing to the generation of green jobs. [17] The program already includes resources from federal banks in the order of 50 billion dollars.

[18] We recognize our challenges and have been working to overcome them. [19] To contain illegal deforestation in the Amazon, the Federal Government doubled the resources allocated to federal environmental agencies and is going to hire 739 new environmental agents. [20] In addition, the Ministry of Justice collaborates with 700 men in the field, working in 23 municipalities in an ostensible and permanent way. [21] The Ministry of Defense, through Censipam, recently launched an innovative and even more accurate forest monitoring system.

[22] We also recognize that where there is a lot of forest there is also a lot of poverty. [23] And, to promote sustainable development in the region, we created the National Program for Payments for Environmental Services Floresta+, which seeks to promote the market for environmental services, recognizing and providing payments to those who take care of the forest.

[24] At this COP and even long before we get here, our Delegation has been working to achieve positive results in creating a global carbon market under Article 6, understanding Brazil's role in building bridges between the different parties and its potential as an exporter of carbon credits, contributing to a more balanced global reduction.

[25] It is important that developed countries recognize the financial emergency and mobilize the necessary resources to achieve the desired goals at this conference. [26] The \$100 billion target was not met and currently this figure is no longer sufficient for the world to build a new green economy with a responsible transition. [27] More ambitious volumes are needed, with easy access and agile execution, so that the transformation takes place in an inclusive way in each territory around the world, mainly in regions that are more vulnerable in terms of climate and economic development.

[28] The countries that are historically and currently responsible for the largest volumes of emissions must demonstrate their effective funding ambitions at this conference, without further postponing a commitment made in 2015 and so far, not fully realized.

[29] All parties of this conference must take on their common but differentiated responsibilities towards a green economy neutral in emissions. [30] The global challenge to be overcome is to revert the negative logic of punishment, sanction and prohibition to the positive logic of incentive,

innovation and prioritization. [31] It is necessary to transform the environmental agenda into an opportunity to generate green jobs.

[32] Based on a constructive vision, we will find the way to create the sustainable future we all want.

[33] The Green Future has already started in Brazil.

[34] Thank you very much.

(Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/310808>. Last accessed July 2023)