Hi [Name],

Hope you’ve been well! I know it’s been a while since we last connected on FAS. Reaching out with some other news related to the Amazon that may be of interest.

Following talks at the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) Summit in the city of Belém, COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber and Brazil’s President Lula da Silva have expressed their joint commitment to deliver a more equitable climate future, by putting nature at the core of the climate agenda at COP28.

During the talks, Dr. Al Jaber and President da Silva reaffirmed the vital importance of protecting the Amazon rainforest to keep 1.5°C within reach. They agreed on a range of issues, including fighting deforestation and degradation, enhancing the bioeconomy and strengthening adaptation actions.

Please see the press release attached for Dr. Al Jaber’s full remarks, as well as a press release with additional details.

Many thanks,

[Name]

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This material is distributed by Edelman on behalf of Masdar. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

[Name]

Senior Vice President

Edelman
COP28 President-Designate stands with Brazil's President Lula da Silva in call for protecting and investing in nature to deliver ambitious, just and equitable climate progress.

- COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber commends the leadership of President Lula in reducing deforestation in Brazil by 34 percent in just the last six months and targeting zero illegal deforestation by 2030.
- Dr. Sultan Al Jaber and Brazil's President Lula stand united at a landmark Amazon Summit, expressing their commitment to deliver a more equitable climate future and calling on world leaders to bring their energy and ambition to COP28.
- The Presidency continues to build on the back of Dr Sultan's recently announced COP28 plan to Fast-track an orderly and equitable energy transition, Fix climate finance, Focus on people, lives and livelihoods and underpin everything with Full inclusivity.
- Brazil assumes the Presidency of the G20 during COP28 and will host COP30, leading to a desire to build a bridge to enable inclusive, resilient and lasting climate progress.
- The talks between President da Silva and Dr. Sultan Al Jaber took place during a key climate summit in Belém at the mouth of the Amazon River. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber also spoke at the event and met with ministers and heads of state to build consensus on the road to COP28.

Belém, 9 August 2023: Following talks at the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) Summit in the city of Belém, COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber and Brazil's President Lula da Silva have expressed their joint commitment to deliver a more equitable climate future, by putting nature at the core of the climate agenda at COP28.

Both parties have expressed an intention to build a bridge to enable inclusive, resilient and lasting climate progress. This comes on the back of Dr Sultan's recently announced COP28 plan to Fast-track an orderly and equitable energy transition, Fix climate finance, Focus on people, lives and livelihoods and underpin everything with Full inclusivity.

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During the talks, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber and President da Silva reaffirmed the vital importance of protecting the Amazon rainforest to keep 1.5°C within reach.

They agreed on a range of issues, including fighting deforestation and degradation, enhancing the bioeconomy and strengthening adaptation actions.

Promoting low carbon agriculture practices and intensifying bilateral and multilateral cooperation in areas such as food, health, science, technology, and innovation also featured. However, reforming international climate finance and bolstering clean energy deployment were identified as particular areas of joint focus to be pursued from COP28 through to COP30.

Commenting on the talks, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said: "President Lula da Silva is bringing the energy, focus and drive we need to meet the urgency of the moment. In the first half of 2023 alone, he has cut deforestation in Brazil's Amazon by 34% and it is this strong and robust leadership that can deliver substantive outcomes in the real world.

"Alongside President da Silva, I call on other leaders to bring the same energy and ambition to COP28, and in particular, to unite around decisive action and achieve game-changing results on climate finance and the global energy transition."

ACTO unites Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela in a shared ambition to promote the preservation of the Amazon basin and regulate Amazonian development.

Dr. Al Jaber attended to the summit to not meet only with President da Silva, but to also speak to ACTO directly on his recognition of its work to protect the Amazon and his commitment to support South-South cooperation and the alliance between Brazil and other tropical forest regions including Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, the main focus of his remarks was the united effort that must now take place at COP28 to raise ambition for progress across all climate pillars and build a bridge to a sustainable future, particularly in the area of international finance.

He said: "We need to expand available, accessible and affordable finance to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and ensure that adequate finance meets the needs of nature. This Presidency will keep the pressure on donor countries to fulfill the overdue 100 billion pledge and seek to ensure that a designated portion of these funds is directed to nature and forest protection."

In his speech, Dr. Sultan also praised Brazil's inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in developing solutions to climate change and expressed COP28's commitment to put their rights front and center of COP28's approach to nature.

He said "While representing five per cent of the global population, indigenous communities protect over 80 per cent of our biodiversity. The role of Indigenous communities in preserving natural ecosystems and promoting sustainable land use practices cannot be over-stated. COP28 will give space for their perspectives so that their voices and wisdom can be heard and amplified."

As part of the COP28 Presidency delegation to Brazil, Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High Level Champion for COP28, emphasized the inextricable link between addressing climate change and nature loss.
"We have just over six years to simultaneously reverse biodiversity loss, halve emissions, enhance adaptation, and advance equity. This transformation needs to be inclusive, nature positive and with justice at its heart," said Ms. Al Mubarak. "It is my strong conviction that investing in nature is the most cost-effective mitigation and adaptation solution for climate change."

She also stressed the critical inclusion and support for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in the development of collective climate and nature solutions, adding: "We must all recognize the fundamental role of IPLCs in protecting the world's most biodiverse and ecologically important areas. Over 75% of forests are protected by indigenous peoples and local communities, yet only 17% of funds allocated in the last ten years included an Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities organization. Indigenous Peoples need access to resources to maintain their self-determined climate actions."

During his visit to Brazil, Dr. Al Jaber held meetings with world leaders to discuss the COP28 energy transition agenda, including with Luis Arce, President of Bolivia; Gustavo Petro, President of Colombia; Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Mark Phillips, Prime Minister of Guyana.

Dr. Al Jaber also held bilateral meetings with Marina Silva, Minister of Environment of Brazil; Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil; Jean Paul Prates, CEO of Petrobras; and Antonio Queiroz, Vice President of Innovation, Technology and Sustainable Development at Braskem, among others.

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Notes to Editors COP28 UAE:

- COP28 UAE will take place at Expo City Dubai from November 30-December 12, 2023. The Conference is expected to convene over 70,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth, and non-state actors.
- As mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 UAE will deliver the first ever Global Stocktake – a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals.
- The UAE will lead a process for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a pragmatic global energy transition and a "leave no one behind" approach to inclusive climate action.
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to be included in this esteemed gathering.

May I first express my gratitude to His Excellency President Lula da Silva for inviting me to participate in this very important Amazon Summit and Collaboration for Sustainable Development.

And may I extend the warmest greetings from the leadership and people of the United Arab Emirates to the leadership and people of Brazil and to all the visiting leaders from around the world participating here today.

As the UAE prepares to welcome the world to COP28, we are grateful for the opportunity to meaningfully engage with the hosts of COP30- and to build a real, substantive bridge that can enable inclusive, resilient and lasting climate progress.

And before I continue, allow me also to recognize the leaders of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization convening here today.

You are the guardians of a vital and delicate ecosystem that sustains life, lives and livelihoods, not only for the peoples of the Amazon region, but for the planet we all share.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Amazon rainforests are rightly referred to as “the lungs of the world”. Together with other major tropical forests, they are home to over 50 per cent of the world’s biodiversity.

They provide the essentials of life to over 2 billion people.
And they remove almost 6 billion tons of CO2 from the atmosphere every single year.

In short, this region, alongside the world’s other major forested regions, is critical to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and keeping 1.5 within reach.

Yet, in the year of the first global stock-take, the trends are pointing in the wrong direction.

Globally, wildlife populations have fallen almost 70 per cent since 1970.

We’ve lost 420 million hectares of forests in the last 40 years.

And our ability to capture carbon is not keeping up with the rise in emissions.

That is why, the COP28 Presidency is calling for a major course correction, backed by a comprehensive plan of action.

A plan aimed at fast tracking an equitable and orderly energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people lives and livelihoods and underpinning everything with full inclusivity.

Excellencies...nature must sit at the core of the climate agenda, and I can tell you that nature is a paramount priority for COP28.

We will build on the experience and the lessons that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and Indigenous Peoples can teach us about how to protect and restore nature, while advancing sustainable development.

And here let me commend the leadership of President Lula in reducing deforestation in Brazil by 34 per cent in just the last six months and targeting zero illegal deforestation by 2030.

This is the kind of leadership we want to build-on to inspire transformational progress at COP28 on nature, alongside all climate pillars.

We will work to strengthen the alliance between the tropical forest regions of the world from the Amazon to Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

And we will look to expand it further through south-south cooperation.
The UAE sees itself as a natural partner in this effort, as we continue to build on our own legacy of biodiversity and environmental protection, by restoring and expanding mangrove forests at home and around the world.

And we will promote the essential role that indigenous peoples play in preserving natural ecosystems through sustainable land use practices.

While representing five per cent of the global population, indigenous communities protect over 80 per cent of our biodiversity. Their rights and way of life must be assured.

And COP28 will give space for their voices to be heard and their wisdom to be amplified.

Protecting nature means investing in nature. That is why we are taking a holistic approach to climate finance.

Ninety per cent of climate finance goes to mitigation, only ten per cent to adaptation...and less than ten per cent of all climate finance goes to emerging and developing economies in the global south.

We need to expand available, accessible and affordable finance to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and ensure that adequate finance meets the needs of nature.

This Presidency will keep the pressure on donor countries to fulfill the overdue 100 billion pledge and seek to ensure that a designated portion of these funds is directed to nature and forest protection.

Significant IFI and MDB reform is also critical to unlock more concessional finance, lower risk and bring private finance to the table. And we are working closely with the leaders of the World Bank and IMF to push this agenda at the upcoming annual meetings in Marrakesh.

In addition, we are calling on all parties to match the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework they signed up to last year that protects 30 per cent of nature by 2030, with budgeted strategies.
This includes directing finance to restore degraded agricultural land, support sustainable farming, protect coastal areas, marine life, marshlands, rivers and freshwater lakes.

Ensuring the health of our natural environment is a critical element for the necessary transformation of the world’s food and agricultural systems.

Brazil, as one of the largest producers and suppliers of food to the world is already taking progressive steps on this journey that we will seek to build on.

And let me just add that investing in nature and sustainability is just that—an investment, not a cost.

According to the World Bank, 2.7 trillion dollars in global GDP could be added by 2030, by avoiding current rates of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

That said, we must also recognize the mounting cost of doing too little, too late. That is why, as climate impacts become more severe and continue to wreck the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable, we must fully operationalize the fund and funding arrangements for loss and damage this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen...inclusivity is the guiding principle of COP28. It is one of the reasons I am so pleased to be here with you today.

I have come from a land that is mostly desert to one that is greener than any place on earth.

Our countries may look different, but our needs, our hopes and our ambitions for our children and the future are the same.

If we are going to make the transformational progress that the world so clearly needs, we must unite as one like never before. North and South, East and West. Developed and developing nations.

The UAE will use its natural advantages as a crossroads to the world and a connector of civilizations to create consensus around an ambitious climate agenda that puts nature, people, lives and livelihoods first.

I am calling on you, as the guardians of the natural world, to bring your passion, your creativity, your practical experience and your leadership to COP28.
Let us co-create a platform at COP28 that puts nature in the spotlight. Help us make it a COP that sets the bar for protecting nature, raises ambition for progress across all climate pillars and builds a bridge to a sustainable future.

Thank You.