BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY

CLIMATE RESILIENCE BEGINS WITHIN

Statement for the
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Climate change remains one of the defining challenges of our time. Its impacts are visible in damaged ecosystems, disrupted livelihoods, and displaced communities. While science, policy, finance, and technology are indispensable to addressing this reality, lasting progress depends on the human consciousness, values, and choices that shape how these resources are used and how we relate to one another and to the natural world.

The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University views the climate crisis as a multi-dimensional challenge, possessing environmental, economic, and social dimensions, as well as an inner and spiritual dimension. As we gather for COP31, we reaffirm our commitment to putting forward this perspective - grounded in our foundational framework on the confluence of human consciousness and the environment as two interacting living systems, which we first presented at COP15 in 2009. At the heart of an inner life manifested through consciousness are the thoughts, intentions, attitudes, and awareness from which we make sense of the world and from which our daily choices arise. This inner life is not separate from the world around us; it influences how we understand our needs, how we define progress, and how we exercise responsibility. This perspective suggests that enduring external change begins with a shift in the consciousness behind our actions.

Real change begins when we become aware of the consciousness from which we act. This approach does not mean turning away from the realities of climate change or placing inner reflection above practical action. Rather, it means recognising that the quality of our decisions is influenced by our intentions, priorities, and our understanding of our relationship with the Earth and the living world. When awareness, care, and responsibility guide choices, different possibilities become available, supporting a natural shift in behaviour. This shift gently guides human action away from excessive consumption towards a mindful use of resources, away from short-term gain towards long-term responsibility, and away from indifference towards active care for vulnerable communities. Furthermore, it encourages a transition from competition without limits towards constructive cooperation, moving from a view of nature as merely a resource to a recognition of our dependence upon and connection with the natural world. This requires an acute awareness that the dynamics of climate change do not recognise borders, making robust international cooperation essential for coordinated action at both policy and remediation levels.

The Foundation of Climate Action: Inner Resilience

As climate-related challenges become more frequent, humanity faces a test carrying an essential ethical and spiritual dimension. Alongside effective policies and technological innovation, there is a need to strengthen the inner qualities that help communities respond wisely and remain constructively engaged, even in difficult circumstances.

Resilience does not mean looking away from harsh realities. It begins with seeing the external reality as a reflection of how our past lack of systemic vision and collective oversight have brought us to this point. And resilience requires faith in the capacity of the world to rejuvenate itself if we respond responsibly. This means acknowledging scientific evidence with courage while maintaining hope and a sense of shared responsibility. Even in the midst of visible devastation, life carries an inherent capacity for renewal. Recognising this potential is a matter of shifting our deepest sense of identity - moving from a purely material view of ourselves to an awareness of the inner, enduring self. Approaching global challenges from this foundational self-awareness broadens the understanding of our relationship and responsibility toward the wider living system. Seeing the world through this lens of inner consciousness allows us to offer sustainable, creative solutions that address the root of our current crisis. This understanding helps us meet loss with dignity and sustains our collective commitment to action.

Strengthening this resilience involves:

- **Facing External Reality, Acknowledging Past Oversights, and Responding Responsibly:** Courageously recognising scientific realities, understanding how our past lack of systemic vision shaped our current challenges, and turning this awakened awareness into accountable action.
- **Living Within Planetary Boundaries:** Distinguishing genuine needs from unnecessary wants to foster mindful patterns of consumption.
- **Working Across Differences:** Listening to diverse perspectives with respect to building trust across communities, nations, and generations.
- **Reflecting:** Creating quiet space to step back from reactive decision-making, allowing clarity and wisdom to guide our choices.

These inner qualities are not a substitute for science, policy, or technology. Instead, they serve as a supportive framework, ensuring that we use our knowledge and resources with care for the benefit of both people and the planet.

At COP31, our focus is on:

- **A Peace-Centred Just Transition:** Climate action and peace are inherently linked. Conflict places immense pressure on people and ecosystems, making sustainable progress far more difficult. A just transition is about more than infrastructure; it relies on building trust and reducing inequalities. Community-led initiatives can expand clean energy access while strengthening the social fabric.
- **Adaptation and Human Resilience:** Effective adaptation requires preparing communities both practically and emotionally. As eco-anxiety and climate grief become more widespread, creating spaces of support and hope becomes vital. Inner

resilience helps transform a sense of helplessness into local, shared responsibility and a quiet wisdom about future action.

- **Non-Economic Loss and Damage:** Climate change affects not only livelihoods, but also culture, identity, and heritage. These losses are felt most deeply by vulnerable communities. Acknowledging them is a necessary step towards fairness and more inclusive responses that protect what people value most.
- **Values-Led Implementation:** COP31 presents a vital opportunity to turn commitments into meaningful action. Successful implementation depends heavily on the values and attitudes that shape how we cooperate. Integrating inner resilience into our frameworks can help make climate actions more inclusive, effective, and sustainable.

A Call to Conscious and Collective Action:

Together, we can strengthen global climate resilience by:

- Embracing peace, wellbeing, and inner stability as vital foundations for clear-eyed thinking about the wisest strategies for climate action.
- Supporting sustainable lifestyles through mindful, conscious consumption.
- Standing in solidarity with vulnerable communities, recognising both economic and non-economic losses.
- Deepening cooperation across nations and generations to support effective implementation.
- Accelerating a just and inclusive clean energy transition that leaves no one behind.
- Harnessing innovation and clean technology to connect global ambitions with practical, local action.
- Promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems that protect both human health and nature.

Conclusion

The growing impacts of climate change invite us to reflect on both the world around us and the inner attitudes that drive our choices. Greater awareness of our inner life, and of our interconnectedness with nature, provides a reliable foundation for wiser decisions, sustained cooperation, and lasting action.

We offer this perspective with humility, as a foundational starting point that gives meaning and direction to scientific knowledge, technological innovation, effective policy, and international cooperation. We hope it contributes to a wider, much-needed conversation about how inner resilience, care, and a sense of connection can support the shared work of building a more peaceful, just, and sustainable future.

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU), with its spiritual headquarters in Mt. Abu, India, comprises a worldwide network of centres in 117 countries and is an international non-governmental organisation of the United Nations accredited with General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Associate Status with the Department of Global Communications (DGC); Consultative Status with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Observer Status to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Observer Organisation to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

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