



To Mukhtar Babayev  
COP29 President-Designate  
Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan

### **Response to COP Truce Appeal and COP29 Peace and Climate Initiative**

Minderoo Foundation welcomes the COP29 Climate and Peace Initiative to draw attention to the nexus between climate and conflict.

### **Minderoo is deeply committed to the humanitarian imperative**

Minderoo works globally to address humanitarian crises and advocates for solutions to their root causes. As well as supporting practical life-saving humanitarian responses, we consistently advocate for the protection of civilians and the need to increase support and resources from governments, non-governmental organisations and the international community for aid.

Since October 2023, Minderoo has mobilised almost US\$30 million of humanitarian aid to the Middle East. This support has delivered safe water, sanitation, medical support and supplies and food for tens of thousands of people in Gaza and Lebanon. Minderoo has partnered with the Palestinian Water Authority, UNICEF, World Central Kitchen and the UN World Food Programme. We are also the only philanthropic organisation supporting the Jordanian Corridor via the United Nations Office of Project Services to support the effective delivery of humanitarian aid. Minderoo recently announced a new partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in both Gaza and Lebanon, enabling the delivery of urgent medical supplies and support.

Since the full-scale conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Minderoo has provided more than US\$13 million of humanitarian assistance with our partners, the UN World Food Programme, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Step by Step Association. This has supported food security in Ukraine, removed landmines from productive farmland and provided young children and families with safe shelter.

We are also investing in research to deepen the collective understanding of the link between climate and conflict. Minderoo Foundation convenes the Lethal Humidity Global Council, a group of experts from around the world to exchange the latest scientific research, and formulate rapid, large-scale policy solutions and advocacy that address the threats of lethal humidity and heat.

In September this year, Minderoo Foundation announced US\$4 million worth of new research to address lethal humidity and heat. A study on the catastrophic impacts of lethal humidity on society, including its links to conflict and forced migration, is one of 10 projects that were announced at UN Headquarters during the Summit of the Future.

### **Climate change intensifies displacement and conflict**



Climate change is amplifying displacement and making life harder for those already forced to flee their homes. In our own region, Asia-Pacific, we hear from leaders who are already living with the existential threat presented by climate change. Already, more than 50,000 people in the Pacific are forced to flee their homes every year due to the devastating impacts of climate change and disasters. Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Teo recently called fossil fuel expansion a "death sentence".

Climate-induced mass displacement also creates fertile ground for conflict. Vital resources and infrastructure like water, fuel and arable land can become limited, leading to social tension and conflict. This displacement and conflict also heighten vulnerability to modern slavery and exploitation.

### **Conflict impedes our ability to address the climate crisis**

Conflict and war hinder the urgent action needed to address climate change on multiple levels.

Crucial resources required for climate action are diverted. Funding a military response becomes the focus and clean energy projects, climate adaptation measures, or scientific research are deprioritised.

Conflict also increases reliance on fossil fuels and hinders the transition to renewable energy sources. It directly harms the environment, weakens governance and, as already highlighted, forces people to flee their homes. This can restrain the ability of host communities to address climate change.

### **Humanitarian response**

Our world is grappling with a rising number of crises driven by climate change and conflict. We must ensure that our global system supports and protects humanitarian action. Last year recorded one of the highest numbers of humanitarian aid worker deaths, and access to assist vulnerable communities remains increasingly compromised.

As climate-induced disasters continue to grow, we need to ensure that humanitarian workers are able to undertake their crucial work safely and with adequate resources.

### **We need Real Zero**

This Conference of Parties must be used to act. We stand with you on the need for a truce and for further resources to be deployed to tackle the climate crisis.

We need meaningful leadership from our business and political leaders to achieve Real Zero. Real Zero is the only viable path forward in addressing climate change. Real Zero refers to the complete elimination of all greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the extraction and burning of fossil fuels.



While Net Zero is widely adopted globally, it is increasingly criticised for failing to deliver genuine emission reductions. Net Zero enables entities to continue to rely on offsets or defer decarbonisation, which hinders progress on the necessary energy transition and real emissions reduction.

The opportunity for action is now and Minderoo Foundation stands ready to support.