

Mr. President, excellencies, colleagues,

It is symbolic that we gather here at the gateway to the Amazon forest, one of the world's most important climate systems – now under heavy strain and losing resilience.

Thousands of kilometres away, in the North Atlantic where I am from, another major climate system is showing signs of stress.

I am speaking of AMOC — a vast ocean circulation that moves heat northward and shapes weather patterns across Europe and beyond.

New research suggests that AMOC is not only gradually weakening, but that the risk of large, abrupt change is real – and possibly closer than previous assessments implied.

The destabilisation of AMOC could bring profound disruption to our infrastructure, our ecosystems and living conditions, even during the lifetime of our children.

For Iceland, this is a matter of national security, and the government treats it accordingly.

The two systems, Amazon and AMOC, are entirely different, but they deliver the same warning: man-made climate change is weakening the foundations that keep our societies safe.

But this is not inevitable. Climate tipping points can be averted, by political choice and collective action.

We must accelerate emission cuts, we must invest and invest heavily, in new technologies with new possibilities, from superhot geothermal energy to the capturing and mineralising of CO₂.

We must break the bottlenecks and clear the way for renewable energy — cheap, clean, and abundant.

Above all, we must protect the systems that protect us: the oceans, the forests, and the wetlands.

These are the stabilisers of global climate, and nations that steward them cannot be expected to carry that burden alone.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change is a transnational project, one where we must be guided by best-available science, and by principles of equality and geo-political justice.

Iceland stands ready to contribute to a collective response that matches the scale of the threat.

What we do now — together — will decide whether the next generation inherits a managed transition, or an unmanaged collapse.