



A L L I A N C E O F S M A L L I S L A N D S T A T E S

Statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Second Informal Consultations on the political declaration for the 2022 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

24-25 March 2022

Day1

Introduction

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), in alignment with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China.

We would like to begin by thanking Ambassador McGuire and Ambassador Hermann for the revised text. We believe that this new iteration captures the ideas expressed during the last round of informal consultations, and enriches the Declaration.

Paragraphs 1 through 10

We welcome the language strengthening the climate-ocean nexus in paragraph 3 and 5, as well as the strengthened language in paragraph 4 on committing to take urgent action to achieve the expired targets.

We strongly support the recognition of how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem of marine plastic litter, and also how SIDS have been disproportionately adversely affected by this issue in paragraph 7.

However, we do not see the need for a specific reference to the disposal of PPE in this paragraph. The majority of pandemic-associated mismanaged plastic waste was actually generated by hospitals, rather than PPE, and there are also other contributing factors such as increased utilization of plastic packaging materials for shipping. In this context, we think a broader reference would be more appropriate.

While we are fine with the current formulation of paragraph 9 on BBNJ, we wish to flag that this paragraph may need to be revisited and revised, based on the outcome of the ongoing Fourth IGC.



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In concluding, I would once again like to thank the distinguished co-facilitators once again for providing us with strong text, which has put us on the pathway for a robust outcome at the Second UN Ocean Conference.

I thank you.



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Day 2

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), in alignment with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China.

Paragraphs 11 through 15

We appreciate that the synergies between Goal 14 and the ongoing work of the UNFCCC and CBD are captured in the chapeau of paragraph 11.

We support the closer alignment of 11(b) with the language in the SDG targets, as proposed by the Group of 77 & China regarding satellite data, enabling more effective decision-making regarding environmental impact and sustainable fisheries.

In line with our suggestions on paragraph 7, we think the term “marine plastic litter” in paragraph 11(d) is quite comprehensive and do not see the need for the specific reference to PPE in this paragraph, also noting this was not included in the outcomes of UNEA 5.2.

In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the mandate resolution to launch the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution at UNEA 5.2. We support reference to this landmark mandate in the declaration as we embark on tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution that we are presented with if plastic production and pollution are left to proceed on its current path.

AOSIS is also pleased to note that the agreed language from the SDG14 targets has been preserved in the chapeau of paragraph 12, while reemphasizing the importance of not reopening or renegotiating the targets through this process.

We welcome the language in 11(a) on capacity building to improve data collection and analysis, as this has been a persistent call from AOSIS. The proposal by the G77 & China brings stronger focus on where this should be directed.

Additionally, AOSIS wishes to emphasize the importance of maintaining the context specific references to traditional and local knowledge, as framed in the context of 12(e) and 12(h).

Finally, AOSIS seeks to highlight the role that aquatic foods have in addressing undernourishment, micronutrient deficiency and obesity while securing a low environmental footprint compared to many land-based systems. The declaration could benefit from further



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commitment to their development as aquatic foods have the potential to make the global food systems more sustainable, effective and inclusive.

Conclusion

In concluding, I would once again like to thank the distinguished co-facilitators once again for providing us with such strong text, which has put us on the pathway for a robust outcome at the Second UN Ocean Conference.

I thank you.