

Virtual briefing on the COP26 Presidency and incoming COP27 Presidency

Ambassador Conrod Hunte, Lead Negotiator for Climate Change

10 May 2022

AGENDA

- 10.00-10.05:** Welcome Remarks: H.E. Amb. Woodward, Permanent Representative of the UK to the UN; H.E. Amb. Mahmoud, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN
- 10.05-10.10:** Update from EOSG: ASG Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the UNSG on Climate Action
- 10.10-10.15:** Update on COP26: Archie Young, COP26 Lead Negotiator
- 10.15-10.20:** Update on approach toward COP27, H.E. Amb. Mohamed Nasr, COP27 Lead Negotiator
- 10.20-10.25:** Update on the May Ministerial, H.E. Amb. Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN
- 10.25-10.58:** Discussion with participants

INTERVENTION

[check against delivery]

- Thank you for convening this meeting. I am speaking on behalf of AOSIS and, in fact, calling in from Copenhagen.
- Noting the time, let me recap several key points.
- Colleagues, the resounding message from the IPCC AR6 reports, is that we must deliver **nothing short of transformation** – to paraphrase, *transformation and system transitions in energy, coastal and freshwater ecosystems, infrastructure, industry and society* – if we are to manage the climate crisis.
- Without immediate and aggressive mitigation, we will have ineffective adaptation action, and an exponential increase in loss and damage.
- We saw COP26 rally around 1.5°C, but today's energy insecurity is cover for backtracking on pronounced ambition. The war is not an excuse to let 1.5 to slip out of reach. Energy-related CO₂ emissions rose by 6% last year; nearly half of this increase was due to more coal. AOSIS calls for a system to track Glasgow decisions on phasing down coal and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.

- I remind you that even transient overshoot of 1.5 means catastrophic, **irreversible** impacts on small islands. The global architecture is a moral hazard, where each tonne of emissions adds to warming, but does not bear the cost to vulnerable peoples.
- **Loss and damage** is political. The first Glasgow Dialogue is proposed for a technical level; it should be held at least among Ministers, if not higher. The topic of Loss and Damage financing has spun its wheels among technicians for 30 years. Political leadership is required.
- On **mitigation**, current policies lead to 3.2-degrees of warming. Major economies need to ramp up ambition and implementation in tandem to counter hollow pledges.
- AOSIS asks that all developed countries and major economies come to the UN General Assembly in September with renewed NDC ambition aligned to a 1.5-pathway **with no overshoot**, and concrete plans for net-zero, to inform the Synthesis Reports on Ambition.
- The mitigation work programme should catalyze 1.5-alignment in sectors responsible for emissions, according to the IPCC, in order of priority: Energy supply (34%), Industry (24%), Agriculture and AFOLU (22%), Transport (15%), and Buildings (6%). We urge the COP Presidencies not to wait for COP27 to begin substantive work on the mitigation work programme. There is no time to delay.
- Let us agree that 2023 will be the year global emissions decline, for the first time in modern history, without a worldwide pandemic shutdown. This does not require any new COP decisions: it requires action and follow-through.
- On **adaptation**, the finance gap is large and growing, with needs outpacing scaling-up plans.
- Doubling adaptation finance is a good faith gesture, but AOSIS calls for a quantitative and time-bound delivery and tracking plan from developed countries by COP27, with clear burden sharing.
- On **finance**, it is time to meet the \$100bn. Developed countries should report pledges for 2022, before COP27. Finance commitments should total at least \$100 billion.
- We remind developed countries of their commitment to provide biennial finance projection reports for 2023-2024 and call for these prior to COP27. Submissions should outline support for SIDS in line with Articles 9(3) and 9(9) of the Paris Accord.
- Simplified access to finance is a perennial call that goes unanswered. AOSIS recommends a concrete step: establish a forum for climate finance providers by 2023 to simplify and harmonize their procedures.

- Finally, to accelerate financial alignment of the world economy's \$94 trillion – the third goal of the Paris Agreement – we should launch a dedicated work programme.
- AOSIS will continue this messaging in the May Ministerial over the coming days in Copenhagen. Thanks for convening the meeting.