



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) at the joint SBSTA and SBI Opening Plenary (SB56)

6 June 2022

Abridged version – Check against delivery

Madam Executive Secretary
Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies
Excellencies
Colleagues

I speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, in line with the intervention by the Group of 77 and China.

This year, as Parties, we have two critical challenges ahead: the first is to build accountability and follow-through to convert the Glasgow Climate Pact promises into credible and tangible action; the second is to urgently accelerate a just climate transition that will benefit people's lives.

Permit me to elaborate.

GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT FOLLOW-THROUGH

On the first pillar of the Glasgow Climate Pact:

At COP26, we witnessed a clear shift to collectively support keeping 1.5 alive. The Glasgow Climate Pact called on Parties to **revisit** and **strengthen** 2030 targets in NDCs. We need each Party to do this, aligned to a 1.5-degree global emissions pathway with no overshoot. We expect strengthened NDC targets from major emitters, especially G20 members, by September to inform the Synthesis Report. *This is just 3 months away!*

The **Mitigation Work Programme** is our chance to close the pre-2030 ambition gap. This session should draft text for adoption at COP27 that sets out the critical evidence-based actions for a 1.5-pathway with no overshoot. We call on Parties to indicate when their emissions will peak in their revised NDCs, for those who have not yet peaked emissions or announced a peaking year.

COP26 was a historic moment for explicitly pointing to fossil fuel subsidies, and their market-distorting impact. Excellencies, our decision on this has been reinforced by the Secretary-General of the UN, who called **fossil fuel subsidies** a “scandal”, and the IPCC, which estimates that phasing out subsidies would reduce global GHG emissions by up to one tenth, a full 10%, by 2030 – an amount larger than the third highest emitting Party.

In contrast to the estimated nearly \$6 trillion that subsidized fossil fuels in 2020, developed countries undershot the **hundred-billion-dollar** goal, and provided just \$19 billion for adaptation. The Glasgow decision to at least double **adaptation finance from 2019 levels**, must be reinforced with a plan and complemented by concrete progress on the global goal on adaptation work programme. This should include key performance indicators on access and support. The data we've seen on the number of months to approve an adaptation project is, frankly, embarrassing. It's no wonder the private sector doesn't engage in adaptation finance.

Implementation mode means turning promises into credible action. Today's SBs are a half-way milestone from COP26 to COP27. We need to see and demonstrate progress at this session to arrive in Sharm El-Sheikh on solid ground.

ACCELERATE A JUST TRANSITION

On the second pillar of a just transition:

We have always said that SIDS are canaries in a coal mine when it comes to climate change. This year's IPCC reports confirmed just that, recognizing now, all regions, all countries, companies, communities, and people are being adversely impacted by climate change.

Loss and damage and response measures are the cross-cutting "safeguards" of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Loss and damage is already happening now and getting worse, but financing to address loss and damage has spun its wheels for 30 years.

For AOSIS, the global architecture designed to address climate change is a moral hazard, where each tonne of emissions does not bear the cost of that tonne on vulnerable economies and populations. In 2019, the 39 SIDS emitted just 0.6% of global emissions. Yet, our countries are disproportionately suffering from climate-induced displacement.

As we stated at the adoption of CMA.3 last year, AOSIS firmly believes that this year's Glasgow Dialogue should lead to the conclusion that a new Loss and Damage Finance Facility is necessary and will be adopted at this year's COP, so that the future Glasgow Dialogues to 2024 can operationalize the Facility. We reiterate that position here today, and signal our position for an agenda item on funding arrangements at COP 27 and CMA 4 to facilitate this becoming a reality.

On **response measures**, peaking global emissions at the last possible window to limit warming to 1.5-degrees, which is where we are today, means a dramatic, steep emissions decline. Casualties of the steep decline ahead means more stranded assets, more job displacement, more uncertainty and risk to developing economies, more burden on disadvantaged communities – women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, persons with special needs. Response measures covers analytical work to diversify carbon-intensive sectors and economies and re-train workers.

As we Parties collectively underperform on the three Article 2 goals of the Paris Agreement – adaptation, mitigation and finance – the cross-cutting safeguards of addressing loss and damage



and response measures must now kick in. That is the global perspective we expect to see from a robust Stocktake that prepares us for the coming years of pre-2030 action and implementation.

Finally, rest assured, Distinguished Chairs, that AOSIS will work with you and our partners for strong conclusions at SB-56, in a manner that moves us all forward on the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Progress must be captured in writing; we cannot afford to waste time.

Thank you.





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Full version

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INTRODUCTION

At COP26, we witnessed a clear shift to collectively support keeping 1.5°C alive. AOSIS has long been raising the alarm, and it was encouraging to finally see the contribution of the science from the IPCC, welcomed in the UNFCCC process.

While we made important progress at COP26 and look forward to building on those here in Bonn and at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, AOSIS made major compromises to secure the package as outlined in the COP and CMA decisions, as we outlined in our closing statement in Glasgow.

We are in an interconnected process – mitigation ambition sets the scale of adaptation needs, and adaptation efforts will be futile unless emissions are reduced – with the consequence of inaction being an exponential increase in loss and damage.

With that in mind, our collective objective here, in this process, is to safeguard humanity. To do that, we must limit warming to 1.5°C – this means:

- peaking emissions immediately
- reducing GHG emissions by at least 20% by 2025 and halving by 2030 before achieving net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050.

SCIENCE

The recent working group reports of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report, compiled by hundreds of our world's leading scientists and researchers, has made the science clear. A 1.5°C warmer world is not safe for everyone and climate impacts would be severe and widespread. But only limiting warming to 1.5°C can avoid the worst impacts of climate change and allow climate-resilient development for us, small island states. Even a transient overshoot of 1.5°C will result in irreversible impacts, including near total loss of coral reefs and coastal submersion.

I could speak further on the findings of working group two and the impacts for SIDS, but I'm not a fan of nightmares on a Monday morning, and under current policies we are on track for 3.2-degrees of warming.

Every increment of warming, every fraction of a degree, matters.

Unfortunately, we seem to be continuing to head towards the cliff's edge, with what seems like an accelerated pace.

We are looking forward to learning more about the latest science this session including from the Working Group 2 and Working Group 3 Assessment Reports of the IPCC at the mandated events, as well as the Structured Expert Dialogue of the Second Periodic Review. The wealth of scientific information coming forward is underscoring the importance of this key process and AOSIS is looking to make good progress also in the Joint Contact Group at this session to work towards a substantive outcome of the Review at COP27.

MITIGATION AMBITION

It is getting more and more difficult to sit in these rooms and listen to countries paying lip service to the science, yet, outside of these rooms emissions continue to rise and the fossil fuel industry rakes in trillions at the expense of the most vulnerable people in the world.

In signing the Glasgow Climate Pact, all countries sent a clear signal that we must all do more to close the gap to 1.5°C in the crucial pre-2030 decade – this is twofold – the gap in NDC targets and the implementation gap.

Current 2030 NDCs fall far short of what is needed, AND the current targets lack credibility as they are not met with aligned national level sectoral plans and policies – and even where plans and policies exist, implementation against them largely falls short.

Even though we have the 2030 gap looming, the IPCC Working Group III has shown us it is still possible to close it. The science and technology is at our fingertips, there are no excuses for inaction.

We need each Party to revise and strengthen NDCs aligned to a 1.5 global emissions pathway *with no overshoot*.

We expect to see these strengthened targets from major emitters, especially members of the G20, well before COP27. We urge you to come to the UN General Assembly this year with those announcements, accompanied by concrete plans to achieve them. We also call for Parties who have not yet peaked their emissions or announced their peaking year to indicate in their revised NDCs when their emissions would peak.



We also call for the submission of long-term strategies aligned to achieving net zero emissions by or around mid-century, with concrete plans on how to get there, submitted to the UNFCCC by COP27.

Colleagues, mitigation ambition is a critical success factor of COP27.

MITIGATION WORK PROGRAMME

More ambitious targets on paper in NDCs and long-term strategies are important, but there are glaring gaps in commitment, credibility, and action on the ground. Unfortunately, what we have right now are a series of empty pledges and broken promises.

This is why we agreed to the Mitigation Work Programme at COP26, which must support the urgent scaling up of mitigation ambition and implementation in the 2022-2030 period to align with a 1.5 global pathway with no overshoot.

The MWP is our last chance to close the gap and follow-up on Glasgow Climate Pact decisions, such as the decision to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, which the IPCC estimates would reduce global GHG emissions by up to a full one-tenth (10%) by 2030, and that such measures must be accompanied by safeguards such as re-distributing revenue saved to vulnerable groups, for a just transition.

The SBs should conclude with a draft decision text for adoption at COP27; the decision should include process, modalities and substance, which should be guided by and structured around the solutions provided by the IPCC's working group three report.

To ensure we adopt this robust decision at COP27, we encourage the advancing of this work through intersessional technical work.

FINANCE

On finance, it is time to meet the \$100bn. Developed countries should report pledges for 2022, before COP27. There are real consequences to delayed financing: energy transition investment will have to increase at least by 30% over planned investment, to a total of USD 131 trillion between now and 2050. Finance commitments must total at least \$100 billion by COP27.

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.

Colleagues, 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, we should launch a dedicated work programme to accelerate progress and deliver on Article 2(1)(c). There is still no UNFCCC process dedicated to making climate finance flows



consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, despite its prominence in the Paris Agreement.

ADAPTATION

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.

LOSS & DAMAGE

Loss and damage is political. For AOSIS, the global architecture designed to address climate change is a moral hazard, where each tonne of emissions does not bear the cost of that tonne on vulnerable economies and populations. The topic of Loss and Damage financing has spun its wheels among technicians for 30 years.

The creation of a standalone Glasgow Dialogue with no clear destination was a serious compromise for us at COP26; it was in fact something that AOSIS held up the final plenary for, as we strongly considered requesting the deletion at the last minute, because of its complete inadequacy towards achieving our common objective of financing to address loss and damage.

As we stated at the adoption of CMA.3 last year, AOSIS firmly believes that this year's Dialogue should lead to a conclusion that a new Loss and Damage Finance Facility will be adopted at the next COP, and future Dialogues operationalize the Facility.

On the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, we look forward to finalizing the modalities and structure at this session, adopting TORs.

GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

The GST outcome should provide policy direction within the global climate process to course-correct in areas with insufficient levels of ambition and in particular where the needs of the most vulnerable have not been adequately addressed. For AOSIS, the GST outcome must provide a firm basis for ensuring that SIDS are not left behind in the just transition that is required to shift the world onto a 1.5 degree warming consistent pathway.

In order to accomplish this, the process and outcome must be both a backward-looking assessment of gaps in implementation as well as a forward-looking identification of opportunities and measures to enhance NDCs and overall implementation of the Paris Agreement. AOSIS is of the view that the GST, at the level of both process and outcome is therefore distinguishable from the ongoing Periodic Review which is more specific in its focus. In fact, the outcomes for the Periodic Review may provide further clarity to the actions Parties may agree to take as a result of the outcome of the Global Stocktake.



ARTICLE 6

With the rules of Article 6 now in place, we have an important mechanism for fighting climate change, helping countries make meaningful emissions cuts by partnering with other countries who have gone above and beyond their country targets.

As it relates to Article 6.4 Supervisory Body of the Paris Agreement, AOSIS expects the Supervisory Body to be fully populated and to commence its work, as guided by the COP26 decision text, as soon as possible.

Transparency

At COP 26, Transparency was effectively finalized and adopted with the formats and outlines for reporting under the ETF to begin in 2024. SB 56 is an opportunity to create a solid thrust to move forward and be prepared for reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

As Parties were called to consider the voluntary review process for adaptation and loss and damage information for the upcoming biennial transparency reports, the new agenda item provides another opportunity to advance this critical issue. This review process ought to be outlined to be as facilitative as possible, complement the work of the WIM and adaptation committee, and give special consideration for SIDS and LDCs with capacity building in these areas. It is an opportunity to build capacity at the domestic level in the reporting requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. AOSIS takes this opportunity to highlight Transparency needs for this year: training programme for national SIDS and LDC experts for the preparation first BTR in 2024, a manual for national experts for BTR and adequate and predictable funding for preparing 2024 BTRs.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This year is the Review of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Action Plan (“the GAP”) and a unique opportunity for AOSIS to increase awareness of vulnerable men and women in SIDS as well as gender responsive measures which have been taken by SIDS but may be overlooked.

An effective outcome of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Action Plan needs greater financial and other support to document evidence of gender responsive actions by countries as well as support for the activities of national and regional authorities to implement the GAP.

AOSIS supports calls for all countries to articulate gender-responsive commitments in their climate plans, thus extending ACT ON THE GAP, from an international mantra to local action.

CONCLUSION

AOSIS will approach the session here in Bonn with a constructive spirit, and we encourage all Member States to do the same. Progress must be captured in writing; we cannot afford to waste time. While we have come a long way on this collective journey, we still have a long way to go.

