



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

OPENING STATEMENT

UNFCCC JOINT SBSTA AND SBI OPENING PLENARY (SB 58)

Mon 5th June 2022

FULL VERSION

*Executive Secretary Stiell
Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies
Excellencies
Colleagues*

I speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and in support of the intervention by the Group of 77 and China. The full version of our statement will be sent to the Secretariat.

The global response to climate change involves concrete action on three response pillars: adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage response with commensurate support for developing countries.

Mitigation ambition and implementation sets the scale of adaptation needs, and adaptation efforts will be futile unless emissions are reduced – with the consequence of inaction resulting in an exponential increase in loss and damage and needs for corresponding response.

It is with this interconnectedness in mind that our Alliance has two high-level priorities for the year that must be realized in Dubai. These are:

1. Course correcting and ratcheting up ambition based on the latest science, through the outcomes of COP28, including the Global

Stocktake process, Mitigation Work Programme, and Global Goal on Adaptation Work Programme; and

2. Operationalizing a fit-for-purpose set of funding arrangements centred around a new Fund that is focused on assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including their communities and the ecosystems that they depend on, especially in our small island developing States.

Permit me to elaborate.

GLOBAL STOCKTAKE: COURSE CORRECT & ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION

As the findings of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Cycle have confirmed, **we are far off track from limiting global warming to 1.5°C** in line with the Paris Agreement. In fact, we will be emitting twice as much as we can afford by the end of the decade if we follow current policies. Drastic actions are required in this critical decade to course correct. We need to not only fulfill the commitments that we have already made BUT also ratchet-up ambition and accelerate implementation to close the mitigation gap in line with the best available science.

It would be **gross negligence** on all our parts **if we do not accelerate implementation in this critical decade**. The GST provides a pivotal moment to heed to the alarm bells that have been deafening both to the countries of the world and especially so to SIDS. The pathways have been emphatically elucidated time and time again. This 58th session places all the well-known gaps and corresponding solutions in one place in order for us to begin conceptualizing clear recommendations for the CMA's consideration.

The Convention and Paris Agreement have called for developed countries to lead this global effort. To lead in combating the root cause of climate change through real reductions, to lead in providing support to those that continue to face a disproportionate and abnormal burden from the realized and ensuing adverse effects. We underscore the G7 in the first instance and then the G20 represent the core group for this leadership.

The time for creating pacts that are ignored and plans that are pushed aside must end. Major economies have shown the extent of their abilities in the face of pandemics and wars. But **the climate crisis is relegated to being a secondary issue behind of their self-interests**. The G7 and G20 year-after-year continue to become more entrenched in themselves, and attempt to pacify SIDS with regurgitated, repackaged, and hollow pledges. SIDS, however, say No More! **SIDS call for nationally determined contributions to become nationally implemented contributions now**. SIDS will not mistake motion for action. We will hold all accountable for the lives, livelihoods and ecosystems that we represent.

The GST outcome, the moment that it brings, is crucial. And while the written aspect of the GST outcome is important, what has greater importance is the follow-through and accelerated implementation. We also need the leadership of the incoming COP Presidency to ensure that the outcome and its follow through will be enough to put us on track. We invite the UAE team to set out its vision here in Bonn for the form and content of the GST outcome, so as Parties we can begin to engage with and shape that vision. We can leave Dubai with a clear roadmap.

Moreover, any messages in the GST outcome will only reaffirm well known issues and gaps in collective progress on action and support for adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage response. We do not need to wait for the outcome of the GST to know that we are not on track to keeping within the 1.5°C goal. We have an existing mandate from COP27 for Parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal. Parties, especially major economies, must therefore **do so with utmost urgency by COP28**, and furthermore announce concrete implementation plans to achieve their NDCs. **We must continue to keep the 1.5 °C goal and ensure that SIDS to survive as well as thrive.**

LOSS AND DAMAGE

We left COP 27 with so much hope, with headlines that confidence had been restored in the multilateral process and the most vulnerable communities are waiting on us. We cannot let them down AGAIN this year. The utmost must

be done to ensure that we conclude the work to operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund.

AOSIS needs an ambitious outcome on this operationalization mandate which would include, at a minimum:

1. Operationalization of the UNFCCC's new and distinct Loss and Damage Fund that provides a beacon of hope for those struggling with the ongoing, locked-in loss and damage. This would be through the finalization of the Fund's instrument of establishment as well as the provision of initial guidance to the Fund's governing body by the COP and CMA in Dubai. This instrument and initial guidance are therefore a crucial outcome from the work of the Transitional Committee ('TC');
2. Substantial pledges and commitments towards the Fund's initial resource mobilization must] be made ahead of, and at COP 28. This could come from a wide variety of sources including existing climate finance providers, innovative sources of finance, as well as, at a minimum, voluntary contributions coming from the high emissions private industries and the financial sector that underpins and enables them. This would be a much-needed first step of these industries recognizing their responsibility to the particularly vulnerable;
3. Integration and actioning of the additional recommendations from the TC's work on operationalizing other new funding arrangements, funding sources identification and expansion, and coherence and complementarity with existing arrangements. This should be done in an appropriate manner that would respect the legitimacy and mandates of other institutions and entities that support developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to climate change loss and damage.

During this SBs, the 2nd Glasgow Dialogue provides an opportunity for a broad range of stakeholders to let their voices feed into the TC's operationalization work. This mandated event should have as one of its main objectives establishing understanding on **the other funding arrangements and the identification of ways to improve, reform and maximize new and additional support from these entities in a fit-for-purpose manner.** AOSIS members and other SIDS stakeholders will seek to unpack SIDS'

experiences in this landscape to ensure SIDS are kept central in these improvements and reform.

Similarly for the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, AOSIS looks forward to **actively participating in its Host selection process in order to move forward in establishing the network on at this SB session**. This choice would have had to demonstrate how it intends to support the catalyzing of technical assistance for SIDS both based on its track record as well as forward thinking vision for the Network.

Whatever decision is made on the Host, it is important for all to take into account in their deliberations that active discussions on how the Network as a catalyzer of technical assistance will interact with the fund and funding arrangements. In this new era of operationalizing realizing action and support for loss and damage, AOSIS looks forward to **engaging on how we can concretize the linkage between the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage's Executive Committee and the Santiago Network on one end, and the Fund and the funding arrangements on the other**. Where the knowledge, understanding and coordination from the former underpins and informs the latter to ensure a coordinated approach to responding to loss and damage.

MITIGATION

We cannot leave Dubai with anything less than a viable pathway to staying within 1.5°C. Things must be different – political will must switch gear and translate into more ambition and more action. From the negotiations under the Mitigation Work Programme item which must start here in Bonn to its Global Dialogue to be held at this session, the focus must be on messages that concurrently reflect the GST outcomes but inspire implementation with a collective commitment to a just transition that can be nationally digested and implemented. These include:

1. Immediate end to fossil fuel subsidies by major emitters, particularly the G20
2. Immediate peaking of global greenhouse gas emissions
3. Halving global GHG emissions by 2030
4. Reaching net-zero by 2050



AOSIS believes that the ordering of these actions is quite important.

For better or worse, finance flows underpin and/or influence all things and behaviours in the world. We will also be able to better ensure achieve the halving emissions by the end of this decade, and reach net-zero without spending precious resources in a way that hinders this effort .

The IPCC has been clear. Even with the deployment of carbon removal technologies, we will need a radical reduction in fossil fuels to stay under 1.5°C. Current fossil fuel infrastructure is enough to blow the remaining carbon budget. And the IEA has stated that we need no further oil and gas development if we are to stay under 1.5°C. We must not be distracted into ignoring these facts as we pursue a fossil fuel phaseout.

This will allow for one of the greatest illustrations of self-determination, national determination to take place. We must give the world the right to choose its pathway and break down artificial barriers to the growth of the renewable energy industry, and eliminate processes designed to lock in of carbon-intensive infrastructure. This transition must therefore be guided by principles and safeguards that also aim to protect and safeguard our vulnerable communities and ecosystems by transforming their energy systems to be more secure, reliable, and resilient, and have access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy.

And to ensure that no one is left behind in this transition, an enabling environment needs to be created and support must be provided to those directly affected especially workers in those affected sectors, and any disadvantaged communities in order to allow them to thrive in a new low emission, climate-resilient global economy.

Here in Bonn, the first global dialogue of the Mitigation Work Programme has made an important contribution through showcasing actionable solutions and investment needs. However, there is plenty more to do over the coming months if COP28 is to deliver on mitigation and keep 1.5°C within reach.

The SBs should conclude with a draft decision text for consideration and adoption at COP 28 with these steps included.

ADAPTATION

COP 28 needs to conclude the two-year Glasgow Sharm El Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation with a substantive outcome that delivers on the urgent need for progress on adaptation support for adaptation action, especially SIDS. This SB session and 6th workshop must progress towards a conclusion that enhances SIDS abilities to achieve and sustain climate-resilience in line with the GGA.

We only have 3 more workshops left and many ambitious objectives to achieve. We must be judicious with our time, intentional, and with a view of moving from discussions enhancing understanding to discussions of how we achieve progress on adaptation action and adaptation support. But we cannot put all our eggs in the GlaSS. We must also 7apitalize on the Global Stocktake and maintain the much-needed political momentum on adaptation finance that started at COP 26.

AOSIS expectations at SBs 58 and then COP 28 on adaptation are as follows:

1. Delivery of adaptation finance from developed countries to developing countries especially SIDS to support the development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans. To date, we have very few SIDS with NAPs;
2. Instituting accountability and tracking on adaptation finance, especially for SIDS. Commitments were made, but we do not know if they have been fulfilled;
3. Establishment of a set of metrics to measure progress on adaptation support, and a framework for the review of progress made in achieving the GAA that will inform subsequent GSTs.

Colleagues,

Measuring progress is often an afterthought. The GGA framework will provide us with a tool to help create a baseline or departure point, to then track progress and identify and understand the gaps so we can be clear on

the adaptation action and support required to get to where we need to be. This will not be an easy task. It requires extensive technical discussions, being ambitious whilst remaining practical in what we deliver and certainly a GGA framework that does not disadvantage small island developing States. For that reason, if we are to achieve a substantive framework at COP 28, we must use the time that we have under each workshop judiciously and intentionally. The format must be organized to allocate sufficient time for discussions to develop the GGA framework. Otherwise, we risk leaving COP 28 with adaptation overshadowed.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION: FINANCE, CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY

With numerous financial commitments of developed countries still outstanding such as the current USD 100 billion goal as well as the doubling of adaptation finance commitment, we must ask the question: **‘What more is needed for these token commitments to be fulfilled?’**. And we place great emphasis on the term ‘token’ as these commitments are outdated and fall way below the floor of needs for SIDS and other developing countries.

This in turn has roll on effects on other means of implementation like capacity building and technology which are underpinned by finance. There are clear and incontestable key messages from the latest science, including IPCC AR6 report, highlighting the need for technology development and transfer as an enabler of climate action. AOSIS therefore expects that technology negotiations at this session will be able to agree on draft recommendations on the linkage issue between Technology and Finance Mechanisms for consideration at COP28. These recommendations will at a minimum act as an essential element to enable adequate, predictable and timely financial support for technology development and transfer in developing countries, in particular SIDS, for ambitious climate action.

At this session, the technical deliberations on the New Collective Quantified Goal continue to be set in the broader political context of failure to achieve existing goals and commitments. This is a fact. And while AOSIS continues to constructively engage in these deliberations, **our Group is pleading for the developed countries, especially the climate finance laggards, to urgently fulfil these commitments, provide the essential leadership,**

and create much needed goodwill required for the success of this process.

JUST TRANSITION

The just transition work programme is critical to assist SIDS in their pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. In this regard, the Just Transition Work Programme needs to take into consideration the nationally defined development priorities of countries. SIDS are particularly vulnerable to climate change and potential impacts associated with the transition.

MARKETS & NON-MARKET APPROACHES

With broader guidance, rules and modalities related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in place, the regime highlights important cooperative approaches for fighting climate change through voluntary cooperation to allow for higher ambition in their mitigation and adaptation actions and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity.

At this SB session, these cooperative approaches require further technical direction from the SBSTA primarily in the areas of reporting and reviews which form the bedrock for the integrity safeguards seeking to govern these approaches. AOSIS looks forward to full operationalization of the **TACCC principles of transparency, accountability, completeness, consistency and comparability**. As ever, AOSIS welcomes the opportunity to engage with stakeholders in these areas to negotiate the most robust, technically sound outcomes that would result in higher and realized ambition for climate action.

TRANSPARENCY

On transparency, 2024 is mere months away. This deadline for the 1st set of Biennial Transparency Reports would be best served if all Parties are able to meet this deadline with substantial reports. But it is very unclear on whether the Financial Mechanism through its operating entities are providing adequate and predictable support to SIDS for strengthening their national

systems for reporting on action and support. While the Paris Agreement's Transparency Framework provides flexibilities for SIDS, it is in our best interest to provide detailed data and information on our implementation progress, support needs, level of support received, among other things. This is the only way to truly understand if the SIDS prioritizations in the Paris Agreement are being operationalized

OCEAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE DIALOGUE 2023

AOSIS, in recognition of its Large Ocean States welcomes the discussion and engagement at another Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue. The dialogue must, however, go beyond a knowledge sharing platform and be focused on propelling action that countries can take nationally, regionally and internationally. The Dialogue also serve as a basis for the integration of the ocean-climate change nexus into existing UNFCCC modalities and architecture. The informal summary of this Dialogue can be used as an opportunity for the incoming Presidency to shape and guide discussions on the ocean-climate change nexus. AOSIS looks forward to engaging partners to catapult action in this space.

CONCLUSION

Lastly, our deliberations must be guided by the best available science including from the IPCC. It is therefore worth mentioning how deplorable it is that we do not see a dedicated agenda item on the IPCC here at SB 58, which does not follow past practice. AOSIS will nevertheless approach the session here in Bonn with a constructive spirit, and we encourage all Parties 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.

AOSIS remains focused for the year and committed to working with everyone to ensure a successful year.

Thank you.