



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

Statement by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on the Urgent Need for Global Climate Action at the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Announcement of the AOSIS Leaders Meeting on September 22nd

New York, September 14, 2023

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) urges world leaders convening at the upcoming 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to usher in a transformative new era of climate action. As the world grapples with the ever-increasing threat of climate change, it is imperative that we abandon the practice of kicking the can down the road and instead take resolute steps towards a sustainable future.

At the recent G20 meeting, a commendable outcome was reached regarding scaled-up renewable energy targets. However, it is disheartening to witness a lack of decisive commitment when it comes to addressing the root of the climate crisis – emissions from fossil fuels. The G20, responsible for a staggering 80% of global emissions, must demonstrate leadership by outlining their action plan to peak emissions by 2025 and accelerating the phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and we cannot weather this storm alone. Rising sea levels, more frequent and severe storms, and ocean acidification threaten our very existence. Our islands are suffering the worst consequences and while we work assiduously to advance our own solutions, the robust support of the international community will determine if we sink or survive.

In this spirit, AOSIS is pleased to announce the AOSIS Leaders Meeting on September 22nd. This gathering will bring together leaders from Small Island Developing States to discuss our collective priorities and formalize the AOSIS Leaders Declaration. This declaration will outline our positions and articulate the support needed to advance progress on critical issues such as climate change, oceans conservation, access to finance for SIDS, the Fourth International Conference on SIDS, and a strong outcome at COP28.

We implore the international community to use the platforms of the UNGA and New York Climate Week to signal unequivocal support for Small Island Developing States and the overall wellbeing of our planet. The decisions made in these critical moments will shape the course of our future and determine whether we can collectively overcome the climate crisis. Together, we can build a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world for current and future generations.

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Ambassador Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru

AOSIS Chair