



AOSIS Joint Statement

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Delivered by: tbc

- Samoa is honored to speak on behalf of Small Island Developing States. We are 39 small island and low-lying coastal nations that are most vulnerable to climate change.
- We align ourselves to the statement made by Cuba on behalf of G77 and China.
- Let me also join others in congratulating your Excellency for assuming the Presidency of COP28. We reiterate our support for and indeed count on your leadership as you steer us toward impactful long-lasting outcomes.
- Mr. President.
- In Samoa, we have a saying: *“E so’o le fau I le fau”*. “Unity is strength”. Let us make sure when making our climate commitments at this COP we truly band together and cement them with a genuine intention to work together for the greater good. We are being presented at this COP with a pivotal opportunity that we must grasp with both hands. Our world is at a tipping point, and it is only through our unity that we will have the strength to pull ourselves back from the brink.
- Excellencies and friends, I remind you of our solemn duty to “leave no one behind”. The women, men and children from my vulnerable islands are wondering if we have forgotten this promise. The people of Vanuatu, where category 5 cyclone Harold caused \$500 million in loss and damage. The people of Tuvalu, where rising seas are swallowing the

land. Our small island communities are struggling with drought, lack of access to drinking water, debilitated agricultural yields, loss of livelihoods, displacement from our homes that are the legacies of our ancestors.

- This is happening right now, at our present level of warming. This is why AOSIS will not, cannot, stop fighting to keep 1.5 alive.
- We must stand together. Our lives depend on this, and COP28 is our first chance as a global community to reflect on how well we are doing in implementing the Paris Agreement. In doing so, we must assess how well we are doing in reducing emissions, how resilient our communities have become and how much finance is flowing to particularly vulnerable countries and more importantly have these countries been able to access it?
- The IPCC's sixth assessment report, supported by the recent GST synthesis report, indicates that we are nowhere near what we all collectively agreed to at COP21. Exceeding the critical 1.5C temperature goal is not something that AOSIS can support. The 1.5 degree goal is not merely a number for us, it represents our lives and livelihoods, the environments we depend on, our economies and our social wellbeing.
- When it comes to climate change, SIDS remain a special case with special circumstances as has been recognized by this august body, and any outcomes from this COP must ensure that this is acknowledged and protected. We are the most vulnerable nations on the planet and have contributed the least to this climate crisis - or as the Secretary General calls it the "era of global boiling". We find ourselves in situation that is working to undermine our unique circumstances and indeed threatens the very existence of our members.
- Mr. President. [Agenda items]
- We commend you and your team's efforts prior to COP28 for undertaking consultations so that we can agree on an agenda that is balanced and highly ambitious. Also, through you we thank all the parties who have demonstrated flexibility to proceed with the critical task before us without delay.
- We must ensure that all the agenda items that were proposed by parties prior to the COP are given the level of attention required in as effective and efficient a manner as possible. We trust that under your able leadership we will be able to deliver on this aim.

- Mr. President, allow me to set out AOSIS' priorities for this COP.
- **Matters related to Science**
- The IPCC AR6 report is a wakeup call on the urgency required for taking climate action now. Failure to act is not something we can support. We are doing our best to take this action and are spending significant resources from our domestic budgets to ensure that we are addressing climate change risks.
- Let us be reminded that the Convention came into existence based on recommendations from the IPCC. We must continue to respond to the best available science. That is our role. AOSIS strongly welcomes and firmly supports the findings of IPCC AR6 and we call on this conference to endorse the AR6 report and be guided by its findings to enable us to save our planet and our people.
- **Matters related to operationalization of Loss and Damage Fund**
- The IPCC findings indicate in very bold terms and with high confidence that we are now in a situation where adaptation is reaching its limits resulting in loss and damage, which may be irreversible. AOSIS sees the 'loss and damage fund' as the missing element in the UNFCCC financial architecture. In this regard, we thank the COP27 Presidency for their hard work through multilateralism that allowed for the establishment of the loss and damage Fund and for kickstarting the work of the Transitional Committee. We see the recommended draft decision by the Transitional Committee as a balanced text that we can support and adopt towards operationalization of a "fit for purpose" Fund. In particular, we would like to highlight the agreement that this Fund will have an independent Board and dedicated secretariat to enable it to best serve the people that need this Fund the most. We call on all parties and through your leadership Mr. President to initiate the work on capitalization of this fund. In delivering on this new fund, SIDS must not, I repeat must not, lose out. Our special circumstances and capacity constraints are recognized in international law, including the Paris Agreement, and for the fund to truly operate on the principle of equity, the recognition of these special circumstances and capacity constraints must be integral to how the fund operates going forward.
- **Mr. President on Matters related to the GST**
- Our ask for this first GST is simple and clear. We must course correct to keep the 1.5C degree limit within reach and ensure that particularly vulnerable countries have the

support they need to deal with the impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing. The findings of the technical assessment phase of the GST make it clear that we are heading in the wrong direction. The level of emissions reductions from current NDCs is nowhere near a 1.5C trajectory. This is more than worrisome. We have run out of time for backsliding and must avoid it at all costs. To this end, key political messages need to be transmitted widely via multiple pathways. They must address the shortfalls and successes of our collective efforts to date and send a message of hope, even amid challenging global circumstances. We must show the world that multilateralism in its broadest sense, inclusive of non-party stakeholders, can succeed in addressing the climate crisis.

- The outcomes of the global stocktake must also reaffirm that the 1.5C limit is the only equitable and scientifically sound limit for guiding our efforts. Anything beyond this would only result in strife and suffering and undermine all efforts at sustainable development and poverty eradication.

- **On Matters related to Adaptation**

- The Global Goal on Adaptation articulates our agreed aspiration to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. It is time now to agree on a plan for actioning this noble and indispensable aspiration. To do this, we must agree on a robust framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation at this conference. This framework should help us not only to measure progress in achieving the Global Goal, but more importantly, it must be able to accelerate action to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. For us this framework should provide guidance through high level targets in key areas related to our well-being, including water, food security, health, ecosystems and infrastructure. Furthermore, it should allow parties to strengthen our resilience and reduce our vulnerability in a 1.5C world. In agreeing on the GGA framework, we must be mindful of the limited capacities of particularly vulnerable developing countries, including small island developing States. We are already doing the best we can and cannot afford to take on any additional burdens in our battle to combat the impacts of climate change. The GGA framework must deliver on the critical means of implementing adaptation action in SIDS.

- **On Matters related to Finance**

- Finance is a cross-cutting issue at the heart of our negotiations. Adequate and predictable finance on matters related to adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage is needed to address the consequences of climate change. To date, our partners have failed to deliver on their promises on finance flows, and we need to ensure that in our agreement on a New Collective Quantified Goal we learn from these failures. Hence a pragmatic approach needs to be developed in designing the new goal. As previously agreed, the new collective goal must exceed USD 100 billion per year. The new goal should also have sub goals specifically on adaptation, mitigation and most importantly on loss and damage. We need to take stock of the delivery of this finance in line with the GST cycle to be able to fully address financial gaps. This would give us a greater opportunity to re-strategize and enhance climate finance ambitions. There is also a need to place the recognition of the special circumstances of SIDS within the new goal. This would enhance our efforts to address climate change on the ground. However, at the same time accessing these funds must be made simpler, especially for capacity constrained countries, such as SIDS. At this COP, it is imperative that we agree on the scope and core elements of the NCQG, in line with the 1.5C pathway. AOSIS believes that it is important to discuss finance flows for Article 2.1c to develop a clear indication of beneficiaries and sources, including the empowerment of our national private sectors.

- **On Matters related Mitigation**

- It is critical to AOSIS for the COP28 outcome to include a commitment from Parties to peak global emissions before 2025. This is a prerequisite to halving emissions globally by 2030 in line with the best available science outlined in the IPCC's sixth assessment report. We can't claim to have the 1.5C goal as our north-star if we are unwilling to agree to peaking global emissions as soon as possible. We still need to see Parties deliver strengthened 2030 targets in revised nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by early next year, and subsequently, in response to guidance in the outcomes of the first GST, Parties must submit new, more ambitious and detailed NDCs in 2025 that align with a pathway to 1.5C. We must also see a strengthened commitment at COP28, particularly from major emitters, to phase out the use of all fossil fuels. We all know this must be central to our collective pursuit of an accelerated global energy transition. AOSIS

recognizes that for an equitable energy transition, a phase-out of fossil fuels goes hand-in-hand with simultaneously scaling up renewable energy. Setting a target for tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030 would be a useful and complementary outcome at COP28. This kind of target will send a clear and needed signal to markets and investors. However, crucially, a target for renewables cannot be a substitute for a stronger commitment to fossil-fuel phase-out. COP28 needs to deliver both.

- COP28 must also deliver a solutions- and action-oriented-based decision on the Mitigation Work Programme that secures its important role in supporting efforts to close the mitigation ambition and implementation gaps in this critical decade.
- **Just Transition and Response Measures**
- **On Matters related to Transparency issues**
- On matters related to transparency, funding should be provided through a combination of grants, and other financial mechanisms, and should prioritize the needs of SIDSs. This support should focus on investing in training, technical assistance, and education of personnel, building robust data management systems, knowledge-sharing and strengthening coordination among government institutions.
- **Markets and non market issues**
- **Technology and Capacity Building**
- AOSIS always stands behind the best available science and expects our COP28 decisions to do the same. For this critical decade, the science for achieving 1.5C pathways weighs heavily in favor of scaling up renewable energy transition and phasing out fossil fuels, with a negligible role for abatement technologies such as carbon capture and storage.
- Excellencies and friends, we know what must be done, and AOSIS looks forward to uniting with you all as we elevate our ambition and work to achieve the best possible outcome for the people whose lives we are sworn to safeguard and uplift.
- We reiterate our support to you, Mr President and your team for making Dubai a success. AOSIS will be guided by your leadership as we enter into the negotiations.
- I thank you.