



## **AOSIS**

# **Twenty-eighth session of the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC**

**December 6, 2023**  
**Dubai Expo City, UAE**

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### **AOSIS Statement for the Closing Plenary for joint SB**

#### **Closing Plenary for SBI and SBSTA**

Thank you to both SB Chairs for giving us the floor. Samoa is speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

We align ourselves to the statement made by Cuba on behalf of G77 and China

#### **Pace of the negotiations**

- Thank you Chairs for guiding us since the launch of work last Thursday.
- We are encouraged with the progress on some matters, however we are equally disappointed in the general pace of the negotiations in, and the general lack of progress in priority areas for AOSIS.

#### **Loss and Damage**

- Let us begin with the good news first.
- We are very happy to see that we have a solid decision that will enable us to fully operationalize the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage. Coupled with the loss and damage Fund, a fully operationalized Santiago network will go far toward delivering on the finance and technical assistance that we as SIDS so desperately need to respond to ever worsening loss and damage impacting our highly vulnerable island nations.
- This is indeed a very good outcome and we look forward to engaging with the network as it gets up and running.

## **GST**

- On the Global Stocktake, we are disappointed at the limited progress that has been made and note the procedural conclusions which have been forwarded to the presidency and which perseveres the progress that has been made.

We look forward to making significant progress next week and to producing an ambitious and robust GST outcome that will course correct this process and bring us back on track for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

## **GGA**

- AOSIS is extremely concerned and very disappointed about the process in the GGA discussion. We absolutely must begin engaging in textual negotiations on this issue of critical importance to SIDS. As we have said numerous times AOSIS is expecting to agree on a robust framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation at this conference. For us this framework should provide guidance through high level targets in key areas related to our well-being, including clean water, food security, health, ecosystems and infrastructure. Furthermore, it should allow us to strengthen our resilience and reduce our vulnerability in a 1.5C world.

## **Finance**

- On Matters related to finance, we thank you for providing us with text, however, once again, we are concerned at the slow progress on the item in particular.
- We anticipate having a mechanism to link the discussions in the technical expert dialogues (TEDs) to a formal process where we can negotiate the NCQG in the coming year. The new goal should also have sub goals specifically on adaptation, mitigation and most importantly on loss and damage. There is also a need to place the recognition of the special circumstances of SIDS within the new goal. This is imperative to helping us address the every-growing impacts of climate change on at home.

## **Mitigation**

- Very disappointingly, there has been little progress under the mitigation work programme (MWP) agenda item, with significant divergences on elements and content of the draft decision. AOSIS must see a decision next week which reflects urgency, in line with the latest science, outlines key findings and actionable

solutions from the first year of the MWP, and details areas of improvement for the MWP's important work continuing next year.

- The decision here in Dubai is critical for showing the value of the MWP in supporting parties to increase ambition and accelerate the implementation of their NDCs in this critical decade. AOSIS therefore expects a decision of substance, not process. We simply don't have time for mere process if we are to keep 1.5 alive.

### **Transparency**

- We note with concerns that most agenda items under this issue were left unresolved and Rule 16 was applied with matters being forwarded to the next SBs. This is a shame as we are in the run up to the submission of our first BTRs due by the end of next year.

### **Technology**

- We welcome the positive outcome on the technology agenda item and look forward to the implementation of the technology joint work program and the priority technology needs of Small Islands developing States.

Chairs,

### **Special circumstance of SIDS**

- AOSIS would like to highlight a very great concern over the non-recognition of SIDS special circumstances across a number of agenda items.
- Chairs, recognition of the special circumstances of SIDS did not start in Paris. SIDS have been recognized as countries with special needs and circumstances as part of Agenda 21, in the context of Sustainable Development and Environment issues.
- Since then, our special circumstances have been unequivocally reflected in the Convention and in the Paris Agreement.
- Chairs, we are not here to re-negotiate any article of Paris Agreement, however, we also recognize the sensitivities around matters related to most vulnerable countries. While many insist that we collectively refer to all developing countries as vulnerable, the case of SIDS is very different and our special circumstances are enshrined in international law.

- We thank you, Chairs for your attention to this matter and to successful outcomes on all of the critical issues that remain open.