



**Submission by Belize  
on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**

**Future of the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action**

12 April 2019

AOSIS welcomes the letter from the High-Level Champions seeking input on the future of the Global Climate Action stream of work at the UNFCCC.

Since 2012, AOSIS has been a strong proponent of greater pre-2020 action and a key stakeholder in the development of Workstream 2, the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, the Marrakesh Partnership-Global Climate Action (GCA). We have worked with other Parties and non-Parties in order to move this issue forward, as it is of particular interest to our countries.

As a beginning point, we must underscore that, as highlighted in the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report, current nationally determined contributions as submitted under the Paris Agreement (PA), which extend to 2030, would fail to limit global warming to 1.5°C, even if supplemented by very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of emissions reductions after 2030. We note with alarm that currently stated ambitions instead cumulatively track toward 3-4 °C of warming by 2100 with the potential for further warming thereafter, leading to devastating impacts on small island developing states. This highlights the critical importance of significantly scaling-up additional climate action in the near term to meet the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal of limiting warming to 1.5C, and to avoid some of the worst impacts of climate change on vulnerable Parties and populations. In like manner, it highlights the critical importance of the implementation of paragraphs 23 and 24 of 1/CP.21 for Parties to communicate by 2020 new and updated NDCs that contain increased ambition in accordance with article 4, paragraph 9.

Since COP21, there have been significant positive developments in the GCA. Under the leadership of the High-Level Champions, the disparate elements of the Action Agenda and Workstream 2 have been increasingly unified into a collaborative, multi-stakeholder, solutions-focused process. AOSIS welcomes these developments and now welcomes the opportunity of this submission to make suggestions on the further refinement of the Global Climate Action Process and its potential expansion beyond 2020.

This submission will make four general points:

1. The primary purpose of the GCA is to drive increased mitigation and adaptation action in the near term;
2. The structures of the GCA need to be clearly tailored to the task;

3. The active participation of non-State actors is crucial to the success of the GCA; and
4. The Champions should convene multi-stakeholder dialogues about the future of the GCA.

**1. The primary purpose of the GCA is to drive increased mitigation and adaptation action in the near term.**

The GCA is a vitally important compliment to the efforts under the Paris Agreement. It is the result of careful consideration of Parties and non-Parties about how to enhance action in the near-term to accomplish the mandate given to it:

*“...the successful execution of existing efforts and the scaling-up and introduction of new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions” (1/CP.21, para. 120)*

In the Annex to their letter, the Champions have identified four priorities for 2019: strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Parties to catalyse concrete action on high-impact issues; broadening participation; providing follow-up, continuity and coherence; and communicating the impact. These are excellent priorities and should be the focus of the work of the Champions and the GCA for 2019 and beyond. However, the priorities are not ends unto themselves, but key actions needed to “catalyse concrete action on high-impact issues” (Champions Letter, p. 12). The Champions were developed for a very specific task and as a result of their high-level, part-time status, their capacity is limited. Further, the support by the Secretariat is commendable, but also similarly limited. With limited capacity, it is all the more important to focus core task of catalysing new action.

AOSIS notes the mandate given to the Champions in 1/CP.21 will expire at the end of 2020. To the extent that the GCA is able to continue to effectively address the need to catalyze stepped up, ambitious, near-term action, then a compelling case can be made for its continuation.

**2. The structures of the GCA need to be clearly tailored to the task.**

The experience over the past few years has shown that the task given to the Champions and the GCA to deliver increased near-term action is large. The current arrangements of the GCA should be reassessed to determine if they are fit for purpose and consideration should be given to whether the arrangements are filling a gap not elsewhere covered in the UNFCCC and if so, whether they are having the desired results.

- a. The Events (Regional Climate Weeks and Regional TEMs, Bonn TEMs, COP Events)

The purpose of the GCA events should be to bring actors together, foster discussions on solutions, launch or enhance initiatives for near-term action, follow-up on previous initiatives,

and publicise action and results. The three different types of events (regional TEMs, Bonn events and COP events) should be geared towards different types of actors so that they build on each other. For example, the regional TEMs should bring forward new ideas from experts in the regions, the events at the Subsidiary Body Meetings in Bonn should link these regional expert-identified initiatives with government policy-makers from around the world, and then the COP events could launch new initiatives or present updates on existing initiatives by high-level government or non-state officials and include a lessons learned component.

**The Regional Climate Weeks and Regional TEMs** should be continued. Regionalizing the TEMs have been a significant upgrade to the TEM process in that they are able to engage on-the-ground experts in a way that the TEMs held in Bonn have been unable to. Further, it is our understanding that because the regional TEMs piggy-back on pre-existing events, the resources required for them are contained. The regional TEMs have allowed an exchange in a more intimate format, e.g. small roundtable format, instead of a panel format. This format brings a greater focus on the actors on the ground, implementing climate action, providing a valuable opportunity to examine the specific finance, technology, and capacity building resources necessary to scale up action in regional contexts.

The **TEMs at the SB meetings in Bonn** need to be retooled. They were initially designed to increase understanding of areas of high-potential mitigation and adaptation action by holding expert roundtable meetings on specific topics. However, they were often lacking in appropriate expert participation. Drawing on this experience, AOSIS proposes the following:

- The meetings should showcase the regional TEMs.
- These sessions would be best run in parallel with the negotiating process.
- the meetings should aim to create a partnership platform to link government policy makers and other actors.
- Rather than a uni-directional flow of information from a panel, the meetings could be formatted therefore as match-making sessions.

Finally, AOSIS supports the **High-Level Events at the COP** and commends the structure of the Global Climate Action Summit in 2018. As the last stage of the GCA event cycle, they should be tailored to launch new initiatives or scale up existing initiatives. High-level government and non-governmental officials should collectively be able to use this platform to further enhance their action. In addition, as a continuing series of meetings, the high-level events could be used to follow up on announcements made at the 2019 SG's Summit and other such events.

b. Outputs (Yearbook, Summary for Policy Makers, NAZCA)

There are dual purposes to the informational outputs of the GCA: first, they should publicise the action that has been taken and their impacts, and second, through demonstration and information, they should inspire or enable new action. As with the other elements of the GCA,

these outputs have come from different origins and the opportunity to reevaluate the GCA allows us to consider modifications. In particular, based on the evolution of the Yearbook over the past two years, the Summary for Policy Makers and the Yearbook should be combined.

In respect of NAZCA, AOSIS suggests that more qualitative information should be included with the listings which could enable new action. In particular, in order for the information in NAZCA to be useful to small, capacity-constrained states, it should include how barriers to accessing finance, capacity building and technology were overcome.

### c. High-Level Champions

The High-Level Champions were appointed to address two particular challenges encountered in accelerating pre-2020 ambition: the need for leadership and continuity.

Before the Paris Agreement, it was recognized that the success of the Lima Action Day (LAD) and the Lima Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) depended on the significant investment of human resources by the Governments of Peru and France. Their work involved intensive and sustained engagement with Parties and non-State actors to catalyze greater climate action through wider cooperation. This included launching new multi-stakeholder initiatives and scaling-up existing initiatives.

The Champions were established to continue this work (with adequate support provided by the Secretariat) to help alleviate the burden for future COP Presidents and through staggered term, ensure that work was ongoing. Climate action at the UNFCCC is much enhanced and coordinated in 2019 compared to what it was in 2014-2015. This could be attributable to the work of the Champions.

If the mandate of the Champions continues beyond 2020, AOSIS proposes to focus the work of the Champions to areas not covered by other arrangements. The following functions continue to be necessary:

- Identifying areas of high mitigation potential where there are opportunities for greater cooperation,
- Identifying Party or non-State actors as potential initiative leaders,
- Directly engaging with the relevant Party and non-State actors on an ongoing basis, both electronically and in person as required,
- Mobilizing the resources that such cooperation requires, and
- Maintaining political momentum and accountability, so that initiatives deliver on their intended benefits.

#### d. Secretariat Support

AOSIS has been a strong proponent of Secretariat support for the GCA. It has been essential in the effective functioning of both the Champions and the GCA since 2015.

### **3. The active participation of non-State actors is crucial to the success of the GCA.**

Engaging non-State actors in all aspects of the GCA is essential to its effectiveness and ultimate purpose—launching and scaling-up voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions for near-term mitigation and adaptation action. While UNFCCC Parties were the driving force behind the creation and early evolution of the GCA, including the creation of the Champions, over the past four years, non-state actors have driven the GCA forward, both in terms of the arrangements for the GCA, but more importantly, in delivering near-term action through the voluntary initiatives.

Going forward, non-state actors must be engaged in the evolution and renewal of the GCA. The GCA is the primary mechanism by which non-state actors have engaged in the UNFCCC, and the GCA should be tailored accordingly to leverage their engagement. That being said, the GCA should not be exclusively focused on non-State actors or the private sector. *All* actors are required for scaling-up climate action and therefore their full participation in GCA should be facilitated. This includes Party representatives with relevant expertise and/or responsibilities for implementation.

### **4. The High-Level Champions should convene multi-stakeholder dialogues about the future of the GCA in 2019.**

AOSIS considers that the purpose of the GCA—near-term mitigation and adaptation action—will continue to be necessary in the post-2020 period as much as it has been under its current mandate. The Champions should use the opportunity of 2019 to convene multi-stakeholder dialogues to discuss the future of the GCA, including its continuation in 2021 and beyond. These dialogues should also allow all Parties to provide feedback on the impact of the GCA, which will shape the future direction of the GCA.