



A L L I A N C E O F S M A L L I S L A N D S T A T E S

## **Submission by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on SBSTA 52-55 Research and Systematic Observation: Possible themes for Earth Information Day 2021**

*30 September 2021*

AOSIS welcomes the opportunity to submit their views on possible themes for Earth Information Day 2021 to take place in conjunction with SBSTA 52-55 during COP26 in Glasgow.

AOSIS appreciates the Earth Information Day as an opportunity for Parties to exchange information on the state of the global climate system and systematic observation.

AOSIS recognizes the efforts by the SBSTA Chair in organizing Earth Information Day 2021 under the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling this important exchange on the latest scientific information relevant for reaching the Paris Agreement goals in this critical year for climate action.

### **Possible themes for Earth Information Day 2021**

Recalling the themes addressed at the previous Earth Information Day 2020 and the Thirteenth meeting of the Research Dialogue 2021, and in light of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I (WGI) contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) published in August 2021, AOSIS proposes the following themes for Earth Information Day in 2021 and subsequent years:

- **Recent improvements in information from paleoclimate archives** as important context for understanding the observed unprecedented changes in the climate system, including on temperatures, greenhouse gas concentrations, sea levels, etc.
- **Weather and climate extremes** in regions across the globe, their observed changes and developments in their observation as well as attribution to human influence, including tropical cyclones and droughts.
- **State and prospect of the global oceans and cryosphere**, the observed changes in ocean energy balance and sea levels, including their contributors, relative sea level change and extreme sea level events – all of which also provides the basis for better understanding of potential future irreversible and committed sea level changes over long timescales and low-likelihood, high-impact outcomes.
- **Non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas reduction needs for meeting the Paris Agreement LTGG**, in particular CH<sub>4</sub> – which will also have implications for upcoming revisions of NDCs based on the assessment of future near-term effects of non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions on global temperatures.
- **Tipping points and irreversible changes**. The AR6 WG1 Report refers to tipping points and irreversible changes, with low probability but with potential for high impact outcomes. Elaboration of these tipping points and the associated risks would be helpful for informing the future evolution of climate change policy making.