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AOSIS SUBMISSION

Submission by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on SBSTA 57 Research and Systematic Observation: Possible themes for Earth Information Day 2022

31 August 2022

AOSIS welcomes the opportunity to submit their views on possible themes for Earth Information Day 2022 at SBSTA 57.

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

AOSIS recognizes the efforts by the SBSTA Chair in organizing Earth Information Day 2022 under the continued 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 decade for climate action.

Possible themes for Earth Information Day 2022

Recalling the themes addressed at the previous Earth Information Day 2021 and the Fourteenth meeting of the Research Dialogue 2022, and in light of the three Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group contributions to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), AOSIS proposes the following themes for Earth Information Day in 2022 and subsequent years:

- **Understanding observed weather and climate extremes as well as slow-onset events.** Discerning trends in extreme events such as tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation, ocean and land heat extremes, and drought from internal variability and key modes of variability, as well as monitoring slow-onset events such as sea level rise, contributes to better understanding plausible future climates and managing risks. The 2022 Earth Observation Day could address how regional-level observations can help to better understand such events at regional scales.
- **Addressing gaps in attribution science.** Globally, attribution science is growing and becoming more and more important, but there is an attribution gap especially in vulnerable regions. The 2022 Earth Information Day should give space to discuss the growing role of attribution science, as well as existing challenges at the regional level and opportunities for overcoming them from the perspective of systematic observations.



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- **Improving the availability of observational data.** Challenges in assessing observed climate change persist with regards to station density, digitisation, and data sharing, especially for regions most at risk from climate change including small islands. This lack of data limits the access to climate information and severely constrains modelling studies and the understanding of future climates. Earth Information Day should continue to provide the space to discuss the challenges as well as existing and potential approaches for addressing these.
- **Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.** Systematic observations have an important role to play in informing key processes under the UNFCCC. For instance, lack of data is a concern with regards to understanding and assessing loss and damage in small islands. Consideration should be given as to how systematic observations, and the information provided and discussions held at Earth Information Day, can support the first Global Stocktake.

AOSIS proposes that as per previous practice, poster sessions are held in conjunction with the Earth Information Day dialogue session to provide further information and foster exchange. With in-person SBSTA 57 sessions anticipated, the poster sessions should not take place solely virtually as at SBSTA 52-55 but in a hybrid setting, also allowing for in-person engagement, building on the successful poster sessions at the Fourteenth Research Dialogue held at SBSTA 56.

Finally, AOSIS proposes that efforts are made to generate synergies with related overarching themes like the ocean decade as well as processes and mandated events at SB 57, notably with the first Global Stocktake.