



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

SUBMISSION

Consideration of Outputs on the Global Stocktake

20 September 2023

Samoa, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), welcomes the opportunity to provide views and inputs in response to the call for submissions for the consideration of outputs phase of the first Global Stocktake.

Section 1 - Introduction on process and form of the outcome

AOSIS reiterates its view that the GST outcome should provide policy direction within the global climate process to course-correct in areas where there have been insufficient levels of ambition and, in particular, in those areas where the needs of the most vulnerable have not been adequately addressed.

For AOSIS the GST outcome must provide a firm basis for ensuring that SIDS are not left behind in the just transition that is required to shift the world onto a 1.5 degree warming consistent pathway.

In order to accomplish this, the process and outcome must be both a backward-looking assessment of gaps in implementation as well as a forward-looking identification of opportunities and measures to enhance NDCs and overall implementation of the Paris Agreement. AOSIS notes that this first GST (GST 1) may be the most important stocktake for keeping the 1.5°C limit within reach.

AOSIS welcomes the successful conclusion of the information gathering and technical assessment phases of GST 1 as well as the delivery of the synthesis report of the technical assessment phase (TD SYR). AOSIS is of the view that, notwithstanding gaps and omissions, this report contains valuable insights and information for the consideration of outputs and successful conclusion of GST 1.

AOSIS reiterates its view that the outcome of this first GST should include:

- A CMA decision that will be central for setting out the guidance that would be needed for Parties and for the Paris Agreement institutions and work programmes, to respond to the findings of the GST process.
- A political declaration alongside the CMA decision. This declaration would be agreed at a high level and could be consulted through the high-level committee established under decision 19/CMA.1. The declaration would send a political signal to a global audience on

the response of world leaders to the GST. It could also include undertakings by non-party stakeholders in response to GST findings.

- A technical annex to be created in response to the mandate from paragraph 13 of decision 19/CMA.1 for GST outputs to ‘summarize opportunities and challenges for enhancing action and support in light of equity and the best available science, as well as lessons learned and good practices, with a view to achieving the outcome identified in Article 14, paragraph 3 of the Paris Agreement.’

Additionally AOSIS has noted that in order for the GST outcomes/outputs to be effective and to reflect equity it would be important to ensure that:

- The GST outputs are translated into simple, practical tools for utilisation at the domestic level in identifying policies, methods and approaches for enhancing NDCs. Guidance contained in the GST 1 decision should therefore be translated into an understandable format that will help to facilitate ease of incorporation into domestic processes.
- Support is provided for building domestic capacity in implementing GST outputs immediately after the GST concludes. This could include the elaboration of a targeted institutional strengthening and capacity building programme focusing on:
 - promoting technical capacity, data management, institutional collaboration;
 - expanding the pool of nationals to be immersed into the UNFCCC process; and
 - supporting NDC revision in order to maintain the momentum for urgent and ambitious actions at the national level.

Section 2 - Responses to guiding questions

Four questions have been posed to Parties, groups and non-party stakeholders for response in preparation for the upcoming intersessional meeting and the consideration of outputs phase. In order to avoid repetition this submission includes responses to questions 1 to 3 with the response for question 4 contained in the elaboration of the decision text outline contained in section 3 of this document.

Question 1:

What has been the collective progress to date towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including under Article 2, in the thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support, taking into account efforts under the Agreement that address the social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures, and that avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change?

Key messages:

The Paris Agreement has spurred climate action globally since its entry into force but collective progress in the implementation of its goals is too slow and in some cases dangerously off-track:

- Global GHG emissions are not in line with modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, and there is a rapidly narrowing window

to raise ambition and implement existing commitments in order to limit warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels¹.

- Collectively, there is increasing ambition in plans and commitments for adaptation action and support, but most observed adaptation efforts are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions².
- Climate risks are growing, meaning that enhancing action and support for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage is urgently needed³
- Lack of indicators for understanding and assessing loss and damage has limited the possibilities for identifying gaps and recommending appropriate responses and support for the loss and damage that is already occurring today.
- Accelerated action is needed to scale up climate finance from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels⁴
- Capacity limitations present barriers across all dimensions of climate action, including mitigation, adaptation, enabling and using technology and finance and averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage.⁵

Following the completion of GST 1 Parties must drastically and urgently ramp up climate action with the relevant provision of support, within this decade.

International cooperation on climate action needs to be urgently strengthened to remove barriers to accessing finance, technology and capacity building support in order to ensure that developing countries including small island developing states are not left behind and can realise their aspirations for sustainable development.

Non-Party stakeholders have a key role to play in supporting governments with the implementation of the Paris Agreement goals. Their undertakings must be credible, subject to accountability and transparent.

Relevant messages from the TD SYR:

Key finding 1: since its adoption, the Paris Agreement has driven near-universal climate action by setting goals and sending signals to the world regarding the urgency of responding to the climate crisis. While action is proceeding, much more is needed now on all fronts.

Key finding 2: to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, governments need to support systems transformations that mainstream climate resilience and low GHG emissions development. Credible, accountable and transparent actions by non-Party stakeholders are needed to strengthen efforts for systems transformations.

Key finding 10: collectively, there is increasing ambition in plans and commitments for adaptation action and support, but most observed adaptation efforts are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions.

¹ Key finding 4 – TD SYR

² Key finding 10 – TD SYR

³ TD SYR, Para 137

⁴ TD SYR, Para 49

⁵ TD SYR, Para 61

Key finding 4: global emissions are not in line with modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, and there is a rapidly narrowing window to raise ambition and implement existing commitments in order to limit warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.

Question 2:

What are the opportunities for and challenges in enhancing action for collective progress in relation to the above-mentioned thematic areas, as well as possible measures, good practices and examples of international cooperation in this regard? How should contextual elements be considered in these?

Key Messages

- Parties' response to the GST outcome will be nationally determined, however, coming out of the technical assessment phase, a number of contextual elements arose that should inform nationally determined actions. These include, but are not limited to, human rights considerations, people-centred approaches, youth and gender.
- Possible measures that could be put in place to strengthen international cooperation and for enhancing action and collective progress could include:
 - Shifting away from fossil fuels and ramping up renewables
 - Reducing transport emissions
 - Supporting climate action for agriculture and food security
 - Scaling up support for adaptation and loss and damage
 - Meeting all finance commitments and shifting financial flows at scale
 - Submitting NDCs with ambitious 2030 and 2035 climate targets well ahead of COP30

Relevant findings from the TD SYR:

Approaches to climate action that are aligned with a country's human rights obligations would make marginalized groups part of the solutions.

Halting and reversing deforestation and degradation and improving agricultural practices are critical to reducing emissions and conserving and enhancing carbon sinks. Halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 and restoring and protecting natural ecosystems will result in large-scale CO₂ absorption and co-benefits. Demand-side measures in agriculture and intensification of sustainable agriculture, without further land expansion, are essential and catalyse widespread sustainable development benefits.

Measures to implement systems transformations in industry, transport, buildings and other sectors must rapidly reduce process and energy emissions.

Question 3:

What effective mechanisms and strategies exist to ensure that means of implementation and support are enhanced and flow consistently in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and in enhancing action for collective progress.

Key Messages

The TD SYR lists an extensive set of mechanisms, strategies and approaches in support of means of implementation in line with Paris Agreement Goals (see section D paragraphs 47 – 60 of the report).

The key issue to be addressed on means of implementation remains scale and access, in particular for addressing the needs of SIDS and LDCs. The GST outcome should highlight:

- The urgent need to scale up climate finance to match the level of needs in developing countries in support of climate action.
- Note the importance of the discussions on the new collective quantified goal to be completed in 2024.
- The opportunities for expanded partnerships, collaboration and international cooperation in support of the development and deployment of clean technologies, in particular in support of energy access and just energy transitions.
- The opportunities for more targeted cooperation in support of the delivery of climate services as a means of building resilience and planning and implementing adaptation measures.
- The need for reform of the multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions to facilitate access by developing countries.

Relevant Messages from the TD SYR

Key finding 6: achieving net zero CO₂ and GHG emissions requires systems transformations across all sectors and contexts, including scaling up renewable energy while phasing out all unabated fossil fuels, ending deforestation, reducing non-CO₂ emissions, and implementing both supply- and demand-side measures.

Key finding 9: as climate change threatens all countries, communities and people around the world, increased adaptation action as well as enhanced efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage are urgently needed to reduce and respond to increasing impacts, particularly for those who are least prepared for change and least able to recover from disasters.

Key finding 15: making finance flows – international and domestic, public and private – consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development entails creating opportunities to unlock trillions of dollars and shift investments to climate action across scales.

Key finding 17: capacity-building is foundational to achieving broad-ranging and sustained climate action and requires effective country-led and needs-based cooperation to ensure capacities are enhanced and retained over time at all levels.

Question 4:

What are key political messages for strengthening action and enhancing support and what should be the next steps and way forward in this regard?

See next section

Section -3 Decision text outline elaboration

A. Preamble

- Reference to relevant principles of Convention and PA
- Reference to PA goals
- Reference to PA, Article 14
- Reference to previous CMA decisions re GST
- Recalling that GST should inform enhanced NDCs in 2025 and enhance international cooperation for climate action
- Reference to IPCC and best available science AR6
- Reference to equity and link to pursuit of sustainable development goals

B. Context and cross-cutting considerations

- Note that climate change impacts are already significant in all countries and regions and are accelerating, with harmful social, economic and ecological consequences, including existential threats to some countries and societies
- Highlight the need for urgency in addressing the causes and impacts of climate change and note that this is the critical decade (to 2030) to keep 1.5C within reach
- Stress the need for people-centred approaches to just transition with linkages to human rights where applicable; and promoting the voices of youth and the marginalised
- Reflection on progress and failures in the collective efforts towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals
- Recognition of the scale of challenges to limit the temp increase to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change
- Noting that the cost of inaction will only increase the more urgent action is delayed.
- Stressing the importance of credibility, accountability should also be highlighted here as referenced in the Synthesis Report
- Key messages on global progress and gaps:
 - Recognition of historical cumulative emissions
 - Link between climate action and means of implementation (Art. 4.7 UNFCCC, Art. 9, 10, 11 PA enhancing implementation of Art. 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7 UNFCCC)
 - Pre-2020 ambition and implementation gaps (mitigation/NAMAs, adaptation/NAPs, means of implementation (\$100B/yr by 2020, tech transfer))
 - Integrated and systemic approaches
 - Linkages to sustainable development agenda
 - Value of a global clean/renewable energy transition
 - Pathways to just transitions based on people-centred and consultative approaches
 - Role of non-Party stakeholders as partners to scale up climate action and support

C. Collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including under Article 2, paragraph 1 (a-c), in the light of equity and the best available science, and informing Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, action and support.

Implications of the findings of the technical assessment to inform parties in updating and enhancing NDCs (19/CMA.1 p.3(c))

- a. Opportunities, challenges and best practices for enhanced implementation of current NDCs
- b. Opportunities, challenges and best practices for development of the next round of NDCs
- c. The role of non-state actors

Implications of the findings of the technical assessment for enhancing international cooperation for climate action (19/CMA.1 p.3(c))

- a. Opportunities, challenges and best practices for international cooperation
- c. The role of non-state actors

C.1 Mitigation

- Acknowledgement that Global emissions are not in line with modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, and there is a rapidly narrowing window out to 2030 to raise ambition and implement existing commitments in order to limit warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels⁶.

Agreement on:

- Call to reduce global emissions by at least 43% GHG emissions reductions by 2030 and 60% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels
- Call to achieve global peaking before 2025, and invitation for Parties who have not done so to announce when their emissions will peak
- Call for Parties to include in their NDCs all sectors and gases as far as possible in line with Article 4.4 of the Paris Agreement and in the context of the need to reduce global emissions by at least 43% GHG emissions reductions by 2030 and 60% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels
- Encouragement for Parties to strengthen existing NDCs
- Call for Parties to announce and pursue collective measures across relevant sectors to support systemic change

C.2 Adaptation

- Acknowledgment of adaptation challenges due to insufficient action on mitigation and note that adaptation efforts are failing to keep pace with increasing climate impacts⁷
- Acknowledgement of gap in implementation and ambition of adaptation action due to finance, technological and capacity constraints
- Acknowledgment that adaptation measures need to be transformative in nature to ensure wellbeing of people and planet despite adverse climate impacts
- Take note of the upcoming assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans to be initiated by the SBI in June 2024
- Take note of the report of the Standing Committee on finance on the doubling of adaptation finance, in line with paragraph 18 of decision 1/CMA.3
- Acknowledge the importance of locally led adaptation action as a means of ensuring effective adaptation as well as long-term adaptation planning as a means to avoid maladaptation.

⁶ Key finding 4 – TD SYR

⁷ TD SYR, Para 148

Agreement on:

- Support to GGA process and outcome and potential of GGA to reduce the risk of climate change impacts, contribute to more focused and effective adaptation action and support to inform GST 2 of progress in that regard
- Provision of support to developing countries to be able to design and deliver on NAPs formulation and implementation
- Recognition of the need for broader support for mainstreaming adaptation across policy and planning processes?
- Provision and Mobilisation of new and additional finance for adaptation including for doubling adaptation finance before 2025

C.3 Means of implementation and support and finance flows

- Acknowledgement of the shortfalls since 2020 to be bridged and progress expected in meeting 100 billion goal in 2023 with a view to scaling up thereafter
- Acknowledgement of the process to elaborate a new collective quantified goal on climate finance to be finalized at COP29
- Acknowledgement of the need to mobilise the trillions per year in support of enhanced climate action and staying within 1.5C
- Reiterate the need to achieve a balance between finance for mitigation and adaptation
- Take note of the request to the GCF board to increase its support to developing countries in order to guide and enable Green Climate Fund programming to promote a paradigm shift across both high-impact areas of mitigation potential and countries' adaptation and resilience needs
- Recall the decision to establish new funding arrangements including a new fund for loss and damage
- Recall the request for support for the Santiago Network on loss and damage
- Welcome linkages made between the tech and finance mechanism; note the importance of the need for investment in the development of SIDS specific technologies to build resilience and promote a just transition

Agreement on:

- The urgent need for developed countries to deliver on their commitments to provide and take the lead in mobilizing finance
- Urging that the NCQG will provide for climate finance to be scaled up with new and additional finance in a predictable and transparent manner to support the needs of developing countries as well as provide the necessary assurances for improved access, quality, and debt sustainability
- The urgent need for reform of international financial systems and for the elaboration of concrete time-bound actions to achieve this.
- Support to countries for accessing climate finance noting the NCQG process as well as MDB reform efforts that must deliver for developing countries, in particular SIDS.
- Debt relief in particular for SIDS faced with escalating climate impacts and limited access to concessional financing

C.4 Efforts related to loss and damage

- Acknowledge that risks are growing meaning that enhancing action and support for addressing Loss and Damage is urgently needed⁸

⁸ TD SYR Para 137

- Note that projected impacts will exceed hard limits to adaptation and that some impacts will be irreversible as temperatures increase beyond 1.5C.⁹
- Highlight IPCC findings on the profound constraints and limits to adaptation and that hard limits to adaptation for ecosystems and people are already being reached

Agreement on:

- Call for the WIM alongside other bodies to develop indicators for measuring and understanding loss and damage, including from extreme weather and slow onset events, and considering both economic and non-economic losses
- Call for increased scaled up resources delivered through the Loss and Damage Fund to be operationalised at COP 28e

C.5 Efforts related to response measures

- Acknowledge the work that has been done and is underway in the KCI on response measures
- Welcome the launch of the just transition work programme in Sharm elSheik.

Agreement on:

- Just Transition work programme must consider the unique circumstances of Small Island Developing States

D. Enhancing international cooperation for climate action

- Acknowledge that international cooperation is essential for addressing the impacts of climate change

Agreement on:

- International cooperation must take into consideration the special circumstances of SIDS in the provision of finance, technology and capacity building support

E. Guidance and way forward

- a. Take note of the coalitions, pledges and action plans announced and documented in the xxxxx and encourage reporting to the UNFCCC Secretariat on an annual basis so that the progress being made is consolidated and tracked
- b. Invite Parties to indicate how GST has informed NDC update upon submission in 2025
- c. Invite developed country Parties to demonstrate progress at COP 29 on how they are meeting the commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025
- d. Encourage Parties, in a nationally-determined manner, and keeping in mind national circumstances, to adopt best practices from the technical annex
- e. Establish a capacity building and technical assistance programme for NDC development in line with the invitation to improve NDCs
- f. Reiterate UNSG mandate to hold event for presentation of NDCs in 2025/COP30
- g. Include in the agenda of SB 60 an item on follow-up of the First GST under the Paris Agreement
- h. Request secretariat to prepare a report on lessons learned from the conduct of GST 1 and areas for further work to be taken into account for GST 2.
- i. Invite Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 1 February 2024, information on their experience, and lessons learned, through the conduct of the first GST.
- j. Acknowledge the role of non-State actors in follow up of the GST outcome.

⁹ TD SYR Para 165

- k. Invite the IPCC to continue to provide relevant information to Parties, taking into account the work of the UNFCCC and in particular the Global Stocktake in determining its future products and assessment cycles, and requests future IPCC assessment report cycles to be fully aligned with future Global Stocktakes.

Section 4 - Looking ahead to Inter-sessional

The inter-sessional meeting should be designed to achieve the following outcomes and lay the basis for the JCG deliberations at COP 28:

1. It should deliberate on the form of the outputs from the GST process. AOSIS is of the view that this should constitute a CMA Decision, a Political Declaration and a Technical Annex to the CMA Decision.
2. Review the outline for the CMA Decision and resolve the formulation of Section C of the CMA decision.
3. Develop the content of the various sections of the CMA Outline with bullet points of the key issues that Parties would like to see included in the CMA decision,

Appendix

Outline agreed in informal note from SB 58

A. Preamble

B. Context and cross-cutting considerations

C. Collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including under Article 2, paragraph 1 (a-c), in the light of equity and the best available science, and informing Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, action and support

C.1 Mitigation

C.2 Adaptation

[Alt 1

C.3 Finance flows and means of implementation and support

Alt 2

C.3 Means of implementation and support, including finance flows

Alt.3

C.3 Means of implementation and support

Alt.4

C.3 Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development

C.3bis Means of implementation and support] C.4 Efforts related to loss and damage C.5 Efforts related to response measures

D. Enhancing international cooperation for climate action E. Guidance and way forward