



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

AOSIS Submission

Submission by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Islands States on views from Parties on the topics to be discussed as part of the Mitigation Work Programme (2024 and ongoing).

January 29, 2024

Introduction

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on matters related to the topics to address the overarching mandate of the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), which is: to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade (...) in a manner that complements the global stocktake (GST) (1/CMA.3 paragraph 27). In relation to this overarching mandate, AOSIS would like to remind all Parties and other non-Party stakeholders that there is an *urgent and pressing need* to scale up mitigation ambition and implementation efforts in what is this critical decade, as defined by climate science, to ensure the future of Small Island Developing States.

The GST outcome at COP28 has science at its heart, reaffirms our collective commitment to keeping the 1.5°C warming limit within reach, and explicitly recognizes that this requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions of 43% by 2030. With this context, AOSIS stresses the importance of the MWP helping Parties to implement the mitigation elements of the GST outcome, starting this year. The MWP can support efforts to unlock opportunities to develop implementation-ready mitigation pathways that will create 1.5°C aligned emissions reduction outcome across critical sectors of the economy.

In particular, AOSIS would like to recall paragraph 16 GST Decision (1/CMA.5), which:

Notes the following findings of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: (a) That mitigation efforts embedded within the wider development context can increase the pace, depth and breadth of emissions reductions, as well as that policies that shift development pathways towards sustainability can broaden the portfolio of available mitigation responses and enable the pursuit of synergies with development objectives; (b) That both adaptation and mitigation financing would need to increase manyfold, and that there is sufficient global capital to close the global investment gap but there are barriers to redirecting capital to climate action, and that Governments through public funding and clear signals to investors are key in reducing these barriers and investors, central banks and financial regulators can also play their part; (c) That feasible, effective and low-cost mitigation options are already available in all

sectors to keep 1.5 °C within reach in this critical decade with the necessary cooperation on technologies and support.

These findings from the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change must guide the future direction of the thematic areas and sectors covered under the MWP.

The GST decision also highlights the urgency of our situation in the time remaining to 2030. The MWP should therefore continue to focus on sectors with the greatest mitigation potential in the short-term to put us on track with a 1.5°C pathway. Given that the IPCC AR6 WGIII Report tells us that energy sector has the greatest mitigation potential, this sector should continue to be the key focus in 2024.

AOSIS Priorities

It is important to note the overall mandate of the MWP. Paragraph 4 of 4/CMA. 4 states:

Further decides that the scope of the work programme should be based on broad thematic areas relevant to urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade and include all sectors covered in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, thematic areas in the contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and relevant enabling conditions, technologies, just transitions and cross-cutting issues;

Furthermore, Paragraph 186 of the CMA.5 GST Decision “Invites the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under or serving the Paris Agreement to integrate relevant outcomes of the first global stocktake in planning their future work, in line with their mandates;”. The MWP is the only work programme that can follow up on the GST’s mitigation commitments.

In accordance with these mandates, and recognizing the importance of a 1.5°C aligned pathway and the best available climate science, the AOSIS priorities for the MWP in 2024 relate to the implementation of the GST mitigation outcomes contained in decision 1/CMA. 5 paragraph 28. Accordingly, the AOSIS priority for a MWP topic for 2024 is a detailed consideration of implementation of key mitigation elements in the GST decision, and its paragraph 28 in particular. This would include coverage of the following areas:

- **Link between NDC targets and net zero commitments**

It is clear based on the best available climate science that keeping global warming to 1.5 °C with no or limited overshoot requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions of 43 per cent by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2035 relative to the 2019 level and reaching net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 (1/CMA. 5 para 27). Moving forward, AOSIS would like to stress the important and urgent steps needed to be

taken by all Parties to submit new and more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that align with 1.5°C, and with long-term strategies so as to meet net zero targets (see also 4/CMA. 4, para 3). Paragraph 117 of the CMA5 GST decision “requests the secretariat to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and good practices for the preparation and implementation of nationally determined contributions, including through workshops”. AOSIS considers that workshops at the Global Dialogues could include a discussion of the practical steps, best practice, and how to overcome barriers for inclusion in NDCs (particularly those 2030 NDCs which need to be revised to align with 1.5°C) of the practical implementation solutions identified in the sector-focused discussions at the Global Dialogues.

- **Parties to pursue global energy transition efforts to phase out fossil fuels.**

The MWP must discuss current and future efforts to implement the new agreement to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science (1/CMA. 5 paragraph 28(d)), particularly as the subject was excluded from last year’s global dialogue discussions on the energy sector. This should also include a discussion of pathways for reducing non-carbon dioxide based emissions, including methane (4/CMA. 5 paragraph 28(f)) across all sectors of the economy. These discussions can build on the energy dialogues undertaken by the COP28 Presidency, IRENA and the IEA.

- **Parties to end fossil fuel subsidies.**

The GST decision text raised the important issue of the phase out of fossil fuel subsidies (1/CMA. 5 paragraph 28(h)). Despite being committed to in previous COP decisions there has been no implementation under the UNFCCC so far, and the MWP is a natural home for this. The Synthesis Report on the technical dialogue of the first Global Stocktake recognized that the removal of fossil fuel subsidies is a key strategy for overcoming structural barriers in the economy and can boost the cost-competitiveness for renewable energy. In discussions, this thematic area should consider how energy policy and legal frameworks can work to change incentives on the use of fossil fuels including by applying energy transition fees, levies and charges on fuels. AOSIS stresses the need for G20 countries to take the lead in phasing out such subsidies. They should repurpose the funding for energy transition plans and policies.

- **Scaling up and partnering internationally with developing countries, including SIDS, on appropriate, locally based renewable energy solutions.**

The GST decision text, paragraph 28(a), calls on Parties to contribute towards global efforts by, “Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030”. This requires an urgent scaling up and partnering internationally with developing countries, including SIDS, on appropriate, locally based and available renewable energy solutions. The Global Dialogues and Investment Focused Events under the MWP can play a valuable role in 2024 in helping to identify opportunities and partnerships in these areas.

AOSIS further calls on all Parties to remove, and repurpose fossil fuel subsidies for energy transition policies, plans and domestic renewable energy programs. This could complement the support needed by those Parties whose NDCs are conditional on support, and accelerate the domestic interventions needed for rapid decarbonisation.

Procedural Considerations

As the functions and mandated events of the Mitigation Work Programme continue to evolve, AOSIS would like to put forward some procedural suggestions for the continuous improvement of future events and discussions:

- First, AOSIS welcomes the commitment to virtual participation in MWP activities (4 CMA/5 para 10(b)). This will help strengthen efforts to meet the mandate under paragraph 9 of Decision 4/CMA.4 to ensure “inclusive and balanced geographical representation at the dialogues;” As this mandate envisioned, this would be further strengthened by holding other in-person or hybrid dialogues in conjunction with existing events, such as the regional climate weeks.
- AOSIS also welcomes the commitment to the importance of ‘unlocking finance’ as a key component of future investment focused events (4 CMA/5 para 10(c)).
- AOSIS would like to see better and clear linkages between Global Dialogues and any Investment Focused events, where developing countries are matched with resources to strengthen technical capacity. This will provide the necessary resources needed to perform pre-feasibility studies and other aspects of project preparation.
- Finally, we request the timely provision of summary reports from global dialogues and investment focused events well in advance of the start of COP29.