



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

AOSIS SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION PR-SED2.3

Submission by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on SBSTA 56 /SBI 56 Second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it: Views on the third meeting of the Structured Expert Dialogue of the second Periodic Review.

4 March 2022

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) welcomes the opportunity to submit their views on the third meeting of the structured expert dialogue of the second periodic review (SED2.3) to take place in conjunction with SBSTA 56 / SBI 56 in Bonn, Germany.

AOSIS recognizes the efforts by the SBSTA and SBI Chairs in continuing to convene both the Joint Contact Group (JCG) and the structured expert dialogue under the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling an important exchange on the latest scientific information relevant for reaching the Paris Agreement goals.

Keeping in mind that the first periodic review (2013-2015) contributed to the strengthening of the long-term global goal and placing it at the heart of the Paris Agreement as reflected in 10/CP.21 and Article 2.1(a) of the Paris Agreement, AOSIS would like to emphasize the central role of the periodic review and its structured expert dialogue in ensuring that the best available science is adequately reflected in the UNFCCC process.

Science has made substantial progress since then. The second meeting of the Structured Expert Dialogue of the second Periodic Review (SED2.2) held in conjunction with SBSTA 52-55 / SBI 52-55 successfully provided the opportunity to learn and exchange about the latest physical science of the climate system, in particular, through the presentation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Working Group I (WGI) key findings. Importantly, it was confirmed that limiting warming to 1.5°C is still feasible, but only if just and urgent action is taken within this decade, in line with what is required by the science.

Views on the third meeting of SED2

In light of the insights from SED2.2 as well as the publication of the IPCC Working Group II and III (WGII and WGIII) contributions to its AR6 that will be available in time for SBSTA 56 / SBI 56, AOSIS puts forward the following views on SED2.3:

Given the urgency of accelerating action across the priority issues of mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and finance, AOSIS emphasizes the crucial role of science and the IPCC AR6

reports, in particular, to inform the UNFCCC process, as highlighted in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Following Decision 5/CP.25, the periodic review is tasked to enhance the understanding of scenarios towards achieving the LTGG in paragraph 4.(a)(i). AOSIS highlights that SED2.3 represents an important opportunity for an ongoing science-policy exchange on the latest scenario science, as the upcoming WGIII report is expected to provide further substantive insights on this matter.

AOSIS proposes that SED2.3 builds on and learns from the very successful SBSTA-IPCC special event on the WGI contribution. SED2.3 must allow adequate time to take in and discuss the best available science and focus on the IPCC AR6 WGII and WGIII reports, then adopted by 195 governments, which will strengthen our understanding of issues including both climate risks, adaptation, loss and damage, and possible mitigation pathways and strategies for limiting warming to 1.5°C and achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. We would like to note that previous IPCC reports from Working Groups II and III were addressed and covered comprehensively at SBSTA 40 / SBI 40 in 2014, where SED1.3, consisting of four parts of three hours each, focussed exclusively on the AR5 WGII and WGIII contributions.

AOSIS wishes to put forward two topical clusters that should be addressed based on the latest science assessed in the IPCC AR6 WGII and WGI III contributions:

First, the severity of impacts today, system thresholds including for the most vulnerable people and ecosystems, insights regarding the key IPCC finding of ‘every bit of warming matters’, and detailed accounts of reduced risks and impacts of climate change at 1.5°C vs. higher warming levels should be addressed. Topics should also include the irreversibility of climate change impacts and the risks of overshooting 1.5°C. Experts should also address issues of limits to adaptation and loss and damage, and linkages to insufficient emission reductions and failure to achieve the LTGG.

Second, experts should address the details of pathways that limiting warming to 1.5°C and the likelihood of limiting warming to certain levels for different emission reduction pathways. Further topics should include the consequences of delayed action and the negative side effects of delayed action and reliance on carbon dioxide removal. Experts should also address opportunities of 1.5°C-compatible action for sustainable development including co-benefits for human health, and opportunities for early action and costs of renewable energies and other technologies, for instance. Lastly, topics should also cover financial flows that present challenges and opportunities for achieving the LTGG, and the need for means of implementation and support to overcome challenges.

AOSIS recognizes that timelines have shifted because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which causes a partial temporal overlap between the second periodic review (PR2) and the first Global Stocktake (GST1). While this overlap is unfortunate, AOSIS notes that theme 1 of PR2 is not covered under the GST, and that theme 2 of the PR2 is meant to assess past progress and lessons learned, while the GST is more forward-looking in nature. Clear guidance on both the discussions under SED2.3 and the GST1 is therefore of the essence to maximise the

usefulness and capitalise on the opportunity of targeted discussions on major scientific findings.

Given these considerations, AOSIS in the following suggests a potential way forward to adequately inform both SED2.3 and GST1 at the upcoming SB56:

- Schedule two days for a mandated IPCC Special Event on the contributions of WGII and WGIII at the very beginning of the session to inform the SED2.3, followed by GST1 items;
- Schedule two days for SED2.3, starting with a report back from the mandated IPCC Special Event, highlighting key findings from the reports and discussions, ensuring that discussions in SED2.3 are topical and focus on the mandate of PR 2.
- Ensure that SED2.3 and GST1 inputs made in the context of both processes are closely aligned with the respective mandates and follow clearly defined guiding questions, in order to avoid any duplication of work.

Looking ahead to the continuation of Periodic Reviews and the Structured Expert Dialogues beyond the second Periodic Review and recalling 2/CP.17 paragraph 167 and 5/CP.25 paragraph 8, AOSIS reiterates its commitment to a UNFCCC process based on the best available science and looks ahead to consider the continuation of Periodic Reviews. The wealth of information that has come forward in the PR2 and SED2 discussions already clearly speaks to the value of this unique process.