



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

AOSIS Submission

Submission on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States on inputs to the Belém Mission on 1.5, in response to the invitation given by the COP 29, COP 30 and COP 31 Presidencies.

July 2026

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) welcomes the opportunity to submit inputs to the Belém Mission on 1.5. As a grouping of 39 countries extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, AOSIS welcomes all efforts to enable and support the delivery and implementation of ambitious NDCs that are aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C, and the delivery and implementation of NAPs that can ensure the protection of the most vulnerable.

I MANDATE

The Belém Mission to 1.5 was adopted at COP 30 in the context of the Global Mutirão decision. See decision 1/CMA.7, at para. 42. It involves a series of activities and engagements throughout 2026 guided by the COP29, COP30, and COP31 Presidencies focused **on identifying key opportunities to enable and accelerate the ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs** and reflecting on ways to enhance international cooperation and investments in these climate plans.

The Belém Mission to 1.5 will culminate in a report released ahead of COP 31, **outlining key opportunities, barriers, and actionable solutions to keeping 1.5°C within reach and strengthening adaptation and resilience in a changing world, focused on high impact action areas and solutions**, as supported by best-available science and evidence. The primary audience will be decision-makers across the climate change ecosystem, including policymakers, business and technology innovators and investors.

Inputs have been sought from Parties to identify high impact barriers and opportunities at the global, country, regional or local scales, guided by the questions below. These inputs will be the focus for subsequent engagements throughout the year.

- 1. What action areas and solutions have the highest impact potential to support the submission, ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs. This could include consideration of:
 - a. priority solutions and innovations across policies, technologies, practices and investments,*
 - b. finance, technology, capacity building, and institutional opportunities, and*
 - c. the most significant barriers.**
- 2. What is required to further strengthen international cooperation to enhance ambition and enable the effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs?*

AOSIS responds to the above questions in the sections below. We set out the context and rationale for the approach to the questions posed in the submission; then we comment first on priority solutions for the challenges facing SIDS in NDC and NAP submission, ambition and implementation. The submission then goes on to discuss policy ambition and planning at the global level, then turns to priority gaps, barriers and priority solutions on mitigation and then to barriers, opportunities and priority areas for action on adaptation.

II. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

What action areas and solutions have the highest impact potential to support the submission, ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs? What is required to further strengthen international cooperation to enhance ambition and enable the effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs?

- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is the central goal of the Paris Agreement and meeting this goal is essential for the people, livelihoods, cultures, communities and ways of life of small island developing States. The 1.5°C goal also reflects the physical and biochemical threshold for the survival of global marine ecosystems.
- The rate of global warming is accelerating and has reached dangerous levels due to delayed and insufficient mitigation action. A sustained breach of 1.5°C is now projected by the 2030s. Breaching this threshold would trigger a significant increase in irreversible loss and damage, threatening the human rights of our people. The scaling up of mitigation action aligned with limiting the magnitude and duration of overshoot and returning to well below 1.5°C by 2100, in line with the Paris Agreement, is critical to limit irreversible physical, ecological and economic loss and damages, and to prevent climate breakdown.
- Failure to submit 1.5°C-aligned NDCs is not just a political failure but potentially constitutes an internationally wrongful act.
- Ambitious and urgent global emission reductions are needed, if SIDS are to be able to realistically adapt to the changing climate. Without deep global emissions cuts, SIDS' local efforts on adaptation will be overwhelmed, as will the efforts of other vulnerable countries.
- With the trust invested in the COP31, COP30 and COP29 Troika Presidencies, the Belém Mission to 1.5 and its Report must respond to **all** opportunities to address and close the current mitigation and adaptation gaps, by identifying ways to increase ambition and accelerate implementation, grounded in the best available science. No less effort is expected when the livelihoods, cultures, communities and ways of life of SIDS is at stake.
- The Belém Mission to 1.5 Report needs to be relevant to SIDS. It must contain a detailed workplan outlining how support systems can be rapidly initiated to meet SIDS' challenges, and support SIDS' NDC and NAP ambition and delivery. SIDS should be able

to identify in this Report specific follow up actions that will address the unique challenges SIDS face in planning and implementation for both mitigation and adaptation.

- The Report must identify a set of clear, near-term, tangible initiatives that are practical, time-bound, and anchored to relevant 'actors', and can support and engage relevant public sector ministries, enable private sector investment, and encourage and incentivize private sector banks, regional development banks, and multilateral and other institutions to scale up their investments in SIDS immediately upon the Report's launch at COP 31 and in the critical years to follow.
- **The Belem Mission to 1.5 Report should also provide a clear roadmap of how its findings, of opportunities and actionable solutions at both the global and SIDS levels will be taken forward. With this detailed workplan on the table, we look forward to the outputs from this consultation having a space in the COP31 outcome and beyond.**

III. SIDS PRIORITY NEEDS AND ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS

NDC and NAP ambition in SIDS

- **Small Island Developing States continue to showcase leadership in scaling up our ambition**, despite our resource and capacity constraints, and negligible emissions profile.
- **30 SIDS have submitted new NDCs** and many others are well on the way to revising their NDC targets. With respect to mitigation, SIDS' NDCs rely heavily on the uptake of renewable energy and the electrification of transport.
- **While emissions from SIDS are small and have an extremely limited impact on global emission trajectories, SIDS can serve as international role models for the energy transition, with relatively small amounts of international investment and support.** A successful transition away from fossil fuel dependency in SIDS will support sustainable development, by enhancing energy access and affordability, energy independence and security. A successful green energy transition in SIDS will also free up public and private sector resources that can be repurposed, including to support adaptation-related needs.
- **In addition, as of June 16, 15 SIDS have formally submitted their National Adaptation Plans to the UNFCCC, with other NAPs in the preparation stage.** SIDS are increasingly exposed to the impacts of climate change and require immediate support for adaptation planning and implementation to minimize these impacts and consequent loss and damage. In the meantime, adaptation needs are growing due to insufficient mitigation action. The failure to mitigate in line with the Paris Agreement goals is already pushing SIDS to hard limits for adaptation while the lack of adequate means of implementation, including grant-based public finance is exacerbating the soft limits of adaptation in SIDS. These systemic legal and political failures constitute climate justice issues for SIDS.

Priority Needs in SIDS

- Many SIDS' NDCs contain conditional commitments that are dependent on securing financial and other forms of support, underscoring the **need for external support to assist SIDS in realizing even greater ambition.**
- **Priority needs include, at pre-NAP stage, SIDS' improved access to sufficient and grant-based finance, technology and capacity strengthening to undertake detailed climate risk and vulnerability assessments.** The reality of SIDS is that they are deeply committed to meaningful consultation with communities on current climate impacts, future risks and the locally-appropriate solutions – informed by local knowledge and by science. However, due to the geographies of SIDS, it can be costly and time consuming to undertake full consultation on NAPs. **SIDS make good use of funds for NAP preparation when granted to them, but such funds must become easier to access than they are now to help SIDS meet their adaptation planning commitments.**
- **For those SIDS that have completed NAPs, the challenge is implementation.** Too often, countries move from planning to costing, only to face new requirements to prove projects are "bankable" before finance can flow. SIDS face a major gap in human resource capacity and financing to be able to turn their priority adaptation strategy areas (as identified in assessment and consultation phase) into bankable/investible project pipelines. **This is a 'missing middle' between priority-setting and investibility in adaptation projects that creates a vast hurdle for many SIDS.** Climate finance institutions should release more, and more rapid, finance for SIDS to assess pre-project feasibility (their adaptation portfolio strategy) and project feasibility (of individual adaptation projects, once a specific option has been selected). Strategic capital for this feasibility and detailed costing and planning work is inherent to climate resilience and to financial, social, ecological sustainability. Furthermore, such support must be grant based and not put SIDS in further debt.
- SIDS need to improve their resilience to future climate shocks. This is where **streams of adequate adaptation finance (for the future proofing) need to dovetail with the streams of finance for responding to loss and damage (when adaptation actions have reached their limits).** There needs to be adequate adaptation finance, along with adequate finance to respond to loss and damage where adaptation actions are no longer feasible, so that there are adequate funds available within, and accessible to SIDS within FRLD, GCF, AF, SCCF/GEF.
- **Even where NDCs or NAPs remain absent or limited, for many SIDS, the challenge is not a lack of commitment or ambition, but a lack of support.** Financial resources, capacity building and technical support, as well technology development and transfer are all needed to support the delivery of NDCs and NAPs and the implementation of these plans. With respect to adaptation, for example, the Global Mutirao Decision rightly recognizes at para. 20 "the continued efforts of developing country Parties in

formulating and implementing national adaptation plans [but also] the significant challenges they face in accessing finance for implementing them."

- **The standard NAP process was not designed for smaller administrations and needs simplification to support NAP submission.** Slow readiness disbursement limited institutional capacity, and gaps in climate and vulnerability data continue to delay NAP formulation in SIDS. SIDS need support that meets SIDS where they are, with simplified and faster pathways to develop and update NAPs. For countries that have not yet completed NAPs, the GCF NAP Readiness Proposal submission process is highly technical and complex and should be simplified, to enable vulnerable SIDS to easily access funding for formulating and implementing NAPs.
- **SIDS' technology needs** cannot be effectively addressed without predictable and adequate financing, as well as the capacity-building necessary to deploy, operate, maintain, and scale up technologies over time. Financing, technology, and capacity-building must therefore be treated as mutually reinforcing components of implementation.
- For SIDS, **appropriate technologies must be affordable, accessible, locally relevant, and responsive to national circumstances**, with technology transfer focusing on building lasting national and regional capacities, strengthening local institutions, and promoting knowledge sharing, rather than creating dependence on external providers or one-off technical assistance initiatives.

Priority Actionable Solutions in SIDS

- **Accelerate access to finance for SIDS as a matter of emergency.** There is a continuing need for access modalities for SIDS to be simplified, to advance complementarity and coherence amongst the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and UNFCCC Funds, and for instruments that do not cause SIDS to incur further debt burdens. As well as undertaking further bilateral, multilateral and regional work to cater to specific access challenges of underserved regions.
- **Enhance international cooperation and partnership engagement** to operationalize all three enablers (finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building) for SIDS. Non-Party stakeholders, including multilateral development banks (MDBs), regional institutions, technical partners, academia, and the private sector, have an important role to play in supporting climate action in SIDS, aligned with country-driven priorities, national circumstances, and the need to maintain debt sustainability.
- **Empower the domestic private sectors of SIDS to contribute** through targeted capacity-building, de-risking instruments, improved access to affordable finance, and technology transfer, enabling them to become active partners in driving climate-resilient and low-emission development. At the same time, it is recognised that the private sector probably will only contribute around 10% of the needed adaptation finance in SIDS and so the onus remains on public financing, and particularly grant-based and concessional international public finance, to make up the substantial gap.

- **Address the structural barriers that continue to constrain implementation in SIDS for both mitigation and adaptation.** These include the high cost of capital, substantial existing debt burdens that limit the fiscal space for domestic action, restrictive eligibility criteria for concessional finance, sovereign risk assessments, and international financial rules that often fail to account for climate vulnerability.
- **Supplement human capacity and revise funding requirements to facilitate access to climate finance.** For SIDS, human and technical capacity constraints exist in accessing climate finance throughout the project cycle, from origination to implementation. A challenge for many SIDS exists in satisfying donors' proposal standards, slowing access to needed financial support. Support should be delivered through both supplementing **human capacity** and **revising funding requirements** in project development and financial structuring.¹
- **Provide integrated NAP implementation support.** SIDS would benefit from integrated NAP implementation support, combining direct access, grant-based and programmatic finance, project preparation support, technology transfer, and capacity-building. **An element of automatic grant-based implementation funding** following NAP submission is necessary to help countries move quickly from planning to action and avoid a loss of momentum.
- **Support Digital Climate Information for adaptation planning.** In SIDS, where populations, infrastructure, and economic activities are often concentrated in vulnerable coastal areas, **digital climate information services** are critical for adaptation planning and climate-resilient development. These services help policymakers identify vulnerable communities, design effective adaptation measures, protect critical infrastructure, manage water and food security risks, and improve disaster preparedness. **They also strengthen access to climate finance by providing the data and risk assessments needed to develop robust adaptation projects.** Given the significant data and capacity gaps faced by many SIDS, technology transfer and capacity-building in Digital Climate Information Services can enhance adaptive capacity, reduce climate-related losses, and support long-term sustainable development in some of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.
- **Support technologies for climate-resilient infrastructure for coastal protection in SIDS.** SIDS populations, infrastructure, and economic activities are often concentrated in low-lying coastal areas that are highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, storm surges, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events. The IPCC highlights that climate change is increasing risks to coastal settlements and critical infrastructure in small islands, making investments in resilient infrastructure essential for safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and economic development. **Technologies such as coastal monitoring systems, advanced engineering solutions, resilient building materials, and nature-based coastal protection measures can help reduce vulnerability and strengthen the**

¹ Accessing Climate Finance: Challenges and opportunities for Small Island Developing States, https://www.un.org/ohrrls/sites/www.un.org.ohrrls/files/accessing_climate_finance_challenges_sids_report.pdf

resilience of coastal communities. This includes the design and construction of resilient ports, roads, seawalls, drainage systems, and water and energy infrastructure, as well as the integration of ecosystem-based approaches such as mangrove restoration, coral reef conservation, and beach nourishment.

- **Provide SIDS with greater access to SIDS-relevant innovative solutions, technical expertise, and best practices in strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure.** This will reduce disaster risk and economic losses, support adaptation planning, protect critical services, and enhance the long-term resilience of island communities in the face of escalating climate threats.
- **Enhance Climate Related Early Warning Systems Technologies for SIDS.** SIDS are among the most exposed countries to tropical cyclones, storm surges, floods, droughts, marine heatwaves, and other climate-related hazards. The IPCC identifies early warning systems as one of the most effective adaptation measures for reducing climate risks and avoiding loss and damage. Advanced technologies such as weather radar systems, satellite observations, climate forecasting models, automated monitoring networks, and digital communication platforms enable governments to detect hazards earlier, improve forecast accuracy, and provide timely warnings to vulnerable communities. For SIDS, strengthening early warning system technologies can significantly enhance preparedness, disaster response, and resilience. Effective early warning systems support risk-informed decision-making across sectors such as disaster management, agriculture, fisheries, water resources, health, and infrastructure. They can help save lives, reduce economic losses, and protect critical assets.
- **Address absence of economies of scale in SIDS for mitigation technologies through support for energy system audits and bulk procurement initiatives** for the acquisition of renewable energy systems, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and energy efficiency technologies, to facilitate NDC implementation. See, for example, the AOSIS Article 6.8 presentation given at SB 64 [here](#).
- **Address economies of scale challenges for nature protection** through the establishment of platforms for the support of nature-based initiatives across multiple SIDS (e.g., a Caribbean Nature Bank has been proposed for establishment, to bring together smaller initiatives that can benefit from financial support).

IV. GLOBAL GAPS, NEEDS AND ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS

Global temperatures have reached alarming levels with 2024 and 2025 on record as the warmest years in recorded history. This trend threatens SIDS societies, customs and traditions and undermines SIDS economic viability. Sustainable development of SIDS in a 2 degree world becomes profoundly more challenging, but SIDS legitimate development needs and aspirations cannot be met through SIDS action alone. Global level commitment and action to keep 1.5°C within reach and to keep any potential overshoot of 1.5°C extremely limited in magnitude and duration is what is needed now. The Belem Mission to

1.5 must contribute to this effort. The ways this can be achieved are explored in the sections that follow.

A. Planning and Policy Gaps and Needs related to NDC submission, ambition and implementation and Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level

NDC Submission: Not all Parties have submitted a new or enhanced NDC as required.

- **The Belém Mission to 1.5 Report must be explicit in recognizing the legal obligation of all Parties to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs** under Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement and to do so every five years in accordance with Article 4.9. The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change has recognized this obligation at paras 234-236.
- **The Report must note gaps in compliance with these legal obligations and identify ways forward in securing compliance with these obligations.**
- **The Report should identify an ongoing political mechanism for high-level engagement with those countries that have yet to submit NDCs.** This political process, supporting the UNFCCC process, should remind Parties of their legal obligation to submit successive NDCs in a timely manner, recall that these NDCs are to reflect countries' highest possible ambition, underscore the importance of NDC submission and ambition for the global community, and offer to facilitate assistance where this would be helpful. See Global Mutirao at paras 16-17.
- **The Paris Committee on Implementation and Compliance (PAICC) should be engaged to identify relevant Parties** from the public NDC registry that have not yet submitted or updated their NDCs, as candidates for encouragement, facilitation and potential support for NDC preparation and communication.

NDC Ambition: Many NDCs that have been submitted are not aligned with 1.5°C-consistent pathways.

- **The Belém Mission to 1.5 Report must explicitly acknowledge that current NDCs are insufficient,** reiterate developed countries' legal obligation to lead on mitigation ambition, underscore the need for NDC alignment with the 1.5°C temperature goal and identify ways forward.
- **High level approaches to developed countries and other major-emitting countries between now and COP 31 are needed to facilitate delivery of updated and enhanced NDCs and the announcement of additional mitigation measures.** The Troika of COP Presidencies should use its role to seek the adoption and announcement of additional mitigation measures by countries that bolster their NDC ambition, consistent with Article 4.11, for formal announcement at COP 31. At that time, the number of Parties failing to present new and enhanced NDCs should be stated.

- **High level engagement with countries that have not yet submitted a long-term low emission development strategy.** The Troika of COP Presidencies should engage additionally with those Parties that have not yet submitted 1.5°C consistent LT-LEDS to identify their barriers and challenges, with a view to supporting the announcement and delivery of a significant number of 1.5°C-consistent additional LT-LEDS by SB-66 and COP 32, consistent with the encouragement under Article 4.19. See Global Mutirao decision at para.18.

B. Mitigation Gaps, Needs and Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level

Mitigation Gaps and Needs at the Global Level

- **Immediate large scale emission reductions are needed to meet the 1.5C temperature goal and to limit the duration and scale of any overshoot at this time of crisis.** Yet there are no large-scale transformative global initiatives on the horizon.
- **The world is now on a trajectory toward approximately 2.7°C of warming, placing the 1.5°C limit at serious risk of overshoot.** If emissions are not rapidly reduced in this critical decade, any temporary overshoot of 1.5°C will grow in both duration and severity - intensifying impacts and increasing loss and damage in SIDS.
- **The failure to implement large-scale emission reductions greatly increases the risk of crossing irreversible Earth system tipping points.** See Lenton, T.M., et al., The Global Tipping Points Report 2025.

Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level:

- **Use the Belem Mission to 1.5 Report to draw attention to best available science on climate system tipping points, to place the need for immediate large-scale emission reduction initiatives in their wider context.** There is a need to sensitize the public to the risks of inaction as this public knowledge is lacking.
- **Focus accelerated action on the GST energy package.** The action areas and solutions that have the highest impact potential for mitigation are those that are set out in the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST), in particular in the energy package set out at paragraph 28 of GST decision 1/CMA.5, as the energy sector holds the highest potential for low-cost reductions:
 1. **Tripling renewable energy capacity** globally and doubling the global average annual rate of **energy efficiency improvements** by 2030;
 2. Accelerating efforts towards the **phase-down of unabated coal power**;
 3. Accelerating efforts globally towards net zero emission energy systems, utilizing **zero- and low-carbon fuels** well before or by around mid-century;
 4. **Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems**, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science;

5. **Accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies**, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and low-carbon hydrogen production;
 6. Accelerating and **substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including in particular methane emissions** by 2030;
 7. Accelerating the **reduction of emissions from road transport** on a range of pathways, including through development of infrastructure and rapid deployment of **zero and low-emission vehicles**;
 8. **Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies** that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible
- **Implement the energy package in full to avoid up to 0.9°C of warming.** Full implementation of the energy package - including tripling renewable energy, doubling energy efficiency, and reducing methane emissions by 2030 and beyond- could avoid up to 0.9°C of warming, according to the Climate Action Tracker.²
 - **Follow the Highest Possible Ambition Scenario to limit the duration and extent of overshoot and keep 1.5°C within reach.** The "Highest Possible Ambition" Scenario (HPA), developed since publication of the IPCC AR6, achieves net zero CO₂ emissions before 2050, and net zero GHG emissions by the early 2060s.³ The HPA scenario shows that while a temporary overshoot of the 1.5°C limit may now be inevitable, warming can still be reduced below 1.5°C before 2100, if efforts are accelerated. The HPA scenario starts five years later and at higher levels of emissions than the IPCC AR6 scenarios but catches up with these scenarios around 2040. The technological revolution in renewables and electrification makes rapid change more possible than anticipated previously, allowing the world to achieve net zero CO₂ before 2050 and go on to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the 2060s, supported by a rapid phaseout of fossil fuels and scale-up of carefully governed carbon dioxide removal (CDR).
 - **Exhibit leadership: the Belém Mission to 1.5 Troika of COP Presidencies must exhibit leadership, by undertaking ambitious domestic initiatives to phase out coal and reduce their own inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.** The Belém Mission to 1.5 Troika of COP Presidencies can lead the way by undertaking ambitious domestic initiatives to phase out coal and reduce inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, prioritizing the reduction of subsidies related to the most-CO₂ intensive forms of energy supply and consumption, and report on their own plans and progress at COP 31. Other countries can be invited to join in these accelerated efforts.
 - **Report global data on fossil fuel subsidies into the UNFCCC process; encourage domestic fossil fuel subsidy audits and profile cooperative initiatives that assist Parties in identifying, classifying and reducing fossil fuel subsidies that are no longer**

² <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/cop30-briefing-energy-methane-goals/>

³ Climate Analytics, 2025. Rescuing 1.5°C New evidence on the highest possible ambition to deliver the Paris Agreement (November 2025), [https://ca1-clm.edcdn.com/publications/Rescuing1.5°C.pdf?v=1762362849](https://ca1-clm.edcdn.com/publications/Rescuing1.5%C.pdf?v=1762362849)

fit for purpose or that can be replaced with more targeted tools. The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change at para. 427 provides that the failure of a State to take appropriate action to protect the climate system from GHG emissions, including through the provision of fossil fuel subsidies, may constitute an internationally wrongful act attributable to the State under international law. As referenced in the GST energy package, reducing fossil fuel subsidies can help create the space for renewable energy uptake, which in turn can create the space for countries to reduce their fossil fuel dependency. One example of a relevant initiative that can support Parties in reducing fossil fuel subsidies, through assistance with fossil fuel subsidy audits, regardless of membership, is the Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuels Including Subsidies (COFFIS). Another initiative of note is the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), which is a trade agreement outside the WTO addressing among other things the elimination of tariffs on many environmental goods. The Global Implementation Accelerator (GIA) can build upon these efforts from COP31 forward.

- **Establish a tracking system / dashboard for GST energy package elements and Highest Possible Ambition (HPA) milestones that will outlast COP 31. These milestones are key to stopping warming and then driving temperatures back down to below 1.5°C pre-2100 and should also be areas of focus for the Global Implementation Accelerator process.** See <https://ca1-clm.edcdn.com/publications/Rescuing1.5°C.pdf?v=1762362849>

This dashboard could track progress toward achievement of each element, effort still needed and identify related multilateral initiatives that offer technical and financial support (e.g., the Global Methane Pledge, the Powering Past Coal Alliance and related Plan to Accelerate Coal Transitions announced at COP 30). Electrification goals can be incorporated.

- **Increase international cooperation to support the necessary just and equitable transition.** increased international cooperation, expedited means of implementation, and the increased accessibility and affordability of solutions are needed to support the **just and equitable transition** away from fossil fuels, including through the prioritisation, promotion and acceleration of available, mature, and affordable technologies, such as renewable energy (RE) solutions - as recognized by decision 1/CMA.5, para. 30.

C. Adaptation Gaps, Needs and Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level

Adaptation Gaps and Needs at the Global Level

- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is the central goal of the Paris Agreement and meeting this goal is essential to minimize the threats to the livelihoods, jobs, way of life and cultures of small island developing States. **Ambitious and urgent global emission reductions are needed to enable SIDS and other vulnerable countries to be able to adapt to a changing climate.** Accordingly, mitigation efforts at scale are needed to enable successful adaptation efforts, and finance, capacity building and technology transfer are urgently needed to support practical adaptation efforts on the

ground.

- The **global adaptation gap continues to widen**. While adaptation needs are increasing due to escalating climate impacts, international support has failed to keep pace. The UNEP Adaptation Gap Reports consistently demonstrate that current adaptation finance falls far short of estimated needs, leaving vulnerable countries unable to implement priority adaptation actions at the scale and speed required.
- **National Adaptation Plans must become implementation instruments rather than planning exercises**. Many developing countries, particularly SIDS, have completed or are finalizing NAPs but continue to face significant barriers in moving from planning to implementation due to fragmented financing, burdensome project preparation requirements, lengthy approval procedures, and insufficient institutional support.
- Means of implementation remain the principal constraint to adaptation ambition. **Finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building are indispensable for implementing adaptation priorities**. Without predictable and accessible support, increasing adaptation ambition will not translate into greater resilience on the ground.
- **Adaptation efforts are increasingly approaching limits** in some ecosystems and sectors. For many SIDS, sea-level rise, coral reef degradation, freshwater scarcity, ocean warming and increasingly severe extreme weather events are creating situations where **incremental adaptation measures alone are no longer sufficient**, reinforcing the urgency of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

Priority Actionable Solutions at the Global Level

- **Developed country Parties must meet their climate finance commitments**. There is a disturbing trend of climate finance reductions and redirection, despite the global goal to triple adaptation finance by 2035, and to triple finance moving through the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and the UNFCCC Funds, namely the GCF, AF and SCCF window A. This is creating a further strain on public finance in SIDS and other developing countries at a time when it is needed more than ever.
- **Accelerate implementation of National Adaptation Plans**. The Belem Mission to 1.5 report should recommend streamlined, grant-based implementation support for countries that have completed NAPs, reducing the time between planning and implementation and avoiding duplicative project preparation requirements.
- **Close the widening gap on adaptation finance and action**. Progress is needed in the implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and in discussions on the Belém Adaptation Roadmap (BAR), further clarifying and tracking progress on the goal to triple adaptation finance by 2035, significantly enhancing support for NAP implementation and funding approved but as-yet unfunded projects in the Adaptation Fund pipeline.

- **Support nature-based efforts, referenced in the GST outcome, for both mitigation and adaptation.** To support resilience, there is a need to conserve, protect and restore nature and ecosystems, in particular high integrity ecosystems, towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and attention to other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. See 1/CMA.5, para. 33.
- Support locally led adaptation and community resilience. **Adaptation efforts should build on local knowledge, Indigenous knowledge** where appropriate, and community-based approaches that strengthen resilience while ensuring inclusive participation of women, youth and marginalized groups.
- **Strengthen coherence across adaptation-related processes under the UNFCCC.** The implementation of the GGA, National Adaptation Plans, Adaptation Communications, the Belém Adaptation Roadmap, the Global Stocktake and adaptation finance discussions should avoid creating additional reporting burdens for developing countries.

V. CONCLUSION

AOSIS reiterates that limiting global warming to 1.5°C is the central goal of the Paris Agreement and meeting this goal is essential for the people, livelihoods, cultures, communities and ways of life of small island developing States. The rate of global warming is accelerating, and due to delayed and insufficient mitigation action a sustained breach of 1.5°C is now projected by the 2030s. The scaling up of mitigation action aligned with limiting the magnitude and duration of overshoot, returning to well below 1.5°C by 2100, in line with the Paris Agreement, is critical to prevent irreversible physical, ecological and economic loss and damages.

In response, the Belém Mission to 1.5 must deliver more than a diagnosis of the challenges. It must provide a practical, accountable roadmap for accelerating implementation. The solutions are known and feasible; the principal barriers are no longer technical, but political, financial and institutional.

For SIDS, the challenge is not ambition but implementation. SIDS continue to demonstrate leadership despite contributing negligibly to global emissions, yet their ability to deliver ambitious NDCs and implement NAPs remains constrained by persistent gaps in grant-based finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and access to implementation support. At the same time, only deep and rapid global emissions reductions consistent with the Paris Agreement can preserve the adaptive space needed for SIDS and other vulnerable countries to build resilient futures.

The Belém Mission to 1.5 Report should therefore move beyond identifying opportunities to defining clear, time-bound actions, assigning responsibilities to relevant actors, and

establishing mechanisms to sustain implementation and accountability beyond COP 31. Key priorities are summarised below:

- accelerate the implementation of the GST1 outcomes, particularly the energy package and other high-impact mitigation measures needed to keep 1.5°C within reach;
- simplify and expand access to predictable, grant-based finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building, enabling SIDS to move rapidly from planning to implementation;
- address the structural barriers that continue to constrain climate action in SIDS, including high costs of capital, debt burdens, limited institutional capacity and restrictive access to concessional finance;
- strengthen support for adaptation implementation by bridging the "missing middle" between planning and investment, including through integrated project preparation support and streamlined financing pathways; and
- promote practical cooperation that mobilises governments, multilateral institutions, development banks, the private sector and technical partners around country-driven priorities.

The success of the Belém Mission to 1.5 will ultimately be measured by how it catalyses accelerated action. The Belém Mission to 1.5 Report should provide a clear roadmap to all Parties of how these opportunities, and priority solutions, at both the global and SIDS levels, will be taken forward.

The Report should serve as an implementation blueprint translating political commitments into measurable outcomes, closing both the ambition and implementation gaps, and delivering the means of implementation needed to keep 1.5°C within reach while supporting the strengthening of resilience for those most vulnerable to climate change.

AOSIS looks forward to the outputs and elements from the Belém Mission to 1.5 having a space in the COP31 outcome and informing the work of relevant agenda items as well as the Global Implementation Accelerator's actions in the years that follow.