

# Tonga Joint National Action Plan

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- Thank you, Co-Facilitators, As earlier introduce by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of AOSIS. Tonga would like to share its experiences and example on an integrated holistic approach of its Joint National Action Plan 1 & 2 and its implementation
- The concept of a **holistic or 'whole of country' programmatic approach** to both planning and implementation, has been adopted in Tonga as far back as 2010 with the release of **its first Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management from 2010-2015** (or simply JNAP 1)
- The development of JNAP 1 is to ensure that these **priorities** in the areas of Climate and Disaster are **addressed** and **implemented** at all levels and involving all relevant stakeholders and practitioners.
- Tonga is now in its Second Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (2018 – 2028) or JNAP 2 and this has been submitted to UNFCCC as its NAP in October 2021.
- This plan is consistent with the Tonga Strategic Development Framework, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, SAMOA Pathway, Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and the SDGs.
- The management and implementation of Tonga's JNAP is overseen by a national steering committee known as the JNAP Taskforce, who are responsible for coordinating all climate and disaster initiatives in Tonga, and includes government sectors, NGO's, Private sector, Community leaders, Women's groups, and Youth groups.
- Tonga has adopted a simultaneous vertical and horizontal approach to mainstreaming Climate and Disaster into national planning and implementation across all government sectors, and streamlining the same planning and implementation process from community to Cabinet.
- This is also evident in Tonga adjusting its national institutional framework with the establishment of its first super-ministry, which consist of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications or simply referred to as MEIDECC.
- As a measure to ensure that Climate and Disaster remains the country's highest priority, Tonga also established a Climate Change Cabinet Committee which would fast track endorsement on matters related to climate and disaster including policies, plans, and legislation.
- Further to this was the establishment of Tonga's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Climate Change, Disaster, and Environment to ensure the climate concerns of the public and throughout national constituencies are represented at the highest level.

- In saying this, Tonga is certainly not the only country that has existing systems in place which have adopted a form of **systemic transformation** at multiple levels involving multiple stakeholders, as many other countries in the Pacific region have adopted similar process.
- The **key issue that continues to hamper our efforts in implementation**, even with the stated systems in place, is the pace in which finance is accessed, as the processes for accessing finance in many cases **outlasts** the timeframe of our National Plans.
- Hence our call for urgency in providing adequate financing to allow us to achieve our NDC targets and in doing so collectively attaining and sustaining a 1.5-degree world.

I thank you.