ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

SUBMISSION

TOPIC: GLOBAL STOCKTAKE – SUBMISSION 1

MANDATE(S)

Decision 19/CMA.21: *'[The CMA] requested the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to issue a call for the inputs referred to in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the same decision, taking into account that such inputs should be submitted at least three months before their consideration in the technical assessment.'*

8th June 2022

INPUTS

The Alliance of Small Island States ('AOSIS') welcomes the opportunity to provide views and inputs in response to the call outlined in paragraphs 36 and 37 of Decision 19/CMA.1 on the first Global Stocktake ('GST'). AOSIS trusts that these views and inputs will be taken into consideration by the subsidiary bodies in the first meeting of the Technical Dialogue which will take place in June 2022 in conjunction with the 56th session of the Subsidiary Bodies in accordance with Decision 19/CMA.1.

I Overview of AOSIS priorities for GST

AOSIS is of the 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 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 is of the view that the GST, at the level of both process and outcome is therefore distinguishable from the ongoing Periodic Review which is more specific in its focus. In fact, the outcomes for the Periodic Review may provide further clarity to the actions Parties may agree to take as a result of the outcome of the Global Stocktake.

In AOSIS' view, in order to enhance ambition and action in the next round of NDCs, as well as international cooperation for climate action in accordance with Article 14.3 of the Paris Agreement the GST outputs should address the following areas in particular:

For mitigation

- Ways to identify, evaluate, and generate solutions to the gaps in mitigation ambition in line with the best available science;
- Clear pathways, sectoral or otherwise, for ensuring that mitigation ambition is ratcheted up;
- Priorities for reducing atmospheric GHG concentrations and an evaluation of current strategies' effectiveness for advancing on pathways consistent with the 1.5C temperature, including the role of short versus long lived climate forcers
- Consideration of the relationship of mitigation action or inaction with respect to the triggering of tipping points (including irreversible tipping points of critical global and local systems), subsequent impacts and loss and damage, especially on the most vulnerable countries, and potential costs of inaction

For adaptation

- A full assessment of the implementation gaps in adaptation, despite significant national and local efforts, in particular for SIDS, with linkages to finance discussions to ensure that these needs can be addressed;

For loss and damage

- Discussion and evaluation of the responsiveness of the L&D mechanism to historic and projected events, especially in the most vulnerable nations, including survey of country needs, impact trends, tools for global support, best practices, and funding opportunities, inter alia.
- Identification of opportunities for further action and support for loss and damage, with the findings serving as inputs into the 2024 WIM review;

For means of implementation

- Review of the effectiveness of the Financial Mechanism in addressing the needs of SIDS;
- Assessment of the collective progress to operationalize the SIDS priorities outlined in Articles 9(4) and 9(9);

- Analysis of trends in mitigation and adaptation financing, including sources, decision-makers, and barriers to increasing financing and balancing financial flows to mitigation and adaptation;
- Concrete measures to balance the composition of climate finance between mitigation and adaptation with the provision of adequate and predictable support to SIDS for loss and damage;
- Enhanced support for SIDS in order to overcome challenges to just transition caused by dependence on limited resource bases.

II Relevant findings of Working Groups 1, 2 and 3 of IPCC AR6

Given that the GST outcome should be set in the context of the best available science, this section highlights some relevant findings of the recent IPCC Working Group Reports I, II and III for the Sixth Assessment Report. The following findings serve to set the context for the work of the GST, emphasise the urgency of the current climate situation and provide pathways for solutions that should be taken up in the technical dialogues of the IPCC. AOSIS is calling for consideration to be given to the impacts and their implications for SIDS in the GST considerations, especially in light of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Relevant Key messages from Working Group I of the AR 6

- **Climate risks are hitting home today**
  - The world has warmed by 1.1°C due to human made climate change.
  - Climate extremes such as heat waves, extreme precipitation, droughts and storms are on the rise and human-driven climate change has made them worse.
  - Sea levels have already risen by 20cm and will continue to do so for thousands and thousands of years.

- **IPCC rings the alarm bells on low probability climate risks and irreversible impacts**
  - Crossing "tipping points" of ice sheet collapse or abrupt ocean circulation changes, and the occurrence of most devastating compound extreme events cannot be ruled out if climate change remains unchecked.
  - Rapid ice sheet melt could lead to catastrophic sea level rise even before 2100.

- **Risks of sea level rise are higher than previously assessed**
  - In an extreme scenario, more than 1m or even 2m of sea level rise cannot be ruled out this century, if rapid ice sheet melt is triggered.
  - But *we can avoid the worst of it.* Limiting global warming to 1.5°C could drastically limit global sea level rise to between 0.28 and 0.55 m by 2100.
  - The IPCC has reaffirmed the huge difference in impacts between 1.5C and 2C degrees of warming. In the long-run, ***up to 3 metres of sea level rise can be avoided if we limit warming to 1.5˚C instead of 2˚C.***

- **The IPCC confirms that the *1.5°C limit agreed in Paris is still "within reach."***
  - The report considers a small set of illustrative emissions scenarios that explore different climate futures. The lowest of those scenarios shows what is required to *keep 1.5°C within reach* reaffirming findings from the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report and other organisations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA).
  - In order to limit warming to 1.5°C, deep and sustained emission reductions in CO2 and other greenhouse gases are required – starting now, and reaching net zero by 2050.
  - The report reaffirms key findings of the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, including on the remaining carbon budget and 1.5°C scenarios.

- **Stringent mitigation pays off in the immediate future**
  - Every extra tonne of C02 will lead to more warming. Every bit of warming will lead to strong impacts.
  - Stringent mitigation in line with the 1.5°C goal would have rapid and sustained effects to limit human-caused climate change. There would be discernible effects on greenhouse gas and aerosol concentrations as well as on air quality *within years*, and

slowed-down warming compared to a world with high greenhouse gas emission levels *over the next 20 years.*

- **Limiting warming to 1.5°C would strongly reduce climate risks**
    - *Every additional increment of global warming increases changes in extremes*, including the intensity and frequency of hot extremes, heatwaves, heavy precipitation, as well as droughts in some regions.
    - Limiting warming to 1.5°C would strongly reduce climate risks and avoid the most destructive impacts of climate change and reduce impacts by at least 50% compared to a 4°C world. This is true for heat waves, extreme precipitation and drought in drying regions.
    - But even at 1.5°C of global warming, extreme climate risks such as heat waves, heavy rainfall, drought and storms will become more intense and frequent around the globe.
    - For SIDS, it confirms what we've already been experiencing: *the most intense tropical cyclones are increasing in intensity*, and will continue to do so.

Relevant Key messages from Working Group II of the AR 6

Climate change is already causing widespread loss and damage

- Human-induced climate change has caused widespread, impacts and loss and damage to nature and people, with estimates of economic damages higher than previously thought. Some of these impacts are already irreversible.
- Weather and climate extremes are on the rise, pushing people and ecosystems beyond the limits of what they can adapt to. And the most vulnerable, like small islands, are at the forefront.
- Almost half of the world's population is living in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change. Increasing weather extremes including tropical cyclones are driving displacement of people around the world
- Impacts from climate change endanger the prospects of sustainable development for the most vulnerable.

Limits to adaptation are being exceeded

- In the face of unprecedented climate impacts, adaptation to climate change has never been more pressing. Adaptation has progressed but adaptation gaps exist between what is being done and what is needed.
- The report also highlights profound constraints and limits to adaptation. Hard limits to adaptation for ecosystems and people are already being reached.
- By 2050, one billion people in low lying coastal areas face escalating climate risks that will undermine adaptation efforts.

Lack of climate finance is a key constraint to adaptation

- The report clearly shows that vulnerable countries are facing severe constraints to adaptation, particularly on finance.
- Global climate finance on adaptation is still insufficient. This includes public and private finance sources. Adaptation finance needs are estimated to be higher than those presented in AR5.
- Rapid scaling up of climate finance is needed. Enhanced mobilisation and access to financial resources are essential for the implementation of successful adaptation and to reduce adaptation gaps.

- Loss and damage is also negatively affecting the availability of financial resources and impeding economic growth, including through disastrous extreme weather events like tropical cyclones, further increasing financial constraints for adaptation.

Future climate impacts and loss and damage will rapidly escalate above 1.5°C

- Climate impacts will increase with every tenth of a degree of warming, but limiting warming to 1.5°C will avoid the worst impacts and loss and damage.
- Climate change risks are projected to occur earlier than previously thought and some are projected to be multiple times higher than assessed in previous reports.
- Overshooting 1.5°C would lead to more severe impacts such as extreme weather, loss of entire ecosystems, and water and food shortages. Climate impacts will also become increasingly irreversible.
- For every tenth of degree the world warms beyond 1.5°C, the more severe economic and non-economic loss and damage will be.
- Sea level rise poses an existential threat for small islands. Extreme sea level events will hit more frequently and severely in the coming decades. Adaptation challenges will be increasingly unmanageable, in particular if the collapse of parts of the polar ice sheets occurs.

There is no climate resilient development for vulnerable countries beyond 1.5°C

- The report is clear that the prospects for climate resilient development for vulnerable countries are limited if current greenhouse gas emissions do not rapidly decline in this decade in line with the 1.5°C limit.
- Exceeding 1.5°C will undermine climate resilient development, including surpassing adaptation limits for critical ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them.
- At 2°C, climate resilient development would not be possible for vulnerable countries.

Relevant Key Messages from Working Group III of AR 6

Notably, in this Report the IPCC highlights specific Illustrative Mitigation Pathways that can inform concrete policies to overcome implementation challenges, by using resources more efficiently and shifting global development towards sustainability. These should be considered in the context of the technical dialogues with specific recommendations reflected in the outputs of the GST process.

Additionally, for the first time, the report includes an explicit assessment of the requirements to reach net zero greenhouse gases in line with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement – this should also be extremely useful for the consideration of outputs from the GST.

We can close the 2030 emissions gap

- The renewable energy revolution has already led to drastic cost reductions for core technologies since 2010: 85% for solar energy, 55% for wind energy, 85% for lithium-ion batteries.
- Renewable energy is the core reason why the 2030 emissions gap can be closed by mitigation options costing less than USD100 per tonne of CO2e. Wind and solar energy are the most powerful and cheap options that make up more than half of this share, with costs below USD20 per tonne of CO2e.

Rapid deep and, in most cases, immediate reductions in GHG emissions are required in order to have a chance of keeping warming to 1.5°C

- Removing fossil fuel subsidies is critical and can reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by up to 10% by 2030, improve public revenue and macroeconomic performance, and yield other environmental and sustainable development benefits.
- The adoption of renewable energy must accelerate.

To get on a path to 1.5°C, we need to shift the trillions

- The IPCC underscores the role the financial sector and global finance has to play. The world needs to get serious about aligning finance flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- In the next decade, public, private, domestic and international investments across all sectors and regions need to increase by three to six times or more. But the science is clear, there is more than sufficient global capital and liquidity to close global investment gaps.
- Accelerated international financial cooperation beyond the USD100 billon goal is a critical enabler of low greenhouse gas and just transitions, and can address inequities in access to finance and the costs of, and vulnerability to, the impacts of climate change, including losses and damages.

We need to reach net zero global emissions by 2050

- The report outlines how achieving emission reductions in line with limiting warming to 1.5°C is required to give a very likely chance of limiting warming to well below 2°C, even in a case of a temporary overshoot.
- Governments must enact policies to take full advantage of the renewable energy revolution. Electricity systems powered by renewables are becoming increasingly viable and the energy sector needs to reach net zero CO2 emissions before 2050.
- There is enormous potential for demand side mitigation (reducing energy use), infrastructure and design, and end-use technological change that alone could achieve a 50% reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- As the mitigation potential of countries differ according to their respective geographical endowments, and national circumstances, international cooperation should be encouraged and facilitated, particularly on the deployment of low carbon technologies such as hydrogen, carbon capture utilisation and storage, and regional energy grids, etc.

III Fairness considerations, including equity to inform the GST outcomes/outputs and process

Fairness and equity considerations should provide an underpinning of the GST outcome, not just in relation to burden sharing but also to address any gaps with regard to implementation of the Paris Agreement and to identify opportunities for action - across mitigation, adaptation, loss & damage, and support.

Specifically, AOSIS is of the view that equity considerations for the GST should cover the following:

(i) Redressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on SIDS, including through support for loss and damage;
(ii) Preventing further inequitable climate impacts and hardship on SIDS;
(iii) SIDS effective participation in the GST process;
(iv) Strengthening SIDS' ability to implement GST recommendations and utilise the GST outcomes in developing their next round of NDCs.

Redressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on SIDS including through support for loss and damage and a just transition

SIDS face combined challenges arising, in particular, from the geographical remoteness of their islands, the small scale of their economies and the ongoing adverse effects caused by climate change. In addition, SIDS continue to face challenges in engaging in the multilateral trading system heightened by high import dependence, limited resource bases and dependence on a limited number of goods and services for export, small internal markets, limited regional and global connectivity, and lack of economies of scale (Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway High Level Political Declaration, 2019).These particular circumstances form the basis for the consideration of SIDS as a special case for environment and development and by extension for global attention in climate action.

Consequently, for AOSIS, the following criteria are relevant for considering how the outcome of the GST will address the needs of vulnerable countries:

- The numerous and significant challenges to adapt to the impacts of climate change;
- The fact that losses and damages are already being experienced and will rapidly escalate beyond 1.5C of warming, siphoning critical and scarce resources away from other national priorities;
- The exorbitant costs of adaptation in relation to the size of SIDS economies, in a context where AOSIS countries already face difficulties with access to climate finance;
- The negligible emissions profile of SIDS (0.60%) coupled with the fact that SIDS have sought to produce NDCs and LTS in line with the requirements of the IPCC.
- Giving due consideration to the constraints of countries, especially SIDS, whose geographies may constrain their ability to switch to renewables at scale. Such constraints are also recognised in Article 4.10 of the Convention.

Ensuring that the GST outputs address loss and damage is of utmost importance for AOSIS. Section 2 of this submission highlights the findings of the recent IPCC Working Group II report of the AR6, which shows that we are already breaching and living with limits to adaptation. However, we are still unable to agree on means for supporting loss and damage activities. ***From a fairness***

and equity lens, the GST outcome should identify opportunities to address loss and damage and provide recommendations to be taken into account given the current and potential future loss and damage that countries on the frontlines, such as small island developing states, will face.

Burden sharing for addressing climate change

The Working Group III report of the IPCC sets out that limiting warming to 1.5°C requires equity and justice. The following considerations from the report are highly relevant for the GST:

- All SIDS together emitted only around 0.60% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, while all LDCs together emitted only around 3.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Individuals with high socio-economic status contribute disproportionately to emissions and have the highest potential for emissions reductions. Behavioural changes by those in the position to do so would allow for a rapid 5% emissions reduction.
- Adoption of low emission technologies lags in most developing countries, particularly the least developed, due in part to weaker enabling conditions, including limited finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity.
- Limited economic, social and institutional resources often result in high vulnerability and low adaptive capacity, especially in developing countries.
- Without international cooperation, achieving ambitious climate change mitigation goals will not be possible. As established in the IPCC Working Group II report, beyond 1.5°C the sustainable development for the most vulnerable, including SIDS, would be severely compromised. Accelerated and equitable climate action in mitigating, and adapting to, climate change impacts as well as addressing loss and damage is critical to sustainable development for all.

SIDS participation in the GST process, and ability to implement the GST recommendations or utilise the GST outcome in developing the next round of NDCs

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. The GST decisions 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, expansion of pool of nationals to be immersed into the UNFCCC process and maintain the momentum for urgent and ambitious actions at the national level.

IV Guidance on process for organization of technical dialogues

On the topic of organization of the GST technical dialogues, such dialogues should be forward looking and structured to allow for inclusiveness and effective participation as provided for in paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision 19/CMA.1. AOSIS welcomes the information note prepared by the co-facilitators on the organisation of the First Technical Dialogue and wishes to stress that each of the three sessions of the GST's technical dialogue should build on the previous dialogue for continuity and to maximize the use of time. The first session should generate 'conclusions' or 'observations' that, inter alia, identify knowledge gaps in relation to the themes discussed. Party and non-Party stake-holders (NPSs) could then generate tailored knowledge to plug the identified knowledge gaps for discussion at a subsequent Technical Dialogue. AOSIS supports the participation of non-party stakeholders in the GST in particular in the work on the technical dialogue.