



1 November 2018

Samoa Declaration on Climate Change in the Context of Sustainable Development for SIDS

1. We, the representatives of Members States of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), at our interregional preparatory meeting on 30 October – 1 November 2018, in Apia, Samoa, for the midterm review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) express our profound concern that the adverse effects of anthropogenic climate change present the gravest threats to our resilience and sustainable development, and threatens the very existence of some of our members.
2. We reaffirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and further reaffirm its objectives, principles and commitments.
3. We recognize the critical linkage between climate change actions and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that actions need to take into account different national realities, capacities, levels of development and respect national circumstances and poverty reduction policies and priorities.
4. We reaffirm the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the SAMOA Pathway and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want,” and resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
5. We are alarmed that our ability to achieve sustainable development in line with the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda is being compromised by the effects of human-induced climate change and will continue to be compromised if the international community fails to take ambitious climate action to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
6. We also underscore the important role of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and welcoming its entry into force on 1 January 2019, and further welcoming its ratification by 55 countries, while encouraging further ratification as soon as possible.

7. We welcome the adoption of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (1.5°C Special Report) in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 6 October 2018.
8. We express deep alarm that the 1.5°C Special Report concludes that the effects of human-induced climate change are worse than previously projected and that the associated risks have increased immensely for our ecosystems, economies and social wellbeing.
9. We strongly emphasize that the 1.5°C Special Report finds that limiting warming to 1.5°C remains feasible and is likely to have considerable sustainable development benefits for SIDS and all nations.
10. We underscore the 1.5°C Special Report's finding that current nationally stated mitigation ambitions as submitted under the Paris Agreement (PA), which extend to 2030, would fail to limit global warming to 1.5°C, even if supplemented by very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of emissions reductions after 2030, and we note with alarm that currently stated ambitions instead cumulatively track toward 3-4 °C of warming by 2100 with the potential for further warming thereafter.
11. Accordingly, we stress that more ambitious near-term ambition is required to limit global warming to 1.5°C and we therefore call upon the international community to take the ambitious action needed to halve the amount of global CO₂ emissions from 2010 levels by 2030, and to ensure that CO₂ emissions reach net zero by 2050, with rapid reductions in energy demand over the next two decades, consistent with the Paris Agreement goals and 1.5°C pathways, as noted in the 1.5°C Special Report.
12. We note, in this regard, that the 1.5°C Special Report indicates that climate action consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C requires a steep reduction in the use of coal toward a global phase out of coal for electricity by 2050, and we urge the international community to respond appropriately to this challenge.
13. We welcome with appreciation the ambitious NDCs submitted by SIDS and the recent announcements of SIDS to undertake and implement even more ambitious NDCs and reiterate our call for enhanced global cooperation for more urgent and more ambitious climate action.
14. We call on the international community to act with utmost urgency to rapidly shift financial flows towards pathways consistent with limiting warming below 1.5°C.
15. We underscore the urgency to enhance both mitigation and adaptation action, particularly in light of our ongoing need to build resilience to the impacts of climate change and strengthen resilience.
16. We emphasize the need to address loss and damage in SIDS and other vulnerable countries as an integral and distinct pillar of the Paris Agreement and strongly urge all countries, both developing and developed, to participate actively and meaningfully to address loss and damage in this context.

17. We call for the provision of adequate support to initiatives under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, including support to enable SIDS to submit proposals to address loss and damage to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
18. We urge developed countries on the occasion of the 2018 High-level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Finance at Twenty-Fourth Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 24) to demonstrate progress towards the mobilization of USD100 billion per annum by 2020 and to further demonstrate their contributions to efforts to further enhance that goal through to 2025, while aiming to achieve a balance in the provision of resources for mitigation and adaptation actions and targeting the needs of SIDS for public and grant-based resources for adaptation.
19. We welcome the launch of the first formal replenishment process of the GCF and look forward to a timely conclusion of an inclusive process and the development of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy informed by the latest science and the urgent needs of SIDS.
20. We reiterate our call for increased support to SIDS to build capacity and to strengthen national institutions according to national priorities and recognize that appropriate reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies are critical to achieving our sustainable development.
21. We emphasize that there is an urgent need to consider and address the security implications of climate change, including violation of territorial integrity, more frequent and severe climate-related disasters, threats to water and food security, increased natural resource scarcity, and forced displacement and the human dimensions of climate change, including where necessary, initiatives for preparing communities for relocation.
22. We welcome the United Nations' Secretary General's effort to convene a UN Climate Summit in September 2019 and commit to engage constructively and participate at the highest possible level to ensure its success.
23. We commend the Fijian Presidency for its stewardship of the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, its efforts to focus international attention on the special case of SIDS, and its role in the continued preparatory work for the COP 24, including the Talanoa Dialogue and the finalization of the Paris Agreement Work Programme.
24. We urge that the launch of renewed efforts to catalyze more ambitious climate action synergized with wider sustainable development objectives must begin at the COP 24 with the Talanoa Dialogue; it must be buttressed in 2019 by the High-level Political Forum, the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, and the Secretary-General's Climate Summit; and it must be carried through to the twenty-sixth session of the COP in 2020.
25. We urge the COP 24 Presidency to ensure that sufficient space is provided at COP for the Talanoa Dialogue and that its political phase produces concrete outputs, including a COP decision and accompanying declaration by Ministers, urging countries to bring forward substantially more ambitious efforts in their NDCs to be communicated by 2020, and encourages countries to come forward with ambitious long-term low GHG emission development strategies to 2050, consistent with the Paris Agreement goals.

26. We recall and stress the importance of fulfilling the international commitment to SIDS as a special case for sustainable development in view of our unique and particular vulnerabilities and recognition as being particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

27. We call for urgent steps to ensure the completion and adoption of a comprehensive, practical and balanced Paris Agreement Work Programme at COP 24.

28. We affirm our full support to the Republic of Poland in its capacity as the Presidency of COP 24 and encourage efforts by the COP 24 Presidency to continue to focus international attention on the special circumstances of SIDS.
