



Draft AOSIS statement  
SIDS4 General Debate  
27 May 2024

All protocol observed.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

The ABAS is the collective representation of the SIDS development aspirations for the next decade. It aligns with the three pillars of sustainable development and the means of implementation sit at the core. But the foundation of the agenda is the political will that the international community exercises to drive this agenda forward.

SIDS, defined by their vulnerability, but not limited by it, are the Davids among the Goliaths of the world. For three decades AOSIS has advocated for global responses that aim to make the world safer and more equitable for everyone, especially SIDS. They do this even when the global response at safeguarding their future against the climate emergency is tepid. SIDS have routinely called for the appropriate response mechanisms that will allow them to meet their challenges head on - in finance, adaptation, and technology. They strive for safe, healthy and inclusive societies, where needs are met now and into the future.

Having already three programmes of Action and little development progress achieved, SIDS decided that for this next decade of action, a different approach is necessary, rather than the usual listing of challenges and problems. We all know what these challenges are.

The SIDS story captured in the ABAS succinctly articulates how our experiences and challenges are intertwined and interwoven with each other, and highlights how climate change has a devastating impact on our economies, peoples, countries and livelihoods.

This is why the recent survey of global climate change scientists is extremely devastating as it reveals that they expect the global temperature to rise to at least 2.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels in this century, which will blast past the internationally agreed 1.5 degree target and cause catastrophic consequences for humanity and the planet. This is woefully disheartening to SIDS. We will continue to reiterate that this is the time for serious climate action. There is no time for the cat and mouse games. Large emitters must do all they can to reverse this trend.

In as much as we need financial support to mitigate the impacts of climate change, for us no amount of money can compensate for the destruction and devastation that our peoples and islands face. We call for serious climate action now, let us not look back 10 years from now wondering if we had acted today would SIDS have had a better chance.

Our theme “charting the course towards resilient prosperity” is not a catch phrase, SIDS intend to make this a reality. We are ready to work diligently with those who want to be part of this journey with us. We aspire to move towards 100% renewable energy, reducing our debt, harness science, technology and digital innovations, and building productive and secure societies.

We continue to call, for the reform of the International financial architecture, for multidimensional vulnerability to be used as a tool for development support and accessing concessional finance, as well as to participate equally and fully in the global financial and economic governance.. We are not looking for handouts or sympathy what we want is an equal opportunity to contribute and make our mark in this global community.

Like our countries, our peoples are warm, welcoming and beautiful, masking the troubles and tribulations that we are really facing. Many look at us unable to comprehend how we continue to smile, stand tall and make waves. This is because we are a resilient people. However, we know that we deserve better, and we will continue to fight to protect the future of our children, our environments, and our nations.

We will not fly a white flag, even when it seems to be a Sisyphus-bound task. We will meet the next decade of SIDS development with the commitment, drive, and optimism needed. We call on each one of you to join us on this journey through the next 10 years, not as a bystander but as an active partner, We can only chart this course with your steadfast support. Alone we can move fast but together we can go much, much further.

Let us not make commitments we have no intentions of delivering on. SIDS are prepared to have genuine, sustainable and durable partnerships instead of a ton of empty commitments and promises. We thank those of you who are prepared to deliver on these.

I thank you.

**[Samoa may wish to insert some elements in its national context]**