



## JOINT SUBMISSION

Joint submission by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Asociación Independiente de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (AILAC), the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the Least Developed Country Group (LDC Group) on SBSTA 57 / SBI 57 Second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it

*14 October 2022*

AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group welcome the opportunity to submit reflections on the findings of SED2 and their views on the elements of the conclusions of the joint contact group to take place in conjunction with SBSTA 57 / SBI 57.

**In summary, AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group express appreciation to those involved in making SED2 a successful format for crucial science-policy dialogue under the UNFCCC, welcome the key science-based findings of SED2 to inform the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals including limiting warming to 1.5°C, and expect a substantive outcome of the joint contact group that reflects SED2's key scientific findings, informs the Global Stocktake, and also speaks to the continuation of periodic reviews.**

AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group would like to reiterate the central role of the periodic review and its structured expert dialogue in ensuring that the best available science is adequately reflected in the UNFCCC process, and call to mind that the first periodic review (2013-2015) contributed to the strengthening of the long-term global goal and placing it at the heart of the Paris Agreement as reflected in its Article 2.1(a) and in Decision 10/CP.21.

Science must be front and centre in informing our actions in this critical decade. The Structured Expert Dialogue of the second Periodic Review (SED2), with its three meetings, successfully provided the opportunity to learn and exchange about the latest science, in particular, through the presentation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Working Group I, II, and III as well as three Special Report key findings.

AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group would like to thank the SED co-facilitators, the UNFCCC secretariat, the IPCC authors and other experts, bureau and Secretariat as well as all the contributors for having dedicated their time and efforts to delivering this crucial science-policy process.

### **Reflections on the findings of SED2**

AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group appreciate the crucial findings of SED2 to inform decision-making for accelerated implementation and increased ambition in this critical decade in order to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement including limit warming to 1.5°C based on the latest science.

The two themes of the second periodic review were fully addressed based on scientific inputs throughout the SED2, which included the round table among Parties and non-Party stakeholders on pre-2020 implementation and ambition and its summary report, resulting in a balance of findings on both themes of the periodic review.

Key scientific findings as reflected throughout SED2 meetings include: that adverse impacts and loss and damage are already occurring and will escalate with every increment of global warming, but limiting warming to 1.5°C will avoid the worst of it; any temperature overshoot above 1.5°C cannot be considered safe in light of the ultimate objective of the Convention; that limiting warming to 1.5°C is still feasible, but only if just and urgent action is taken within this decade, including that global greenhouse gas emissions peak immediately, halve in this critical decade until 2030, and reach net zero mid-century.

On the SED2 synthesis report from 20 September 2022 as contained in FCCC/SB/2022/3, AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group would like to thank the co-facilitators for having prepared the report. The findings of SED2 are reflected in the report in accordance with the two themes of the second periodic review.

AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group would like to provide the following reflections on some of the SED2 synthesis report's key findings and 10 key messages in further detail:

#### **Part A / “Long-term global goal and scenarios towards achieving it”:**

- The synthesis report's focus on the 1.5°C temperature limit reflects the profound scientific evidence in this regard as reflected in the IPCC reports and especially the government-approved IPCC WG SPMs, and the political commitment to the 1.5°C temperature limit as reflected in the Glasgow Climate Pact.
- *Especially in Box 1 and paragraphs 11-14, the issue of loss and damage is not adequately reflected despite growing evidence on the issue (e.g., WGII SPM Figure SPM.1, B.1, B.3, B.4, B.5, C.3). In the synthesis report, loss and damage is only mentioned with regards to data gaps (paragraph 20) and the global stocktake (67). This does not reflect the scientific evidence that was prominently reflected in the SED2.3 meeting on the IPCC's WGII at SB56, and the increasing relevance of the issue under the UNFCCC, especially for the most vulnerable including SIDS, requiring substantive scientific input.*
- *Paragraph 11, last sentence, misrepresents the understanding of the 1.5°C temperature limit. The Paris Agreement refers to global anthropogenic warming averaged over decades, while local temperature change or individual years that exceed 1.5°C do not mean that the LTGG has been breached (WGI SPM B.1.4).*
- Box 2, paragraph 15 reflects the advances in science and the IPCC in particular since the first periodic review, especially regarding scenarios of limiting warming, a key part of the periodic review's theme 1.
- Box 3 and related sub-paragraphs reflect crucial findings of SED2 related to: impacts and risks increasing with every increment of warming; irreversible impacts; risks at 1.5°C vs. 2°C; avoiding overshoot above 1.5°C to avoid most catastrophic and potentially irreversible impacts (in line with IPCC findings).
- Box 4 and paragraphs reflect the key scientific finding that the 1.5°C LTGG is still possible, but only with stringent mitigation. *However, the synthesis report's statement that limiting warming to 1.5°C requires emissions to peak in 2025 does not correctly reflect the IPCC WGIII's findings that emissions must “peak between 2020 and at the latest before 2025” (WGIII SPM C.1).*
- Dialogues throughout the SED2 were clear that ambitious and transformative action for mitigation and adaptation as well as finance is required to achieve the LTGG; the synthesis report reflects this (Box 5 and paragraphs).

#### **Part B / “Assessing the overall aggregated effect of steps taken by Parties”:**

- Box 6 provides an important acknowledgement of and details on the emissions gap as a key finding of SED2. This emphasis on the importance of the global emissions pathway is a crucial consideration for Parties as they plan future climate action.
- Box 7 and paragraph 49 acknowledges that some systems are reaching adaptation limits, an important new finding from IPCC WGII.
- *The lack of adaptation finance is mentioned (paragraph 47) but should have been detailed further, given the information provided in IPCC WGII reports and related SED2 meetings, and the relevance of the issue, especially to the most vulnerable countries including SIDS.*
- The issue of equity and just transition was discussed in the SED2, and is therefore relevant to be reflected in the synthesis report (Box 8 and paragraphs).
- Some of SED2's important findings on finance are reflected under key message 9, including that flows are insufficient, fossil fuel investment is outweighing climate investment, and that more is needed.
- The findings that sufficient capital is available, but misaligned, and that accelerated financial support from developed to developing countries is a critical enabler, are important to be covered in the synthesis report (Box 10).

### Views on the elements of the conclusions of the joint contact group

AILAC, AOSIS, and the LDC Group expect that the SBSTA 57 / SBI 57 Joint Contact Group (JCG) on the second periodic review reaches a *substantive* outcome, based on SED2 scientific findings, and propose that its conclusions thus generally follow decision 10/CP.21 on the first periodic review as contained in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.2, so as to meaningfully inform the CP.27 decision (currently under item 13).

The mandate of the 2nd Periodic Review is provided in decision 5/CP.25. The JCG conclusion should reflect the progress made with regards to all the elements of the mandate.

As such, the JCG conclusions should contain but not be limited to the following main elements (structured by paragraphs of decision 5/CP.25):

#### Paragraph 4, 5/CP.25:

*(a) Enhance Parties' understanding of:*

*(i) The long-term global goal and scenarios towards achieving it in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention*

- A recognition of the enhanced Parties' understanding that achieving the long-term global goal without overshooting the 1.5 °C limit is imperative in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts, including by reducing the risks of crossing tipping points and of triggering irreversible impacts<sup>1</sup>
- A recognition of the enhanced Parties' understanding of the need to transform global systems in line with low-emission pathways and climate-resilient development<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Synthesis report by the co-facilitators of the structured expert dialogue, FCCC/SB/2022/3, Paragraph 28

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Box 10

*(ii) Progress made in relation to addressing information and knowledge gaps, including with regard to scenarios to achieve the long-term global goal and the range of associated impacts, since the completion of the 2013–2015 review;*

- A reflection of the enhanced Parties' understanding that the scientific evidence is unequivocal, climate change is a threat to human well-being<sup>3</sup>, human-induced climate change has already caused widespread adverse impacts and that risks are developing sooner than expected<sup>4</sup>, that the current science is significantly more robust than during the first periodic review<sup>5</sup> and that climate change risks are significantly higher at 2°C than at 1.5°C of warming<sup>6</sup>, and that limits to adaptation are being reached<sup>7</sup>

*(iii) Challenges and opportunities for achieving the long-term global goal with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention;*

- A recognition that it is still possible to achieve the long-term global goal with immediate and sustained emission reductions in this critical decade and that the steps necessary to achieving the LTGG and limiting warming to 1.5°C include that global greenhouse gas emissions peak immediately, halve until 2030, and reach net zero mid-century; and that key opportunities to reduce emissions include targeting methane emissions and capitalizing on the falling cost of renewable energy and on carbon markets<sup>8</sup>.
- A further recognition that the IPCC AR6 reports provide valuable information on how Parties can effect transformational change across key systems and sectors to achieve these emissions reductions<sup>9</sup>.

*(b) Assess the overall aggregated effect of the steps taken by Parties in order to achieve the long-term global goal in the light of the ultimate objective of the Convention;*

- A reflection of the assessment of the overall aggregated effect of the steps taken by Parties that current levels of mitigation implementation and ambition are insufficient to limit global warming to 1.5°C, that a significant gap remains between pledged emission reductions and the reductions required to meet the long-term global goal<sup>10</sup>, and that financial, technological and capacity-building support is insufficient and needs to be accelerated significantly in this critical decade<sup>11</sup>

#### **Paragraph 8, 5/CP.25:**

- That the second periodic review should inform the first Global Stocktake (GST), and that the SED2 synthesis report should serve as an input into the GST, and that the conclusions of the JCG of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Periodic Review that reflect Parties enhanced understanding in particular of the long-term global goal should be explicitly recognized by the GST

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., Paragraph 14

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., Box 1

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., Paragraph 15

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., Box 3

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., Paragraph 24

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., Box 4

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., Paragraph 17

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., Box 6

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., Paragraph 36, 53



- That the SED2 synthesis report provides overwhelming evidence of the progress made during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Periodic Review and that the continuation of periodic reviews will be considered at the COP's twenty-ninth session (2024), adjusted as per Bureau decision following the COVID-19 pandemic and as originally reflected in decision 2/CP.17 paragraph 167 and decision 5/CP.25 paragraph 8, for the next periodic review and structured expert dialogue to take place following the adoption of reports in the IPCC AR7 cycle or at least in seven years' time