



# “Support to developing countries’ Alliances on Climate Change”

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## Revised Final Report



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*Photo: UNFCCC negotiations in Bangkok.*



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## Introduction

The European Union (EU) Support to Progressive Platform for Climate Action, hereinafter 'the Action', allocated resources to three negotiating groups and progressive platforms to increase their engagement in the UNFCCC negotiations on the Paris Agreement rulebook. The EU allocated a total of EUR 1 million to convene high level and ministerial meetings and workshops, as well as provided support to the progressive platforms between 01 February 2018 – 31 December 2019.

The Action aimed to enhance the participation of developing countries in the UNFCCC negotiations and related international climate change processes. Certain negotiating groups under the UNFCCC represent the most vulnerable countries, such as the Independent Diplomat (ID) on behalf of High Ambition Coalition (HAC), the Permanent Mission of Maldives (in 2018), and, currently, the Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) on behalf of Least Developed Countries Group. In order to strengthen developing countries' alliances on climate change, through this project, the EU and UNDP supported different progressive platforms that put climate change issues at the forefront of their work and serve objectives related to the UNFCCC negotiations and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Through longer-term support for the UNFCCC process and related institutions, the joint ambition level by both developing and developed countries on climate action will continue to be assured in the context of the international climate agenda, thereby having a concrete impact towards the joint objective of limiting global temperature increase to maximum 2 degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts toward limiting this increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In light of the Paris Agreement rulebook and the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue, there is a continued added value in supporting developing countries' participation in the post-Paris UNFCCC negotiations, in both formal and informal forums.

UNDP, under the [NDC Support Programme](#), has been entrusted to implement the activities given its long-standing experience in leading capacity-building activities on climate change, including in the context of the UNFCCC process. The resources allocated by the EU, has facilitated advocacy activities and networking between civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, and key stakeholders. Support has been provided and facilitated through capacity development, legal, technical and strategic advice, knowledge, coordinating meetings, exploring synergies and sharing lessons among countries.

This report presents activities carried out by the 3 groups and highlights the key results from 2018-2019. Key achievements include the support Independent Diplomat (ID), AOSIS (Maldives



and Belize), and IIED provided to the most vulnerable countries and forward-looking governments through real-time legal, technical strategic advice and diplomatic support. This has empowered LDCs and SIDS to communicate their negotiation objectives and have their progressive voices heard across the negotiations. In addition, political leadership has been mobilized whilst the "rulebook was negotiated. The negotiating groups and progressive platforms fostered progressive thinking in the multilateral space by supporting LDCs and SIDS in convening high-level ministerial meetings at the margins of key climate forums. The Action is followed by a phase 2 which commenced October 2019 and will run until 2021.

## Overall and specific objectives

The overall objective of the Action is to advance effective climate change mitigation, as well as adaptation to the impacts of climate change, through the enhancement of the participation of developing countries in the UNFCCC negotiations and related international climate change processes.

The objectively verifiable indicators of achievement as stated in the Action's logical framework is at least 1 workshop or high-level meeting is organized by the different groups with a view to reaching a deeper understanding and common commitment to act towards implementation of the Paris Agreement and support is given to guide these discussions.

The specific objective is to strengthen developing countries' alliances on climate change by supporting different progressive platforms that put climate change issues at the forefront of their work and serve objectives related to the UNFCCC negotiations and implementation of the Paris Agreement. To measure the specific objectives, a set of objectively verifiable indicators of achievements were established. They are:

- Specific objective Indicator 1: Number of workshops or high-level meetings convened.
- Specific objective Indicator 2: Successful support provided.

The Action is expected to contribute to the following results:

- Foster progressive thinking in the multilateral space;
- Maintain the spirit of consensus and constructiveness that prevailed in Paris and Marrakesh;
- Empower the most vulnerable countries and forward-looking governments to formulate their negotiation objectives and have their voices heard; and
- Mobilise political leadership whilst the "rulebook" for the Paris Agreement is being negotiated.

## Results of overall and specific objectives

According to the project reports from the selected implementing groups and platforms, the overall objective of the Action has been achieved because 10 workshops and high-level meetings were organized by the different groups from 2018-2019 (see Table 1). This includes a number of



meetings convened, level of consensus achieved, lessons learned, and advice given. Communication and advocacy materials such as opinions pieces and publications have been prepared which projects the progressive thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation of the groups. In addition, briefings and position papers were developed by the implementing groups and platforms which outlined the groups’ negotiation positions.

## Key results by outputs and activities per entities

The main objectives/outputs and activities that were carried out from 2018 to 2019 by the 3 negotiating groups and progressive platforms were:

### Output 1: Ministerial level/high level member states meetings and workshop convened

**Activity 1.1:** Capacity-development workshops to enhance readiness for implementation of the Paris Agreement among countries that participate in the negotiating groups and progressive platforms;

**Activity 1.2:** Share lessons and experiences among countries with the goal of strengthening countries’ climate finance governance capacity in context of NDC implementation.

### Output 2: Support to guide the discussions under the different groups provided

**Activity 2.1:** Briefings and position papers that serve to enhance the capacity of negotiating groups and progressive platforms to effectively engage in the UNFCCC negotiations;

**Activity 2.2:** Legal, technical, and strategic advice to the Chairs of the groups/platforms during the UNFCCC negotiations, coordination meetings, and related discussions/forums outside the formal negotiations, including related to messaging of the groups/platforms;

**Activity 2.3:** Communication tools and advocacy materials to enhance visibility and strengthen the awareness in in the context of national climate change and sustainable development policies.

The project supported ID, AOSIS, and IIED – which are negotiating groups and progressive platforms working in the direct context of the UNFCCC negotiations, to bolster their participation and capacities in representing the most vulnerable countries. The activities under the project were delivered through a strong focus on advocacy, research, capacity-building, and the participation and organization of high-level Ministerial meetings and workshops in the margins of broader climate change conferences and events throughout 2018 and 2019.

**TABLE 1. RESULTS ACHIEVED ON SUPPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES’ ALLIANCES ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2018-2019**

Expected results	Results achieved	Sources and means of verification
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	<b>1.1 "Indicator 1"</b>	<b>Indicator 1: Source 1</b>
<p><b>1.1 "Indicator 1": Yes (R1) Political leadership is mobilized while the "rulebook" for the Paris Agreement is being negotiated</b></p>	<p>ID/HAC: ID organized 4 HAC Ministerial meetings: 1 ahead of the UNSG Climate Action Summit in New York, and 3 during the second week of COP25 in Madrid.</p> <p>ID contributed to key addresses by President Heine given at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue, Global Climate Summit, One Planet Summit, and the Ministerial on Climate Action and Climate Security event in 2018 which led to ID producing and launching the Declaration for Ambition, attracting over 23 country signatories and media attention.</p>	<p>1 progress report (2018), 2 final reports (2018 and 2019) were provided verifying the number of meetings convened by ID</p>
	<p>AOSIS: 2 workshops convened; 1 high-level ministerial meeting convened.</p> <p>The AOSIS Technical team, including the Lead Negotiator for Climate Change participated in several events in October and November 2019 on issues related to Climate Change in preparation for the negotiations that took place at the COP 25 meetings in Madrid Spain. The reports were presented to the Chair of AOSIS and the AOSIS technical team prepared technical briefs and position papers to guide the Chair during the negotiations.</p>	<p>1 progress report, 2 final reports (2018 and 2019) were provided verifying the number of meetings convened by AOSIS</p>
	<p>IIED: 1 high-level ministerial meeting was convened; technical and strategic advice to the LDC Chair and Group throughout the main UNFCCC process in Bonn, Germany and Bangkok, Thailand.</p> <p>Real-time diplomatic, legal, technical, strategic advice was provided to support engagement of the LDC representatives (as requested by the Chair), for the UNSG Climate Summit (September) and COP25 (December). There was an active twitter account for LDC Chair; press release for Joint LDC Group and AOSIS statement before UNSG Climate Action Summit Sep 2019; and a press release for LDC Chair's statement after UNSG Climate Action Summit.</p> <p>Provided support to the LDC Chair and Minister during Global Climate Action Summit and High Ambition Coalition meetings, including more than the expected 5 briefings.</p> <p>Prepared LDC Chair and Coordinators for strategy session and ministerial meetings; Ministers commit to strong engagement at COP25.</p> <p>Published 1 research paper proved to be an essential resource to bolster arguments and talking points on the uneven burdens faced by LDCs as a result of climate change impacts.</p>	<p>1 progress report (2018), 2 final reports (2018 and 2019) were provided verifying the number of meetings convened by IIED</p>
<p><b>1.2 "Indicator 2": Yes (R2) Progressive thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the multilateral space is fostered</b></p>	<p><b>1.2 "Indicator 2"</b></p> <p>ID/HAC: ID advised Marshall Islands' officials in their capacity of convener of the HAC, as well as to other HAC members on substance and approaches to take. ID advised HAC members about language on ambition and drafted two paragraphs for decision 1/CMA.2 on enhanced NDCs and 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature goal.</p> <p>ID provided a lead negotiation role on various topics and support to AOSIS within the negotiations on the rulebook. ID also secured a prominent role for Minister David Paul as facilitator of the Talanoa Dialogue high-level political sessions and as Ministerial facilitator for the negotiations on the Global Stocktake. ID provided briefing materials, suggested speaking</p>	<p><b>Indicator 2: Source 1</b></p> <p>Project reports was provided verifying level of consensus achieved, lessons learned, and advice given to the groups/platforms by AOSIS</p>



	<p>points and managed the calendars for Minister Paul and Climate Envoy Tina Stege.</p>	
	<p>AOSIS: A meeting of 16 AOSIS thematic coordinators and other AOSIS members in New York City provided AOSIS members with the opportunity to share and exchange ideas, as well as collectively plan AOSIS's engagement strategy for the Bangkok UNFCCC conference that took place in September 2018.</p> <p>AOSIS delivered the SIDS Ambition Package in which SIDS resolve to communicate NDCs by 2020 with the support of partners and also to prepare low emissions development strategies in line with 1.5°C. Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados presented the Package on AOSIS's behalf during the Summit in September 2019.</p>	<p>Project reports was provided verifying level of consensus achieved, lessons learned, and advice given to the groups/platforms by ID</p>
	<p>IIED: Supported the development of the Ministerial statement and set of key messages prepared for LDC ministers at LDC Ministerial meeting on 15 Oct 2018. 1 research paper completed.</p> <p>IIED co-authored a <a href="#">research paper</a> with the LDC Chair that provided data and figures on the unjust cost of climate change on LDCs, which the LDCs used to bolster their arguments and talking points throughout 2019.</p>	<p>Project reports was provided verifying level of consensus achieved, lessons learned, and advice given to the groups/platforms by IIED.</p>
<p><b>2.1 "Indicator 2" Yes (R2) – The spirit of consensus and constructiveness that prevailed in Paris and Marrakesh is maintained by the selected groups</b></p>	<p><b>2.1 "Indicator 2"</b></p>	<p><b>Indicator 2: Source 2</b></p>
	<p>ID/HAC: Briefing materials, speaking points were produced and provided, as well as on the ground technical, legal, and strategic support. The convening and participation of ID/HAC at these events has led to supporting and guiding key discussions.</p> <p>1 meeting at COP25 was facilitated between the Costa Rican Environment Minister and the Marshall Islands' Climate Envoy in order for them to start working together towards greater inclusion of current HAC members into the new CBD HAC.</p>	<p>Communications and advocacy materials developed and provided by AOSIS that enhanced progressive thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>
	<p>AOSIS: Capacity of AOSIS was enhanced to engage in the UNFCCC negotiations at the Bangkok UNFCCC session, AOSIS' Advisors assisted the Chief and Deputy Negotiators, as well as the Thematic Coordinators for Mitigation, Transparency and Compliance in the development and implementation of negotiation strategies.</p> <p>IIED: Support was provided to the LDC Chair and Minister during Global Climate Action Summit and High Ambition Coalition meetings, including more than the expected 5 briefings.</p> <p>Supported LDC Chair, Ministers and Heads of State during UNSG Climate Action Summit and accompanying meetings in NYC, including more than the expected 5 briefings and inputs to various speeches.</p>	<p>Communications and advocacy materials developed and provided by ID that enhanced progressive thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>Communications and advocacy materials developed and provided by IIED that enhanced progressive thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>
	<p><b>2.2 "Indicator 2"</b></p>	<p><b>Indicator 2: Source 3</b></p>



<p><b>2.2 “Indicator 2” Yes (R2) – The most vulnerable countries and forward-looking governments are empowered to formulate their negotiation objectives and have their voices heard</b></p>	<p>ID/HAC: ID has provided support to a delegation of the Minister-in-Assistance to the President and Environment Minister, as well as a Senator. ID made efforts to expand the capacity of such groups to effectively engage in the UNFCCC negotiations and relevant fora.</p> <p>Support provided to the Foreign Minister at the UNFCCC Pre-COP in Krakow. Produced a media statement on the purpose of the Talanoa Dialogue as well as providing briefing materials, speaking points and on the ground support to the Foreign Minister</p> <p>ID drafted the paragraphs that the HAC sent to the COP Presidency to be included in the CMA decision text. The 3 HAC Ministerial meetings at COP25 also served as a briefing moment to assess the current state of play of the negotiations and set the HAC’s approach for the press conferences.</p>	<p>Briefings and position papers provided by AOSIS that verified that they have been given support in developing their negotiation positions</p>
	<p>AOSIS: Development and maintenance of technical level contacts, analysis of technical negotiating documents and provision of legal advice, and coordination of AOSIS.</p> <p>Drafted internal position papers and briefed the Chair of AOSIS in preparation for the upcoming coordinating meetings prior to COP 25 and the COP 25 negotiations.</p> <p>AOSIS launched an aggressive prestige media engagement strategy as well as strategic messaging to raise the Alliance’s profile, craft more effective and consistent messages.</p> <p>AOSIS’ new website includes integrated social media functionalities. The site features the <a href="#">AOSIS Knowledge Exchange Platform (A-KEP)</a>, a knowledge management and sharing functionality that allows for confidential coordination across the Alliance’s membership, including the editing of in-process documents during negotiation processes.</p>	<p>Briefings and position papers provided by ID that verified that they have been given support in developing their negotiation positions</p>
	<p>IIED: Communication tools and advocacy materials were developed to enhance visibility and strengthen the awareness in the context of long-term low-carbon climate resilient development strategies. IIED produced a paper on the topic and continues to highlight the importance of these long-term climate strategies.</p> <p>Real-time diplomatic, legal, technical, strategic advice was provided to support engagement of the LDC representatives (as requested by the Chair), for the UNSG Climate Summit (September) and COP25 (December). There was an active twitter account for LDC Chair; press release for Joint LDC Group and AOSIS statement before UNSG Climate Action Summit Sep 2019; and a press release for LDC Chair’s statement after UNSG Climate Action Summit.</p>	<p>Briefings and position papers provided by IIED that verified that they have been given support in developing their negotiation positions</p>

## Results from Independent Diplomat (ID) on behalf of the High Ambition Coalition (HAC)

The HAC is a political-level coalition of progressive countries on climate change. The HAC played a pivotal role in brokering the Paris Agreement. Between May and December 2019, Independent Diplomat (ID) was very active in supporting delegations of officials from the Marshall Islands (RMI)





and their participation in UNFCCC and related international climate change processes. This support has been multiplied via the convening of High Ambition Coalition (HAC) meetings of Ministers where lessons and experiences were shared between countries.

### **Output 1: Ministerial level/high level member states meetings and workshop convened**

In 2018 and 2019, four capacity development workshop, high level and ministerial meetings were convened and carried out under Activities 1.1 and 1.2, achieving Specific Objective Indicators 1 and 2 (Annex 1). More specifically, the events that have taken place range from the [Petersberg Climate Dialogue](#) (please refer to (Annex 1), Ministerial on Climate Action (Annex 2), Bangkok UNFCCC Intersessional meeting, NDC Partnership Roundtables and the Second National Climate Dialogue, Global Climate Action Summit, UN General Assembly, One Planet Summit, to name a few.

At the Petersberg Climate Dialogue – in June 2018 in Berlin – ID supported a delegation of the Minister-in- Assistance to the President and Environment Minister, as well as a Senator. This provided a crucial opportunity to expand the capacity and experience for those who had not previously participated in such fora. The Minister gave a keynote address at the Dialogue, and also convened a meeting of HAC Ministers. ID set up the meetings, provided briefing materials, speaking points and on the ground support throughout (Annex 1).

In December 2018, ID supported RMI's large delegation to COP24 in Katowice, Poland. ID provided a lead negotiation role on various topics and support to AOSIS within the negotiations on the rulebook. ID also secured a prominent role for Minister David Paul as facilitator of the Talanoa Dialogue high-level political sessions and as Ministerial facilitator for the negotiations on the Global Stocktake. ID provided briefing materials, suggested speaking points and managed the calendars for Minister Paul and Climate Envoy Tina Stege. During the COP, ID also arranged and held two meetings of the HAC (Annex 3). These meetings brought ambitious countries together to agree on delivering a revised Declaration for Ambition: The Statement on Stepping Up Climate Ambition (Annex 4).

In 2019, ID organized four HAC Ministerial meetings: one ahead of the UNSG Climate Action Summit in New York, and three during the second week of COP25 in Madrid (Annex 5). ID worked closely with the Marshall Islands and other key HAC countries to draft the statement *Uniting Behind the Science to Step Up Ambition by 2020* (Annex 6). With this statement, signatories pledged to communicate new or updated NDCs by the first quarter of 2020 in line with the best available science, as well as to produce in 2020 long-term strategies to reach net zero emissions by 2050. ID secured nineteen countries at the date of submission of the report. This includes countries that initially were not sure they could commit but which, after numerous exchanges with ID and subsequent internal processes, decided to join. The statement was the first Leaders-level statement championed by the HAC, and it remains open for signature as a key registry of frontrunners going into the crucial step up year of 2020. The statement will, on one hand, keep signatories accountable and, on the other, push other HAC countries that have not signed yet to follow suit.



Additionally, ID advised Marshall Islands' officials in their capacity of convener of the HAC, as well as to other HAC members on substance and approaches to take. For instance, ID advised HAC members about possible language on ambition, and drafted two paragraphs for decision 1/CMA.2 on enhanced NDCs and 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature goal (Annex 6). ID sent them to the COP Presidency on behalf of the HAC. They eventually included in the final text (although slightly edited), which was crucial to ensure that the ambition language was at least acceptable. Ahead of the two HAC press conferences, ID also advised the delegations that took the floor on potential lines to take in order to ensure consistency in their messages.

The [Leaders' Statement Uniting Behind the Science to Step Up Ambition by 2020](#) commits signatories 'to communicate by the first quarter of 2020 in line with the best available science, new and updated NDCs for 2030 (Annex 6). This represents the highest possible ambition, as well as, by 2020, long- term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies aimed at achieving net zero global emissions by 2050'. It welcomes 'the leadership demonstrated by those countries that have already done so'.

## **Output 2: Support to guide the discussions under the different groups provided**

Under Output 2, briefing materials, speaking points have been produced and provided, as well as on the ground technical, legal, and strategic support. Since project inception, there has been considerable efforts, on behalf of ID, to expand the capacity such groups to effectively engage in the UNFCCC negotiations and relevant fora. The convening and participation of ID/HAC at these events has led to supporting and guiding key discussions. ID has provided support to a delegation of the Minister-in- Assistance to the President and Environment Minister, as well as a Senator in 2018. In 2019, ID facilitated a meeting between the Costa Rican Environment Minister and the Marshall Islands' Climate Envoy to foster greater inclusion of current HAC members into the new CBD HAC.

In 2018, ID also provided the technical capacity in person at the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Intersessional Working Group on Climate Change (ISWG) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meetings. Through a collaboration with Ministers and officials in capital and posted in Fiji, ID was able to work with Pacific partners on the ground as well as with the coalition of progressive countries, the Shipping High Ambition Coalition, to develop the Action Plan needed to lay out the pathway of how to achieve the historic cap on emissions which was agreed to at the IMO ([Annex 7](#)). During this meeting ID organized a HAC Ministerial Statement between RMI, Belgium and the Solomon Islands, calling for ambitious action at the IMO ([Annex 7](#)).

Towards the end of October 2018, ID supported the Foreign Minister at the UNFCCC Pre-COP in Krakow. During this time ID assisted in the production of a media statement on the purpose of the Talanoa Dialogue as well as providing briefing materials, speaking points and on the ground support to the Foreign Minister ([Annex 8](#)). Importantly through contacts with the COP24 Presidency, ID secured the Foreign Minister an important role in facilitating Ministerial discussions



on the crucial issue of adaptation. ID provided briefing and on the ground support for this, as well as securing and providing briefing/support for a number of prominent bilateral meetings in the margins of the pre-COP (Annex 8).

During the 2019 implementation period, ID, also in consultation with some HAC members, engineered all the HAC meetings, and discussed substance and potential interventions with a number of HAC countries ahead of each meeting and press conference. Building upon the input it received at the HAC Friends' meeting in May 2018, ID identified the need for a new statement and the key elements that this should contain. Through the latest Leaders' Statement, as well as the two press conferences at COP25, the HAC has demonstrated to be a strong and ambitious coalition and has been able to embody once again its leadership role.

It should also be added that the HAC meetings that have been organized during the reporting period have also helped to strengthen the HAC not only externally - as the statement demonstrate - but also internally. In fact, as it clearly emerged from the HAC meeting in New York City in September 2019 and the Friends' meeting in October 2019, HAC countries were eager to work more closely and enhance collaboration on key issues like Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and Ambition, and also for the HAC to play a greater role in coordinating the progressive effort during COPs themselves. We expect a number of new countries will also become associated with the HAC in the coming months, including on the back of the recent statement.

At COP25, ID facilitated a meeting between the Costa Rican Environment Minister and the Marshall Islands' Climate Envoy in order for them to start working together towards greater inclusion of current HAC members into the new CBD HAC. On the shipping side, ID strengthened the Marshall Islands' participation in the work of the Shipping High Ambition Coalition (SHAC), to ensure this coalition can understand the needs and priorities of Small Islands Developing States. This will ensure that the SHAC will continue to operate as a unified group, which is able to provide ambitious decarbonization solutions that are effective and acceptable for both developed and vulnerable countries.

Lastly, communications and advocacy materials were prepared in efforts to project progressive thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation (Annex 9). ID had a key role in organizing the two HAC press conferences on the second week of COP25. Due to the very short notice, great efforts were needed to secure a press conference room at the most appropriate time to make the press conferences as timely and as effective as possible. ID also relied on its extensive network to make sure that there would be wide media coverage. ID also continued to handle the Twitter account of the Marshall Islands' President and Environment Minister, whose [tweets](#) on the HAC received wide attention. They are:

- [Minister Paul's Tweet on the HAC Ministerial Meeting on 22 September 2019](#)
- [President Heine's Tweets on the Statement \*Uniting Behind the Science to Step Up Ambition by 2020\*](#)
- President Heine's Tweets on new signatories to the Statement *Uniting Behind the Science to Step Up Ambition by 2020*



- [https://twitter.com/President\\_Heine/status/1192691693285306368](https://twitter.com/President_Heine/status/1192691693285306368)
- [https://twitter.com/President\\_Heine/status/1204364331057590272](https://twitter.com/President_Heine/status/1204364331057590272)
- [Minister Paul's Tweet on the signatories of the Statement \*Uniting Behind the Science to Step Up Ambition by 2020\*](#)
- [Climate Envoy Stege's Tweet on the HAC Press Conference on 10 December 2019](#)
- Climate Envoy Stege's Tweets on the HAC Press Conference on 13 December 2019
  - <https://twitter.com/EnvoyRmi/status/1205436306941046784>
  - <https://twitter.com/EnvoyRmi/status/1205471088249102337>
- [Climate Envoy Stege's Tweet on Kiribati joining the HAC](#)
- [Climate Envoy Stege's Tweet on the HAC Ministerial Meeting on 14 December 2019](#)
- [President Heine's Tweet on the COP25 outcome](#)

## **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

Maintaining internal HAC momentum between meetings is an ongoing challenge. And often countries choose to pursue initiatives individually rather than through the existing vehicle provided by the HAC, e.g. Costa Rica's plans to galvanize progressive forces within the CBD. At the same time, it is clear that most countries see the HAC Secretariat as much larger than it is, and often do not demonstrate the same sense of ownership around their own involvement with the HAC as the Marshall Islands, meaning almost all of the heavy lifting is left to those of us at ID to take forward the decisions of Ministers at meetings. In the past, ID has adopted an approach of having Ministerial co-leads on particular topics or initiatives and this might be one ID needs to return to.

One particular challenge ID encountered was around Uniting Behind the Science to Step Up Ambition Statement, due to a sense of "statement fatigue" generally within the climate community, and especially around the UNSG's Summit. This meant that despite securing sixteen Leader-level signatories, the media coverage of the statement was relatively minor. This is something ID hopes to address going forward as more countries continue to hopefully join the statement and as they position it as a key registry of frontrunners going into 2020. Already at COP25, media coverage for the two HAC press briefings was much wider. Some joint work around the end of March 2020 in terms of the depositing of NDCs will hopefully also help with this. And more generally, ID also needs to ensure the HAC remains proactive in its approach and seizure of opportunities and not characterized simply by the issuance of set piece statements at key moments - however this has been difficult recently due to capacity constraints. Nevertheless, it is something ID is eager to address in 2020.

## **Results from the Permanent Mission of Maldives (2018) and Belize (2019) to the United Nations on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**

AOSIS is coordinated from the Mission of its current Chair to the UN in New York (the Maldives until the end of 2018, and Belize since January 2019). AOSIS is a coalition of 44 small island and



low-lying coastal developing states, including five observers. AOSIS has taken a structured approach to build the negotiating team's capacity to actively engage in the UNFCCC process and related agreements. As the climate change process transitions to the implementation phase, AOSIS will continue its capacity development initiatives with a specific emphasis on implementation, through enhanced climate action and increased ambition.

### **Output 1: Ministerial level/high level member states meetings and workshop convened**

The most noted key achievements in supporting SIDS climate diplomacy, were the interventions, briefing notes, submissions, and talking points provided to the AOSIS Chief Negotiator and the delegation for the two informal meetings. More precisely, legal, technical and strategic advice to the AOSIS negotiators during the Bangkok UNFCCC session and Talanoa Dialogue (Annex 10). This allowed AOSIS to link and engage with other developed and developing country negotiators and negotiating groups at the technical level to advance common positions.

In 2018, AOSIS convened a two-day meeting (Annex 11) of 16 AOSIS thematic coordinators and other AOSIS members in New York City. The meeting was held in order to provide AOSIS members with the opportunity to share and exchange ideas, as well as collectively plan AOSIS's engagement strategy for the Bangkok UNFCCC conference that took place in September (Annex 12 and Annex 13). As well as, prepared, executed and followed-up on the Bangkok UNFCCC conference. Some preparatory activities that took place included preparing the meeting agenda, advancing key documents, preparing meeting presentation while working alongside the thematic coordinators. Moreover, preparatory activities extended to running notes and facilitation documents for the meeting, as well as provide logistical arrangements for the meeting and participant travel.

Legal/Policy Advisors played a key role at the meeting through their participation, presentations and note taking. A number of follow-up activities took place after the meeting. This includes, using the meeting outputs to inform the planning and agenda for the AOSIS preparatory day at the Bangkok UNFCCC conference as well as devise strategic engagement strategies for the Bangkok UNFCCC session. Lastly, the Legal/Policy Advisors were responsible for a summary report of the meeting for report back to AOSIS Plenary in New York and at the UNFCCC.

Since 2019 was a critical year for the climate change agenda, as it presented the last political opportunities before the 2020 deadline for submission of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it pressed for increased ambition and urgent action to get on track to maintaining global temperatures at 1.5°C. AOSIS participated in several meetings and workshops to prepare for COP 25. Experts were invited to present on issues of importance to the group including on the latest science, [Loss and Damage](#), the Periodic Review of the Long-term Goal under the Convention, Finance, Article 6 and Transparency under the Paris Agreement and the need for more ambitious NDCs.

As part of the AOSIS Technical team, the AOSIS Lead Negotiator for Climate Change participated in several events in October and November 2019 on issues related to Climate Change in preparation for the negotiations that took place at the COP 25 meetings in Madrid Spain. The



reports were presented to the Chair of AOSIS and the AOSIS technical team prepared technical briefs and position papers to guide the Chair during the negotiations. In addition, AOSIS has been able to participate in various meetings and workshops such as the AOSIS Coordinators Workshop, WMO Regional Workshop for the Caribbean, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement Workshop, WMO Climate Coordination Panel Virtual Meeting, Ministerial Pre-COP, and the Cartagena Dialogue. Through this, technical capacity has been significantly enhanced.

## **Output 2: Support to guide the discussions under the different groups provided**

Under Output 2, AOSIS' supported the Chief Negotiator by providing briefing assistance and talking points during the Informal Consultation by the Polish COP Presidency held in New York on 27 September and for Pre-COP in Krakow from 22-24 October 2018. In order to enhance the capacity of AOSIS to engage in the UNFCCC negotiations at the Bangkok UNFCCC session, AOSIS' Advisors assisted the Chief and Deputy Negotiators, as well as the Thematic Coordinators for Mitigation, Transparency and Compliance in the development and implementation of negotiation strategies. Further contribution includes the development and maintenance of technical level contacts, analysis of technical negotiating documents and provision of legal advice, and coordination of AOSIS.

Furthermore, AOSIS has kept current with technical and scientific developments and identified and commissioned negotiating briefs, technical and scientific briefs and research from regional and international experts to advance progressive thinking. AOSIS has also taken a deeper dive into the UNFCCC process and its related agreements through thematic workshops. Each workshop focuses on a specific thematic area and seeks to address knowledge gaps, enhance understanding and identify areas for building consensus where necessary.

For example, during the Ministerial Pre-COP held in San Jose, Costa Rica from 8 to 10 October 2019, plenary sessions were held to discuss priority areas such as: ambition, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, loss and damage, gender and oceans. AOSIS shared its views on the process, its interests and expectations for COP 25. The Chair of AOSIS was briefed in preparation for the meetings convened by the Minister of Costa Rica and the European Commissioner on the environment, to propose a set of principles to guide the negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Some of the results were the statement AOSIS prepared and shared its views on the process, its expectations for COP 25 and participants were made aware of AOSIS' position on the different topics, and the development of a set of principles to ensure environmental integrity of Article 6 outcomes.

The Lead Negotiator participated in the ACP Special meeting of the Subcommittee on Sustainable Development convened by the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States on 23 October 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. The Lead Negotiator presented on AOSIS expectations for COP 25 and provided an opportunity for collaboration with the African Group for the COP. The Lead Negotiator was invited and participated in the drafting of a position paper for the ACP Group for COP 25 on 24 October and shared AOSIS' priorities. This was later circulated to the Member States of the ACP.



One of the key outcomes of this was AOSIS presentation on its expectations for COP 25 which provided an opportunity for collaboration with the African Group for the COP. The AOSIS Chair was appraised of African and Pacific positions. Representatives of the African and Pacific regions presented their groups positions for COP 25. Lastly, an ACP Brief for COP 25 was drafted.

Throughout 2019, AOSIS has championed ambition in the negotiation process by engaging with other key delegations and utilizing various media outlets to exchange knowledge, raise awareness, increase visibility and reach a wider audience. In 2019, AOSIS launched an aggressive media engagement strategy as well as strategic messaging to raise the Alliance's profile, and craft more effective and consistent messages. This was critical because of the emergence of new actors in the climate landscape and the Alliance's historic challenges in getting its messages out. The new approach began with the conceptualization, testing, launch and management of a dynamic new [website](#) with integrated new and social media functionalities. The website is also now independently and professionally hosted. The site also features the [AOSIS Knowledge Exchange Platform \(A-KEP\)](#), a knowledge management and sharing functionality that allows for confidential coordination across the Alliance's membership, including the editing of in-process documents during negotiation processes.

The [AOSIS opening statement](#) during COP 25 was arguably the most widely covered by the media. The carefully structured statement was covered across the [BBC's](#) platforms by two separate reporters, [Politico Europe](#), and [Climate Home](#) among others. Additionally, AOSIS' online campaign for "[Our Decade of Ambition](#)" and active hashtag, #SIDSMatter, has been a highly effective element of the robust communications thrust. The campaign included the launch of a compelling short-form [promotional video](#) that highlights the rationale for making the 2020s a decade for decisive climate action. The 90-second video, which was used to announce the core campaign and negotiating stance of AOSIS at COP 25, was accompanied by five infographics highlighting the Alliance's positions. Additionally, a well-crafted package of critical climate change initiatives to safeguard SIDS was developed. The '[SIDS Package](#)' is a set of cross cutting initiatives and partnerships that is SIDS-focused and SIDS-defined.

### **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

The grant was expected to be disbursed during the first financial quarter of 2019 however, the grant was not disbursed until October of 2019. This presented a challenge because AOSIS was not able to ensure full spend on the budget. Due to the delay of the grant, it was not possible to outsource the commission of briefing and position papers to meet the required timeframe to begin or fully complete Activity 2.1. However, a timely disbursement of funds will be taken into account in the second phase of the Action.

## **Results from the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED)**



The LDC Group is coordinated by a Chair country (for 2019, Bhutan), and with technical support from the NGO International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Between 2018-2019, IIED was able to strengthen the capacity of LDCs to proactively engage in the UNFCCC process, effectively implement the Paris Agreement domestically and strengthen alliances on climate change. Under the Action, IIED is providing capacity development, knowledge, and technical support during the UNFCCC negotiations and related international climate change processes.

### **Output 1: Ministerial level/high level member states meetings and workshop convened**

Output 1 has been achieved. Under this output, IIED played a pivotal role in providing on the ground and on-demand legal, technical and strategic advice to the LDC Chair and Group throughout the main UNFCCC process in Bonn, Germany and Bangkok, Thailand in 2018. The activities that were undertaken were preparing internal presentations for the preparatory meetings pre-session on the state of play and key issues, advising LDC delegates on legal and technical issues that arose during negotiations, supporting LDC delegates to identify interlinkages across different workstreams of the Paris Agreement Work Programme, and drafting talking points for the Chair's bilateral and high-level meetings.

The LDC Ministerial Meeting that took place from 15-16 Oct 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia provided the opportunity for Ministers to develop a clear vision and a coherent strategy that will advance collective interests and allow the LDCs to present a strong and unified message to the world. The meeting helped to build a well-briefed and abreast team of Ministers who can take informed decisions at COP24 and help communicate these decisions to other LDC delegates, creating a coherent and powerful [LDC position in the negotiations](#). Specifically, IIED supported and advised the LDC Group through the preparation of the meeting's concept note, agenda, and COP24 key messages document (Annex 14). Moreover, various presentations on the current state of play of negotiations, opening and closing remarks as well as the final [high-level communique](#).

In 2019, the LDC Group Strategy Session and Ministerial Meeting (21-25 Oct in Thimphu, Bhutan) was an important milestone for the LDC Group. The Ministerial meeting provided the opportunity for Ministers to develop a clear vision and a coherent strategy that will advance collective interests and allow the LDCs to present a strong and unified message to the world. The results of these discussions manifested in the Thimphu LDC Ministerial Communiqué on Climate Change 2019. This meeting helped to build a well-briefed and abreast team of Ministers who can take informed decisions at COP25 and help communicate these decisions to other LDC delegates, creating a coherent and powerful LDC position in the negotiations. Specifically, IIED supported and advised the LDC Group on legal, strategic and technical matters including through the preparation of the meeting's concept note, agenda, various presentations on the current state of play of negotiations, opening and closing remarks as well as the final high-level communique and a summary report of the meeting. Bearing in-depth knowledge of the group's history and evolving positions, IIED was well-equipped to provide strategic advice to the LDC Chair and Ministers in Thimphu. See statement from the LDC Group which reflects the positions on selected thematic negotiations: [Thimphu LDC Ministerial Communiqué on Climate Change 2019](#), with accompanying [press release](#).





Prior to this meeting IIED co-authored a [research piece](#) with the LDC Chair that explored the globally unjust cost of climate change on LDCs, with a call to the international community to make redresses. The staggering figures highlighted in the paper proved to be an essential resource to bolster LDCs' arguments and talking points throughout the year.

## **Output 2: Support to guide the discussions under the different groups provided**

IIED has supported the LDC Group to engage on climate change topics at both the technical and political levels. The international events throughout 2018 provided the LDC Chair an opportunity to represent the Group and advocate for the world's most vulnerable. This included the participation at events such as the Petersberg Climate Dialogue, the Ministerial on Climate Action, the High Ambition Coalition meetings, and the Global Climate Action Summit.

During the events in 2018, the LDC Chair pushed for a clear political package for COP24 that includes the adoption of the Paris Agreement rules, progress on finance and ensuring that the Talanoa Dialogue provides the platform to secure commitments at COP 24 to increase ambition by 2020. The LDC Chair reiterated its positions during the Petersberg Climate Dialogue to enhance predictability and transparency of climate finance, make public climate finance more available to support climate action in developing countries, and scale-up climate finance as well as to deliver on pledges previously made.

Throughout COP24, the LDC Group was vocal and active in pushing for strong outcomes in Katowice, using tools of public diplomacy and media work (on the outside) to pressure and set the tone for negotiations (on the inside). LDC media coverage was very strong and it comes as no surprise that the LDC Chair was named in the [Katowice Climate Power list](#). As a result, progress was made in many areas which exceeded expectations going in to COP24.

The diplomatic spotlight which defined most of 2019 was the UNSG-convened Climate Action Summit in New York in September. The preparations for this event were intense and wide-reaching for the LDC Group, with the Chair actively guiding engagement with a diverse group of diplomatic actors. In the lead up the Summit, coordinated efforts were seen between the LDC Chair in the UNFCCC, the Global Coordinator for LDCs in New York, UN-OHRLLS, AOSIS as well as the Permanent Representatives and foreign ministries of LDCs represented at the UNSG Summit.

At the 2019 Climate Action Summit, Bhutan as well as a number of other LDCs came out strongly to promote the [LDC Group's initiatives](#) for renewable energy and energy efficiency, adaptation and resilience, and capacity building. Across international media and independent analysts, the LDC Group (along with other vulnerable countries, particularly the Small Island Developing States) were praised for their ambitious announcements for climate action, which stood in stark contrast to the silence of the major emitters.



Communication tools and advocacy materials were developed to enhance visibility and strengthen the awareness in the context of long-term low-carbon climate resilient development strategies (see Table 2). IIED produced a paper on the topic and continues to highlight the importance of these long-term climate strategies.

The materials prepared and published ranged from blogs, social media messages, press releases and articles. They are;

- 1 [Blog](#)
- Active [twitter account](#) for LDC Chair
- [Press release](#) for Joint LDC Group and AOSIS statement before UNSG Climate Action Summit Sep 2019
- Press release for LDC Chair's [statement](#) after UNSG Climate Action Summit
- The LDC Group received 24 specific requests for interview/comment at COP25 and was quoted in 15 articles. Select articles in which the LDC Chair is quoted for COP25:
  - The Guardian: [UN climate talks end with limited progress on emission targets](#)
  - BBC News: [Madrid COP25: What does Africa want from the UN climate summit?](#)
  - Climate Home: [Largest countries silent as world seeks action on climate](#)
- DownToEarth: [Climate Emergency COP25: Madrid, the longest COP ever, ends in disappointment](#)

In addition, the LDC Chair and other LDC representatives participated in several sessions and panels before the Summit. For each of these events, IIED was on hand as usual to provide suggested talking points as requested. Events included:

- Chair's engagement at the Youth Strikes in New York;
- Chair's remarks for the opening panel for Resilience Day, the Sunday preceding the Summit;
- Bhutanese Foreign Minister's remarks at the Adaptation and Resilience Coalition Pre-Summit side event;
- Chair's intervention as a panellist for a press conference on the morning of the Summit; and
- Gambian Environment Minister's intervention at an OECD-hosted event on aligning development cooperation for climate action.

## **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

IIED's support to the LDC Chair and Group could be negatively affected due to delays in contracting / issuing of any future grants under this platform. Looking back at 2019, it was expected this grant would come through by the end of the first financial quarter, but it didn't come through until late July. IIED was planning to support the LDC Group at the 2019 London Climate Action Week from 1-8 July with support from this grant but was unable to do so because of its delayed commencement. This also affected IIED's ability to ensure full spend on the budget.

Going forward, 2020 will require a concerted and dedicated effort from the LDC Group and its support team to keep up with demands for diplomatic engagement and strategic inputs. As such, key activities for 2020 include:



- Supporting Bhutan as Chair of the LDC Group for their final year in post;
- Ramping up efforts for diplomatic engagement across LDC stakeholders and at various international moments, including convening and supporting London-based LDC Ambassadors and High Commissioners as momentum builds for COP26;
- Continued support for LDC activities and initiatives on effective resilience and adaptation, long-term climate resilient strategies, renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as the universities network in the coming months; and
- Providing legal, technical and strategic advice to the LDC Group for upcoming UNFCCC meetings and other multilateral fora.



## Challenges encountered, measures taken, and changes introduced

### **Challenges with the selected groups and platforms at the initial stages of the Action**

Challenges were encountered at the initial stages of the Action. Originally, five negotiating groups and progressive platforms were selected. The five groups were: ID, AOSIS, IIED, African Group of Negotiators (AGN), and Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). UNDP made contact with AGN and CVF in 2018 however, after many attempts, no proposal was submitted by either AGN or CVF. Ultimately, the project steering committee decided to move forward with only ID, AOSIS, and IIED and split the grant amount among the three remaining groups.

### **Challenges in the financial delivery of the Action**

Additionally, challenges were encountered in the financial delivery of the Action as the final expenditures present some variations compared to the initial budget. The lower financial delivery under Output 1 was due to expenses budgeted by the groups that either did not take place or were overbudgeted. For example, audits of the project grant that either were not mandatory by some groups or the budget was overestimated by others. Moreover, it is expected that some activities, for example, Activity 2.1, could not be delivered by the groups, in particular AOSIS, or that some cost savings were made, such as the above-mentioned audit of the project grant which was not mandatory or was overestimated. The higher financial delivery under Output 2 was due to more funds being allocated to activities 2.1 and 2.2, which includes meeting arrangements including travel, briefing papers, publications (i.e. additional research papers by IIED and increased technical assistance by ID/HAC), advisory services, and communications and visibility tools. All group increased their communications and visibility efforts through communications campaigns and increased social media presence of the negotiating groups, given that this activity needed to be ensured in 2019 as per EU request.

An addendum was issued in December 2020 (addendum 2) to reflect the new distribution of funds within the outputs and budget headings, mainly the reduced expenses budgeted by the groups under Output 1 and the additional funds allocated to activities 2.1 and 2.2.

Support to the groups/progressive platforms have been affected due to delays in contracting and issuing of grants, in addition to an overestimation of visibility products. The grants were expected to be disbursed during the first financial quarter of 2019. However, they were not disbursed until the second and third financial quarter of 2019 for all groups. Hence the groups, in particular AOSIS, were unable to ensure full spend on the budget. Therefore, a refund was issued to UNDP from AOSIS and IIED resulting in a lower financial delivery.

One of the main resulting changes was in 2019, when AOSIS was not able to outsource the commission of briefing and position papers to meet the required timeframe to begin or fully complete Activity 2.1. In order to ensure smooth monitoring and reporting, UNDP allowed the



groups to submit 1 report instead of 2 – a progress and final report - and at a later date. This allowed the groups to properly report on the activities delivered.

Lastly, under UNDP's project office, a budget line was added (up to 100%) to reflect UNDP's project office project consultant who served as the focal point for coordination, support and management of the above-mentioned outputs of this Action. This inclusion was already introduced at the progress report stage and the EU was notified via email where it was approved 9 September 2019.

### **Challenges in the communications and visibility activities**

A challenge encountered in 2018 was the nature of the work of the selected progressive platforms and negotiating groups, which entails sensitive and confidential information. Due to the restrictive nature surrounding information sharing, the communication and visibility activities envisioned for this project were very limited and, at times, prohibited. This presented a challenge when implementing visibility activities. A discussion was held on the limited visibility opportunities during the project Steering Committee meeting in 2018. EU counterparts were informed of the difficulties and a discussion was held on the visibility efforts going forward. The measures taken by UNDP was to advise and provide a guideline to each of the platforms and groups on the communication and visibility efforts and requirements set under the agreement. Additional guidance was provided based on the [EU's Communication and Visibility Requirements](#), in order to ensure that EU-funded external actions were consistent with the Union's values and priorities.

The changes introduced in 2019 were an extension of the Action for an additional 23 months through an issuance of an addendum (addendum 1). This allowed UNDP to better support the groups in addressing the challenges that arose in 2018, specifically in the area of visibility. The measures that were put in place were to advise the groups on how to better plan and include activities that allowed for information and products for an external audience and shareable public information. This has allowed the groups and progressive platforms to prepare their communication and visibility strategy well in advance and in accordance with the EU requirements (see Table 2). Most notably, AOSIS' online campaign for "Our Decade of Ambition" which includes a [promotional video](#) and active hashtag, #SIDSMatter, has been a highly effective element of the robust communications under this Action. The 90-second video was used to announce the core campaign and negotiating stance of AOSIS at COP 25 as well as in other related fora.



## Implementation of the Communication and Visibility Plan

The communication and visibility plan provided a framework for the communication goals and approach to ensure effective and efficient communication and donor visibility surrounding the Action of supporting developing countries' progressive platforms for climate change action. The target audience included national governments of partner countries, EU member states, the platforms and groups selected for support from this initiative, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders involved in UNFCCC negotiations.

Strategic communication and advocacy were conducted to advance visibility and influence policy wherever possible and practical. Although certain challenges arose given the sensitivity and confidentiality of the work that the platforms and groups partake in, efforts were made to ensure visibility. These activities including the development of policy documents, reports, press releases, and conference programmes (see Table 2).

### Types of activities to ensure communication and visibility efforts

Communication tools and advocacy materials to enhance visibility and strengthen the awareness in in the context of national climate change and sustainable development policies. Visibility was strengthened in the areas of awareness raising in the context of progressive thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as enhanced visibility on issues such as long-term low-carbon climate resilient development strategies.

The activities undertaken to ensure communication and visibility efforts were achieved through the production and development of briefings and position papers provided by the groups that verified that the selected groups/platforms have been given support in developing their negotiation positions. Results include; online articles and blogs, social media, and press releases (see Table 2).

**TABLE 2. COMMUNICATION VISIBILITY RESULTS**

Planned Activity	Results from 2018-2019
Communication tools and advocacy materials to enhance visibility and strengthen the awareness in in the context of national climate change and sustainable development policies	<b>Online articles and blogs, social media, and press releases, briefing papers, advocacy and position papers, and statements.</b>
	<b>1. AOSIS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated AOSIS <a href="#">website</a></li> <li>• AOSIS Knowledge Exchange Platform (A-KEP)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Online campaign</a> for "Our Decade of Ambition" and promotional video</li> </ul>
	<b>2. IIED:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 <a href="#">Advocacy/position paper co-led</a> by IIED and LDC Group representatives on loss and damage in the Paris Agreement's global stock take published on IIED's website.</li> <li>• A paper on <a href="#">long-term low-carbon climate resilient development strategies</a> published on IIED's website.</li> <li>• 1 <a href="#">research</a> paper plus translations, co-authored by LDC Chair.</li> </ul>



### 3. UNDP:

- Social video and [tweet](#) by UNDP promoting IIED's research paper
  - Results in total: over 50,400 impressions; 198 likes; 145 retweets; and 2,833

## The Action's Visibility Products

### 1. AOSIS

#### AOSIS updated website and reference to EU support.

**Text:** "To achieve its goals, AOSIS often draws on partnerships, including with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission, to bolster its capacity to effectively influence climate negotiations, some of the most complex and difficult in the world. AOSIS also makes vital contributions by helping its members to pool their resources and amplify their collective voice in climate talks. This goes beyond just speaking up to securing ambitious agreements with tangible benefits for vulnerable communities."

**Source:** <https://www.aosis.org/about/>

**Summary**

AOSIS is a coalition of 44 small island and low-lying coastal developing states, including five observers. As a voice for the vulnerable, its mandate is more than amplifying marginalised voices as it also advocates for these countries' interests. In terms of size, AOSIS closely resembles the countries it represents on the global stage, but often punches far above its weight, negotiating historic global commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions, among other achievements.

To achieve its goals, AOSIS often draws on partnerships, including with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission, to bolster its capacity to effectively influence climate negotiations, some of the most complex and difficult in the world. AOSIS also makes vital contributions by helping its members to pool their resources and amplify their collective voice in climate talks. This goes beyond just speaking up to securing ambitious agreements with tangible benefits for vulnerable communities.

**Core Focus**



**Ms. Lois Young**  
Chairperson



**Mrs. Janine Felson**  
Deputy Chairperson



**Ms. Sharon Lindo**  
Lead Negotiator for Sustainable Development



**Dr. Tyrone Hall**  
Knowledge Management and Communications Adviser



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## AOSIS Knowledge Exchange Platform (A-KEP) with EU logo at the bottom of the webpage.

Source: <https://www.aosis.org/forum/>










Forums >










AOSIS Knowledge Exchange Platform (A - KEP)

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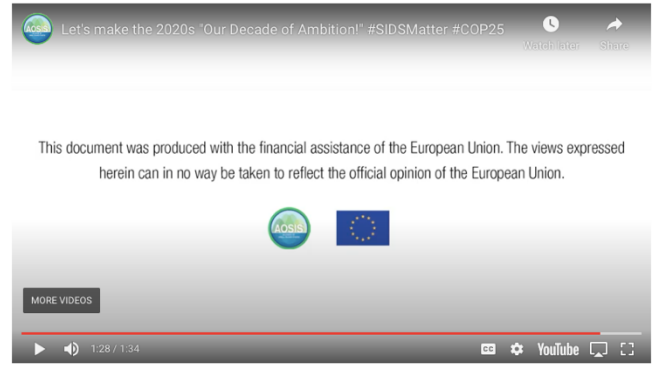
Topic Icons:  Not Replied
  Replied
  Active
  Hot
  Sticky
  Unapproved
  Solved
  Private
  Closed





## AOSIS “Our Decade of Action” promotional video.

Source: <https://www.aosis.org/2019/11/30/cop-25-must-trigger-our-decade-of-ambition/>



## 2. IIED

### Advocacy/position paper co-led by IIED and LDC Group representatives on loss and damage in the Paris Agreement’s global stock take published on IIED’s website.

Source: <https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17490IIED.pdf>

**Briefing**

**Climate change; Policy and planning**

Keywords: Least Developed Countries (LDCs), climate change negotiations, UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, loss and damage

**Issue date**  
November 2018

**Policy pointers**

**Negotiators must ensure the global stocktake (GST) systematically considers loss and damage (L&D) to effectively take stock of the Paris Agreement’s implementation.**

**Negotiators should push for the GST’s ‘sources of input’ to explicitly include information on L&D experienced, as well as actions taken and support needed, provided and received to address L&D.**

**Loss and damage in the Paris Agreement’s global stocktake**

Loss and damage from climate change is a reality for many poor and vulnerable countries, and will worsen as global temperatures rise. It is essential that it be considered systematically within the global stocktake, which is to take stock of the implementation of the UNFCCC’s Paris Agreement. This briefing sets out the reasons for ensuring loss and damage is specifically and adequately addressed and how this can be done. Giving due attention to loss and damage is a fundamental test of countries’ commitment to achieving the aims and purpose of the Paris Agreement and will be a crucial outcome for the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP24, December 2018).

#### IIED Briefing

and other information providers. A range of proposals have been put forward by Parties for this phase, including workstreams centred around thematic areas or long-term goals.

The textual proposals encompass options for considering loss and damage as a cross-cutting issue or as a standalone workstream. The LDC Group and AOSIS have been advocating for a standalone workstream, because assessing loss and damage within other workstreams is unlikely to produce a comprehensive overview of progress.

Parties are considering what questions will guide the technical assessments. When these are developed, it will be important that they reflect the breadth of obligations under the Agreement, including specific questions relating to loss and damage.

The technical assessment stage will likely produce a number of reports. This could include a report from each workstream and an overarching report that considers all workstreams together to assess how progress collectively ‘adds up’ in light of the Agreement’s purpose and long-term goals. Loss and damage would be an important component of any overarching report, given that low mitigation ambition and particularly vulnerable countries’ limited capacities to adapt to climate change will drive up loss and damage. For the GST to catalyse enhanced action and support, the reports should include technical recommendations on how to improve implementation of the Agreement where gaps or failings are identified.

**‘Consideration of outputs’ phase.** The final phase of the GST will consider the findings and implications of the technical assessments. This consideration of outputs will aim to inform Parties’ decisions on updating and enhancing their actions and support, as well as enhancing

international cooperation on climate action. The textual proposals suggest that this final phase could generate a summary report, decision, formal declaration and/or statements.

This phase of the GST should shine a spotlight on the severe consequences of low mitigation ambition and lack of adaptive capacity (which will exacerbate loss and damage), as well as on countries’ current needs for addressing loss and damage and on gaps in the support provided. Its recommendations should provide a clear route to closing gaps in the Paris Agreement’s implementation in light of equity and the best available science, and should encourage political will for scaling-up action and support.

#### A fundamental test of commitment

The GST must encompass all elements of the Paris Agreement and proper consideration of loss and damage will be essential in generating an accurate global progress assessment of how close Parties are to achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Agreement, including the 1.5°C temperature goal. The textual proposals for COP24 consider loss and damage throughout the proposed GST process. Maintaining this inclusion will be crucial and is a fundamental test of countries’ commitment to taking the steps needed to protect present and future generations across the world from the escalating risks and impacts of climate change.

**Brook M Dambacher, Olivia Serdeczny and Mis Kunzang**

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**Knowledge Products**

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) promotes sustainable development, linking local priorities to global challenges. We support some of the world’s most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in decision making.

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### A paper on long-term low-carbon climate resilient development strategies published on IIED’s website.

Source: <https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17480IIED.pdf>



# Briefing

Policy and planning;  
Climate change

Keywords:  
Least Developed Countries (LDCs),  
climate change negotiations, low-carbon  
resilient development, UNFCCC,  
Paris Agreement, long-term strategies



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## Policy pointers

For LDCs to achieve low-carbon climate-resilient development, having a long-term vision is crucial. Their strategies must address vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks while confronting inherent structural barriers to sustainable development.

In LDCs, any long-term climate response will need to go beyond emission reduction scenarios; long-term strategies provide opportunities to plan more effective adaptation and enhanced

## Harnessing long-term strategies for low-carbon climate-resilient LDC development

To put the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement into practice, countries are expected to prepare 'long-term, low greenhouse gas emission development strategies' by 2020. These will be visionary plans for achieving low-carbon climate-resilient societies by 2050. While there is general understanding of why countries should formulate these long-term plans, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have peculiar hurdles to overcome — and exclusive rewards worth pursuing — in preparing their strategies. While highlighting common challenges and concerns, this briefing makes the case for why LDCs in particular should prepare their long-term strategies early. It also discusses incentives to support and rationalise doing so ahead of 2020.

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#### Benefits of early delivery

Detractors may argue that there is no rush for LDCs to prepare their long-term strategies, citing the 2020 deadline and arguing that developed countries should take the lead. However, missed opportunities abound with such thinking, especially as there are several benefits to early delivery:

- If an LDC waits until 2020 or after, funding streams may have already been directed to other nations, leaving few (if any) funding opportunities for LDCs. Early delivery would give LDCs a competitive edge.
- Given LDCs' limited capacity and negligible role in causing climate change, it is a significant feat when they set and meet ambitious climate targets. Recognition of this from other countries and international media fosters goodwill, bolstering an LDC's national credibility and moral authority to lobby for greater ambition from others.<sup>13</sup>
- LDCs' long-term strategies can highlight the gaps in means of implementation for national-level climate action, including for example achieving the NDCs, designing NAPs and mobilising climate finance. The finalisation of long-term strategies well ahead of 2020 will be crucial to increasing collective ambition because these scenarios can inform — and justify — support for early action this decade.
- Climate change affects different groups of society in distinct ways. Long-term strategies can acknowledge and address issues of inequality due to age, gender, disability, and so on, by embedding them into the design of climate change policies and strategies. This will avoid business-as-usual trajectories that exacerbate the existing inequalities over time.

#### A chance for transformation

As countries begin to bring the Paris Agreement to life, long-term visions for achieving low-carbon and climate-resilient development at the national level are crucial. While LDCs may face some challenges to formulating a long-term strategy (for example, the inherent difficulty of incorporating long-term adaptation and resilience planning, or that preparing the strategy seems burdensome), these factors stand small when compared to the benefits and opportunities. Long-term strategies provide a vision for prosperous, adaptation-focused, climate-resilient societies for all; investment roadmaps to guide funding towards domestic priorities, including innovative development models; a space for collaboration and learning to avoid unnecessary burdens; increased political capital; and, if delivered without delay, the competitive edge to receive support early — for long and near-term action.

With 2020 quickly approaching — when countries must come good on their Paris promises — LDCs have the opportunity to help lift collective ambition once again and to act as a surging force for transformation. Preparing long-term strategies for a low-carbon climate-resilient society is a space where LDCs can continue to lead the way.

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## Research paper co-authored by LDC Chair titled "Time to redress the globally unjust cost of climate change."

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# Briefing

Climate change; Poverty

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## Policy pointers

All countries must urgently make deep carbon emissions cuts in line with 1.5°C pathways that reflect their fair share of global efforts to tackle climate change.

Developed countries must fulfil their commitment to provide US\$100 billion a year by 2020, as well as increasing it to reflect the actual needs of developing countries — particularly the Least Developed Countries.

## Time to redress the globally unjust cost of climate change

Climate change has global impacts, but hits poor and vulnerable communities first and worst. The 47 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are at a disproportionately high risk of adverse consequences with global warming of 1.5°C and beyond. LDCs contribute the least to global warming. But over the last 50 years, 69% of worldwide deaths caused by climate-related disasters were in LDCs. Now, a rapid global response is urgently needed. All countries must do their fair share to rapidly reduce emissions and provide adequate support to the poorest and most vulnerable. Significantly more climate finance needs to be provided by developed countries. Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce emissions must become vastly more ambitious, based on each country's level of responsibility for causing climate change and its capacity to address the global crisis.

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change.<sup>15</sup> However, the cost for LDCs alone — aside from other developing countries — to fund their mitigation and adaptation measures has been estimated at US\$93 billion per year in total, based on the plans outlined in LDCs' NDCs.<sup>16</sup>

Clearly, the US\$100 billion per year commitment is inadequate. Even so, developed country Parties have yet to meet this commitment. The UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance reported that finance flows from Annex II Parties (long-term developed countries) to non-Annex I Parties (developing countries, including LDCs) totalled only US\$38 billion in 2016.<sup>17</sup> However, Oxfam suggests that the true amount of climate-specific assistance provided was just US\$16–21 billion.<sup>18</sup>

In addition, climate finance is not reaching where it is most needed. LDCs only receive 24% of bilateral flows of climate finance and 21% of finance approved by multilateral climate funds.<sup>19</sup> And an estimated less than 10% of climate finance is channelled to local levels, where it can be used more effectively to deliver sustainable results with lasting impact.<sup>20</sup> With fewer resources, countries like the LDCs may struggle to access the climate finance that is available. Improving disbursement processes of funds will help ensure finance is easily accessible to those that need it.

Now, with the 'by 2020' deadline agreed in Cancun only months away, there is a clear need for developed-country Parties to vastly — and rapidly — scale up the levels of climate finance

they provide to developing countries, and to ensure it reaches those that need it most and those best placed to maximise its lasting benefits.

#### We need a rapid global response

For wealthy, high-emitting countries, rapid domestic emissions reductions and providing climate finance must go hand in hand. For many countries, contributing their fair share of the global response to climate change requires more than making deep cuts to domestic emissions. It also involves providing financial support to poor countries so they can do the same, to ensure no one is left behind.

The time to act is now. Governments — particularly those of developed countries — must demonstrate that they are serious about achieving the Paris Agreement's goals. There are two pivotal moments approaching: the Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019 and the key 2020 deadline for submitting or updating NDCs for the first implementation cycle. Both are an opportunity for governments to showcase their plans and commitments that are in line with 1.5°C pathways and reflect their fair share of the global effort.

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### 3. UNDP

**Social video and [tweet](#) by UNDP promoting IIED's research paper**

**Source: <https://twitter.com/UNDPClimate/status/1198950270459404289?s=20>**



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## Conclusion and Way Forward

The Action has numerous key results and achievements. Most notably, through the project, ID has supported the HAC, specifically during the HAC Friends' meeting in May 2018, where ID identified the need for a new statement and the key elements that this should contain. Through the latest Leaders' Statement, as well as the two press conferences at COP25, the HAC has demonstrated to be a strong and ambitious coalition and has been able to embody once again its leadership role.

AOSIS legal, technical and strategic advice to its negotiators during the Bangkok UNFCCC session and Talanoa Dialogue, allowed AOSIS to link and engage with other developed and developing country negotiators and negotiating groups at the technical level to advance common positions. Other key achievements include AOSIS taking a deeper dive into the UNFCCC process and its related agreements through specific thematic workshops to address knowledge gaps, enhance understanding and identify areas for building consensus where necessary.

Additionally, IIED has supported the LDC Group to engage on climate change topics at both the technical and political levels. International events throughout 2018 and 2019, provided the LDC Chair an opportunity to represent the Group and advocate for the world's most vulnerable. In 2019, the LDC Group Strategy Session and Ministerial Meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan resulted in a key milestone for the LDC Group by providing the opportunity for Ministers to develop a clear vision and a coherent strategy that advances collective interests and allows the LDCs to present a strong and unified global message. A well-briefed and well-informed team of Ministers communicated these decisions to other LDC delegates at COP 25, creating a coherent and powerful LDC position in the negotiations.



Going forward, 2020-2021 will require rigorous and steadfast efforts from all parties involved, including the negotiating groups, and support from progressive platforms such as ID, AOSIS, and ILED, to continue with demands for strategic engagement and inputs and enhancing climate ambition. It is important to sustain political momentum and promote the outcomes of the Paris Agreement and its provisions, as well as encourage additional domestic actions that countries can undertake (e.g., the formulation of national long-term, low-carbon development strategies).

The Action will continue into its phase 2 under UNDP's NDC Support Programme until 2021. It is important that long-term support for the UNFCCC process and related institutions, and joint ambition by both developing and developed countries on climate action continues to be assured in the context of the international climate agenda. This will ensure greater impact towards the joint objective of limiting global temperature increase to maximum 2 degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts toward limiting this increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The second phase of the Action will ensure that progressive platforms will continue to play an important role in making progress toward these objectives.