

# Small Islands, Big Solutions: Accelerating Sustainable Energy Transitions for Climate Action towards Future Prosperity

CALL TO ACTION

12 MARCH 2025



## Call to Action

We, the Government Representatives of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados on 12 March 2025:

**RECOGNIZING** that SIDS are at the frontlines of the climate crisis, despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions,<sup>1</sup> and face disproportionate challenges from extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and economic vulnerabilities, noting that the main drivers of challenges facing SIDS are the increasing impacts of climate-induced disasters and rising GHG emissions;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that over 24% of the SIDS population — approximately 16 million people – still lack access to electricity, that nearly 43% of the SIDS population lack access to clean cooking and that universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy is fundamental to build climate resilient SIDS economies and achieving sustainable development<sup>2</sup>;

**CONCERNED** that SIDS' reliance on imported fossil fuels, continues to strain national budgets, increase vulnerability to external shocks, and impede economic development, constraining the ability to invest in clean energy;

**CONCERNED** that SIDS' size and geography can render generic clean energy technologies not fit-for-purpose, or increase their expense, further delaying their deployment on islands and atolls;

**RECOGNIZING** the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), and its operationalization in COP29, addressing the financial needs of vulnerable nations, in particular SIDS, and the need for public and grant based resources and highly concessional finance for adaptation and to loss and damage;

**RECOGNIZING** the landmark agreements at the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United

<sup>1</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/smallislands/about-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>2</sup> <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/cdd62b11-664f-4a85-9eb6-7f577d317311/SDG7-Report2024-0611-V9-highresforweb.pdf>



Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) to triple renewable energy capacity, double the global rate of energy efficiency improvements globally by 2030, and to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, understanding these as a crucial opportunity for SIDS to enhance energy security, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports, and build more climate resilient energy systems while pursuing energy sovereignty in SIDS;

**NOTING** the 29<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) decision on climate finance;

**FURTHER NOTING** the urgent need for increased, accessible, and tailored funding mechanisms to support SIDS in their transition to sustainable energy and reinforcement of climate adaptation efforts;

**RECALLING** the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), which provides a comprehensive framework for accelerating sustainable development and climate resilience in SIDS for the next decade;

**RECOGNIZING** the commitments made in the Samoa Communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024, particularly on strengthening climate action, energy access and energy security, and sustainable development;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the imperative of implementing the SIDS Partnership Framework and the SAMOA Pathway to advance sustainable energy development;

**RECALLING** the G20 Principles for Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions endorsed on 4 October 2024, and **DETERMINED** to work together to achieve our ambitious targets of tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency while ensuring a just and equitable transition that leaves no one behind;

**RECOGNIZING** that accelerating the transition to renewable energy and increasing the rate of energy efficiency present a triple win opportunity for SIDS to reduce import dependency, strengthen energy security, and build economic resilience while meeting climate commitments;

**EMPHASIZING** that SIDS possess abundant renewable energy resources including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and marine energy that remain largely untapped, while also acknowledging the technical and financial barriers to their development;

**RECOGNIZING** the critical importance of international cooperation, technical assistance, and financial support to help SIDS overcome barriers in scaling up deployment of climate resilient renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and infrastructure;

**HEREBY** the SIDS, with grave concern for the climate crisis, call upon development partners and the international community to take immediate and decisive action to deliver a just energy transition in SIDS through: swift capitalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage to address mounting climate impacts; concrete implementation pathways for the energy transition elements of the COP28 Global Stocktake decision and doubling energy efficiency; advancement of climate finance pledges delivered at COP29; and ensuring swift access and an equitable distribution of increased climate finance allocations at the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) to drive greater global climate ambition through the Baku to Belem Roadmap.



Agree on the following actions to be taken by the development and international community to spur action on energy, climate and development in SIDS:

## **1. STRENGTHEN ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE COMMITMENTS**

Support the:

- Submission of ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP30, tackling energy security and fuel dependency reduction;
- Development of ambitious NDCs, integrated energy, climate and investment roadmaps aligned with NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), ensuring the incorporation of climate resilience into all energy infrastructure planning and policies;
- Phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies as soon as possible;
- Adoption of Cross-Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation approaches to leverage synergies and unlock co-benefits across SDGs, focusing on the interconnections between energy, climate, resilience, disaster risk and development.

## **2. MOBILIZE TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE FINANCE AT SCALE**

Urgently translate existing climate finance pledges and commitments to address the specific needs of SIDS by:

- Addressing SIDS' barriers and challenges in swiftly mobilizing and accessing climate finance through the Baku to Belém Roadmap to \$1.3T;
- Increasing levels of public grant and concessional finance for the development of climate-resilient energy infrastructure in SIDS;
- Mobilizing dedicated funding windows for SIDS' energy projects to support project preparation and transaction advisory and explore regional insurance and guarantee mechanisms to attract private capital at scale;
- Scaling up innovative financing mechanisms, such as levies, debt-for-climate swaps and Article 6 mechanisms to unlock capital for energy transitions, and leveraging results-based financing mechanisms to ensure sustained impact;
- Integrating clean and sustainable energy needs into the resilience and disaster risk management narratives in funding mechanisms for SIDS.

## **3. ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION**

- Strengthen and expand existing international and regional energy and climate initiatives working in SIDS with a call for an increased coordination of existing and planned initiatives;
- Support regional approaches to accelerating the deployment of renewable energy solutions, including through pooled project preparation and procurement mechanisms;
- Promote regional strategies for SIDS-specific technology deployment and shared infrastructure, including initiatives such as regional grid interconnection, where applicable, and the deployment of Energy Storage solutions, especially Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS);
- Enhance inclusive public-private community partnerships, taking a bottoms-up approach to leverage solutions with the private sector and local communities.

## **4. AUGMENT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE**

- Strengthen the capacity of national and regional institutions for sustainable energy planning



and adaptation, ensuring alignment of energy, climate and sustainable development goals. This includes establishing baseline assessments, developing standardized metrics and indicators, implementing regular progress tracking mechanisms;

- Strengthen national and regional institutions of excellence and knowledge platforms for sustainable clean energy and energy efficiency training, best practices exchange and South-South cooperation;
- Enhance local technical and regulatory capacity through targeted national and regional training initiatives and skill development programs, ensuring equal access and opportunities for women, youth and local and vulnerable communities;
- Leverage international climate finance to better support workforce development in SIDS through targeted upskilling and re-skilling in renewable energy where highly skilled workers are needed for long term sustainable development and addressing megatrends such as climate change and migration.

## **5. ENHANCE RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION AND INNOVATION**

- Strengthen regional cooperation on adaptation strategies to address climate vulnerabilities in SIDS by leveraging the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to better understand and respond to complex interconnected challenges;
- Through the MVI and SIDS led partnerships, improve access to concessional financing from the Loss and Damage Fund respecting SIDS priorities, traditional knowledge, and community driven solutions;
- Enhance innovative technological solutions for clean energy which are fit-for-purpose for SIDS, and take geographical remoteness and cultural considerations into account;
- Accelerate the transition to clean cooking by scaling up domestic solutions, including electric cooking technologies, to improve public health, empower women, and protect the environment;
- Scale up access to sustainable cooling technologies, aligning with commitments made in the COP28 Global Cooling Pledge;
- With the operationalization and capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, SIDS are to seize the opportunity and submit project funding proposals for the Board's consideration and the rolling out of funds in SIDS.

These commitments would contribute to streamlining and expediting existing and new support, enabling delivery of resources in a predictable and timely manner, and aligned with SIDS priorities and implementation capacities. Success will be measured not just by financial commitments, but by concrete results in reducing fossil fuel dependency, enhancing energy security, and building climate resilience across SIDS.

We commit to working together to ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition (in line with Communique adopted at the Global Ministerial in Barbados on 12 March, 2025) that protects vulnerable communities, creates decent jobs, and empowers local people. Through our national and regional organizations and platforms, we will implement these actions while calling on our partners to match our ambition with the scale and urgency of support required for transformative change in SIDS energy systems.