

## **Responses to Call for Inputs by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of Climate Change**

The following is information compiled in response to a call for inputs, based on a list of eight questions presented by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Ian Fry. Inputs from members will inform on the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change's report on actions to address climate change, particularly in the context of loss and damage to be presented at the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2022. The below responses also compliment the AOSIS paper submitted also in response to the call for input from the Special Rapporteur.

### **1. Observed and Potential Impacts (from extreme events and slow onset events)**

Vulnerable communities are already experiencing more intense cyclones that have ravaged terrestrial and marine ecosystems, causing extensive damage to forests, plantations and community infrastructure. Sea level rise and storm surges are eroding coastal areas including land and important traditional locations. These extreme events are placing additional stress on an ever increasing population especially in areas where unsustainable development practices are taking place such as foreshore and mangrove reclamation, clearing of trees from watershed areas, sand mining, overfishing, contamination of water, soil and the atmosphere.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Samoa shares with other SIDS the characteristics of being economically vulnerable and ecologically fragile because of its geographical location, isolation, limited resources and exposure to global economic crisis. Climate change impacts are an added imposition on the inherent challenges Samoa already faces as a SIDS to achieve its sustainable development goals. Over the course of the 21st century (for the period to 2100), the global climate model projections and climate science findings for Samoa indicates:

- Air temperature and sea-surface temperature will increase by 2030, under a very high emissions scenario, this increase in temperature is projected to be in the range of 0.5–1.1°C;
- Increases in average temperatures will also result in a rise in the number of hot days and warm nights, and a decline in cooler weather;
- Projections show extreme rainfall days are likely to occur more often and be more intense; there is likely to be an increase in the average maximum wind speed of cyclones by between 2% and 11% and an increase in rainfall intensity of about 20% within 100 km of the cyclone center;
- Sea level is expected to continue to rise in Samoa. By 2030, under a very high emissions scenario, this rise in sea level is projected to be in the range of 7–17 cm;
- Ocean acidification will continue as the acidity level of sea waters in the Samoa region will continue to increase over the 21st century.

- The impact of increased acidification on the health of reef ecosystems is likely to be compounded by other stressors including coral bleaching, storm damage and fishing pressure.

## **2. Legislation and Policies to address LND**

It is recognized that addressing impacts of Climate Change requires national policy to set the direction for the way the national coordination should proceed. This should involve everyone working towards the common purposes of addressing climate change and taking individual actions to build resilience. This implies the involvement of a well-organized and coordinated government providing leadership and direction, the private sector representing the engine room of the economy as well as the civil society and communities.

Samoa endorsed a Climate Change Policy 2020-2030 and its purpose is “To set out Samoa’s plan of action and the interventions needed across all sectors, civil society, private sector, and at the community level, to build resilience to the impacts of climate change that are in line with the nation’s sustainable development objectives and to meet its regional and international obligations.” The policy ensures that human rights and climate change is interlinked across all development sectors.

Samoa’s Climate Change policy includes (and not limited to) under Objective 1: Having an effective Governance framework and supporting systems in place for effective climate change action. Key strategies 1.3 seeks to “Promoting effective whole of Government, building on existing sector wide approaches, inclusive of government, private sector, NGOs/CSOs and community coordination arrangements. Key strategy 1.5 looks at Promoting inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, persons with disability, youth, children and the elderly) in climate change planning.

## **3. Key needs relating to LND**

There needs to be support for countries to be able to undertake national capacity needs assessments on loss and damage to be able to identify whether countries currently have the capacity to address L&D challenges as well as identify the gaps that exist that require support and targeted interventions. Other details have been incorporated into the AOSIS Submission.

Data and information are crucial for establishing evidence base for addressing loss and damage and the IPCC WGII report identified data and information gaps in SIDS in particular the unavailability of adequately downscaled climate data, how to assess the economic costs of loss and damage across socio-economic groups, data information from monitoring and tracking of slow-onset events and assessment of non-economic losses.

A gap analysis on Loss and Damage was undertaken in three countries including Samoa by SPREP and the key needs were identified to support establishment of evidence base for loss and damage. Some of this work is already underway or completed.

- Identifying what counts as loss and damage in the various sectors.
- The need for quality climate data and information and support for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the region in order for them to be able to observe, monitor, record, store and analyze this data.
- Mapping of who is doing what and where in the loss and damage space in the Pacific.
- Potential to include loss and damage in vulnerability and risk assessments.
- Monitoring and collection of data and information on the impacts of climate change on sectors such as waste, fisheries, biodiversity, health, agriculture, food security, etc.
- More research on loss and damage in the Pacific region.
- Quantification methods to assess loss and damage.
- Learning and information sharing workshops to learn from other regions and countries' experiences of loss and damage.
- Training on data and information collection, analysis and application of findings to address loss and damage.
- Updating the catalogue of information on loss and damage on the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

#### **4. Proposed Financial Facility to address LND**

AOSIS has made a submission with regards to the proposed finance facility and possible areas to consider including structure, coordinating body and overall architecture. These elements were discussed at the recent UNFCCC SB56 Sessions and several proposed structures were presented by the LDC Group, AOSIS, AILAC and AGN groups. Further discussions will be continued at COP27.

Regarding funding arrangements, Samoa shares AOSIS perspective, in that the existing funding arrangements do not particularly help SIDS and other vulnerable developing countries cover the costs of loss and damage associated with slow onset events. In order for the new facility to provide proper redress and remedies to vulnerable and affected individuals and communities, AOSIS has proposed that the facility must include among others; rehabilitation of damaged assets, ecosystems and heritage, recovery of lost assets and income for people, businesses and government, social protection and organized relocation for displaced persons, and measures to address permanent loss including land and ocean territories, and culture and heritage.

The new facility must also be easily accessible for countries that are likely to experience loss and damage associated with climate induced events. Current funding arrangements on

international, regional and national levels are either difficult to access, do not address all loss and damage, or are poorly capitalized. Existing funding arrangements usually incur more debt in the process of accessing them. It is thus critical for the new facility to address all these issues in order to provide support for states to provide assistance to affected individuals and communities.

## **5. Activities Pursued relating to Loss and Damage**

Samoa continues to strengthen its adaptive capacity, early warning systems, and disaster risk planning and response to the impacts of climate change as well as climate proofing all its infrastructures.

Samoa has established a comprehensive national disaster and risk management planning system in place and successfully embedded disaster risk management into local governance. There are currently 94 Community/Village Disaster and Climate Management Response Plans and 41 Community Integrated Plans which helps ensure the involvement of affected communities in their own responses to climate related disasters in which they can take ownership of their own solutions. There is extensive engagement of communities, women, persons with disabilities, children and all relevant stakeholders in Samoa's climate resilience building efforts which ensures a human rights related approach.

In its efforts to reduce GHG emissions, Samoa has committed itself to an ambitious target of having electricity be generated from 100% renewable energy resources by 2025. Plans to achieve this include introducing monitoring and energy efficiency programs and grid stabilization and network loss reduction programs, electrifying a percentage of vehicles in Samoa, with an incremental percentage increase each year, introducing renewable energy technologies to vessels (solar and biodiesel), and so forth.

Notably for Samoa, plans to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2025 poses a challenge as Samoa does not have the full means and capacity to implement this fully. Technology transfer, capacity building, and external financial support are thus necessary to achieve this target and reduce GHG emissions as a result.