



OACPS

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

OACPS LEADERS STATEMENT FOR COP26



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ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)

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In the margins of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) released a statement on Climate Action for COP26 on 1 November 2021, in Glasgow.

We, the Leaders of the OACPS, note with concern the stark findings of the recent IPCC AR6 Climate Change 2021 Report and stress that COP26 needs to deliver increased ambition and action if the Paris Agreement's objective of limiting global warming to well below 2, and preferably to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels, is to be achieved.

We further note with concern that insufficient action has been taken to curb and phase out greenhouse gas emissions, as highlighted in the recently published UNFCCC 'NDCs Synthesis Report'. While climate change is an ever-increasing direct threat that spares no country, it is severely impacting those that are most vulnerable and have less capacities to adapt, such as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs); noting that most of the 79 Member States of the OACPS are SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

We also note that these and other OACPS Member States, though making an insignificant contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, are bearing the brunt of the damaging impacts of climate change.

Adaptation is therefore paramount for the 79 member countries and six regions of the OACPS. There is need for additional action to avert, minimise and address the loss and damage that is already occurring from climate change.

We acknowledge the grave and inequitable consequences of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic on our economies, societies, and the environment, as well as its compounding effects on other global crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss. COVID-19 must not be used as an excuse by developed country Parties to backslide on their mitigation targets and commitments to annually scale up climate finance to support mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

We reiterate that developed countries must honour their commitment to provide scaled up, new and additional climate finance in the form of grants rather than loans, as well as technology and knowledge transfer and capacity building support to enable OACPS Member States to achieve their climate goals and facilitate the effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement.

Climate finance is critical for SIDS, particularly those with a high debt burden. They are constrained by their inability to adequately invest in public infrastructure development; climate change adaptation measures, and to address the loss of earnings resulting from disasters.



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We value our longstanding partnership with the European Union, and we acknowledge the alignment of our joint priority issues for COP26 and we encourage other developed countries to join us in promoting ambitious climate action.

Taking note of the issues raised, OACPS Leaders align this Statement to the 112th OACPS Council of Ministers Resolution on Climate Action in preparation for COP26, OACPS Issues Paper for COP26, and Communiqué of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on Climate Action for COP26, and calls for COP26 to send a strong political signal and commitment to deliver the following key priorities, by:

- Increasing the level of ambition on climate action, adopting a decision on NDC implementation timeframe, and for developed countries to maximise their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the pursuit of the objectives of the Paris Agreement, while affording flexibility to developing countries in the submission of NDCs based on varying national circumstances;
- Specifying and operationalising the Global Goal on Adaptation and increasing capacity building, technology, and knowledge transfer and, accessible, secure, predictable and additional finance for adaptation plans, programmes and actions especially in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs;
- Reviewing the honouring of the USD 100 bn per year climate finance commitment; clarifying responsibilities for contributions to its achievement and agreeing on a substantial increase in coming years, ensuring more focus on adaptation needs and in particular on such needs of LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs;
- Making the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage fully operational and backing up the pursuit of its objectives through the provision of financial contributions to relevant actions in developing countries; and

The OACPS Leaders affirm that Intellectual property rights (IPRs) constitute an important issue for many member states of the OACPS' access to technology, and stress that research and development (R&D) programmes should facilitate the transfer of technologies that are in the public domain, as part of international cooperation. For technologies that are patented, OACPS Leaders call for further discussions and encourage international cooperation to ensure developing countries have access to patented technologies to facilitate their transition to low carbon economies.

Furthermore, OACPS Leaders note the challenges and uncertainties of the physical attendance at COP26 of member states, regional delegates, and other stakeholders of the OACPS, and express solidarity with all that were unable to attend.



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AFRICA



CARIBBEAN



PACIFIC

