



## Beau Vallon Outcome Document for the Operationalisation of the African Island States Climate Commission

**Beau Vallon, Republic of Seychelles  
10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### **Second Meeting of the Group of Experts of the African Island States Climate Commission**

- 1.** The Second Technical and Expert Meeting of the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC) for its operationalisation was held from 10th to 12th May 2023, in Beau Vallon, Mahe Island, Republic of Seychelles.
- 2.** The meeting was co-organised by the Government of the Republic of Seychelles, which holds the Chairmanship of the AISCC, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and facilitated by the Climate Change Competencies Centre of Morocco (4C Morocco).
- 3.** The meeting was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles, and Chairperson of the AISCC, whose commitment and determination in the fight against climate change contributes to the goals of this Commission.
- 4.** H.E. Mr. Flavien Joubert, Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE), in his speech stressed the importance of the operationalisation of the AISCC chaired the continuation of the Second Meeting of the Joint Technical Working Group of the AISCC countries.
- 5.** The opening ceremony counted also with the speeches of H.E. Dr Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco, Dr. Hanan Morsi, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of the United Nations

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Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Prof. Vêlayoudom Marimoutou, Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission.

6. All founding Member States of the AISCC actively participated in the Meeting, including the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of Guinea Bissau, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mauritius, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Republic of Seychelles, and the United Republic of Tanzania for Zanzibar.
7. Representatives of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, the Kingdom of Morocco as a founding partner, UNECA, IOC, OIF, IUCN, 4C, World Bank, Global Climate Adaptation Centre, Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, Green Climate Fund, Global Water Partnership, African Development Bank and other partners, including academia and private sector.
8. This Meeting was built upon the First African Summit on Action for Continental Co-Emergence, held in 2016 during the COP 22 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Marrakech and chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, who played a key role in the establishment of the three Climate Commissions of Africa: Congo Basin, Sahel Region, and African Island States.

The meeting focused on the operationalisation of the AISCC, including the governance structure, roadmap, and investment plan. It brought together member states, partners and technical experts to present their work and to share their experiences in areas of relevance for the Commission, including Blue Economy, Climate Finance Innovations, Debt Swap Mechanisms, Importance of Climate Data, Early Warning Systems, Marine Spatial Plans, Blue Carbon Markets and Regional Blue Bonds and the intricate linkage of climate change with agriculture, water, energy and biodiversity. The Congo Basin Climate Commission shared their governance structure, the investment plan and its financial mechanism specifically the Congo Basin Blue Fund.

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## 9. Member States:

**Aware of** the urgent need to collectively address the challenges of climate change for the African Island States;

**Recognising** that the operationalisation of the AISCC is a decisive step in the collective effort to address the adverse effects of climate change on the African islands;

**Recognising** that the AISCC will play a substantive role to build a resilient and sustainable future for the island states and their peoples;

**Recognising** the Great Blue Wall as a strong, enabling regional initiative to achieve the full potential of the blue economy through the deployment of innovative financing mechanisms, such as the regional blue bond;

**Considering** the Declaration of the African Heads of State and Government of the First African Summit of Action Towards a Continental Co-emergence;

**Recalling** the side event during the UNFCCC COP 25 in Madrid on 9 December 2019 where the Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the Republic of Seychelles presented the framework for action of the AISCC;

**Considering** the official launch of the AISCC during the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa by the then, Vice-President of the Republic of Seychelles on 23 February 2020;

**Recalling** the virtual ministerial side event during the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow on 9 November 2021, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment of the Republic of Seychelles and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Residing Abroad of the Kingdom of Morocco, during which Member States and partners discussed the requirements for the operationalisation of the AISCC;

**Recalling** the ministerial side meeting held during the Forum on International Cooperation and the Meeting of African Ministers of Finance, Economy and Environment held in Cairo on 7 September 2022 where member states and partners reiterated their commitment for the operationalisation of the AISCC and their support for flagship

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initiatives, including the Great Blue Wall and the Debt Swap mechanisms;

**Recalling** the First Technical Meeting of the AISCC attended by representatives of the Member States, including the Ministers from the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Union of Comoros and the Republic of Seychelles, as well as partner institutions, held virtually on 21 October 2022, to advance the operationalisation of the AISCC and establish a transitional Secretariat hosted by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC);

**Recalling** the Ministerial and Technical Operational Meeting held during the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-X), in Windhoek on 28 November 2022, where the outcome of the First Technical Meeting was endorsed;

**Considering** the decisions of the High Level Meeting of the three African Climate Commissions, held during the UNFCCC COP 27, on 7 November 2022, co-chaired by the President of the Republic of Senegal, then Chairperson of the African Union (AU), and the President of the Republic of Congo, Chairperson of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, and attended by the President of the Republic of Niger, Chairperson of the Sahel Region Climate Commission, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Chairperson of the Island States Climate Commission, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, to strengthen the coordination between the three African Climate Commissions, the Kingdom of Morocco and the African Union Commission.

**Recommends** accelerating the operationalisation of the AISCC with the collaboration of Member States and partners, through the implementation of a roadmap including the following milestones:

- Elaboration of the Agreement establishing the AISCC and the Statute to be endorsed by the Ministers and Heads of State and Government;
- Formalisation of the Transitional Secretariat to be hosted by the IOC,
- Drafting the terms of reference to mobilise technical assistance for the AISCC governance structure, its Climate Investment Plan and its Financial Mechanism;

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- Holding regular online and in-person technical focal points meetings to monitor the operationalisation process of the AISCC;
- Positioning the AISCC as a relevant actor in the international and regional climate agendas and platforms;
- Holding a ministerial meeting to endorse the outcomes of the AISCC operationalisation process;
- Working towards an AISCC Summit of Heads of States and Governments preferably before the end of 2023;
- Making provisions for the engagement of other states and organizations with the AISCC;
- Facilitating next AISCC meetings, including the Third Technical and Experts Meeting to be held preferably in the Atlantic Island States, as well as side events at the High Level Meeting on Blue Economy and the Specificities of African Island States, in Moroni, in June 2023, the CCDA-XI and the African President’s Climate Summit in Nairobi, in September 2023, and the UNFCCC COP 28 in Dubai, in November 2023.
- Seizing the opportunity to advocate for the AISCC through the review process of the SAMOA Pathway, including the next AIS regional meeting in the Republic of Mauritius in July 2023 and the SIDS Inter-regional meeting in the Republic of Cabo Verde, in September 2023.
- Advancing in the discussions with the Green Climate Fund and partners to prepare a regional cooperation programme with focus on supporting the member states on reinforcing their multi hazard early warning systems, climate information services and other relevant matters.
- Continuing the collaboration with UNECA and partners to identify innovative finance mechanisms for the AISCC, such as regional blue bonds, carbon registry and debt swaps.
- Recognising the outcome of COP 27 and the expectations of COP 28, request for AISCC to table its position at the forth coming AGN
- Requesting 4C Maroc and other partners to continuously provide the technical support for the operationalisation of the AISCC

**10. The Meeting** invites technical and financial partners to support the expansion of the Great Blue Wall Initiative and other relevant initiatives to all the Member States of the AISCC and neighbouring countries with the objective to operationalise the AISCC.

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- 11.** The meeting requests UNECA to continue its support to AISCC and its Member States in developing the capacities for blue carbon markets, focusing on could scaling-up progress on SDGs, climate action, targets of CBD, and Agenda 2063, while expanding revenue streams for building resilient societies, infrastructure, economies, and contributing towards restoring and protecting coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
- 12. The Meeting** congratulates the Government of the Republic of Seychelles and its partners, namely IOC and UNECA, for the excellent organisation of this second meeting of the AISCC, marked by a strong spirit of inclusiveness and solidarity.
- 13. The Meeting** requests the Chairperson of this Technical and Expert Meeting, in the person of H.E. Mr. Flavien Joubert, the Minister of the MACCE in consultation with the AISCC States and partners, to oversee the implementation of the Beau Vallon Roadmap.
- 14. The Meeting** reiterates its appreciation and thanks to H.E. Mr Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles and Chairperson of the AISCC, for his commitment to accelerate the operationalisation of the AISCC.
- 15. The Meeting** thanks the partners for their technical and financial assistance and calls on them to continue this effort to support the operationalisation of the AISCC.
- 16. The Meeting** mandates the Chairperson of this session to decide, in consultation with his peers, on the date and venue of the next meetings of the AISCC.

**Beau Vallon, Republic of Seychelles, 12 May 2023**

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