



**Joint statement of
the Least Developed Countries Group
and
the Alliance of Small Island States
in support of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility**

Countries across the globe are facing incredible challenges due to the increasing frequency and intensity of record-breaking weather events. Despite bearing the most catastrophic consequences, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States have been least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change. The impacts of climate-related disasters are three times higher in our countries than in high income countries.

Improving the quality of forecasting and the effectiveness of early warnings and early action, and substantially increasing adaptation investments, are urgently needed to reduce the losses and damages that cost us so much. Filling the data gaps for better and earlier forecasting will require a significant collective effort, as data gaps are particularly severe and persistent in LDCs and SIDS, which face well-known funding and capacity constraints. Between 2015 and 2020, there was a decrease of 50 percent in the most fundamental weather and climate data generated by African countries. We cannot let this continue. Dedicated, predictable, long-term financial and technical support to close these data gaps is urgently needed.

For this reason, we, the Least Developed Countries Group and the Alliance of Small Island States, support establishing the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), which has been designed to provide direct and predictable funding to our countries and their National Meteorological Services to enable the generation and international exchange of foundational weather and climate data for the global good.

We welcome the strong call by the COP26 Presidency to increase the level of grant finance to support the most vulnerable countries. Therefore, we are encouraging bilateral and multilateral partners to contribute to the SOFF UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, so that SOFF creation can be announced at the COP 26 and become operational by June 2022 – yielding benefits to the citizen of all our countries.

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H.E Mr. Sonam P. Wangdi
Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group on Climate Change
Secretary of the National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan

H.E. Dr. Aubrey Webson
Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States
Ambassador to the United Nations for the island nation of Antigua and Barbuda