



A L L I A N C E O F S M A L L I S L A N D S T A T E S

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Professor Benito Müller  
Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy (OCP),  
Director, European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi)  
Wolfson College,  
Oxford, OX2 6UD, UK

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**RE: CLIMATE CHANGE - STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT –  
OXFORD CLIMATE POLICY & EUROPEAN CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE**

Dear Professor Müller,

Antigua and Barbuda, in its capacity as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), presents its compliments to Oxford Climate Policy ('OCP') and European Capacity Building Initiative ('ecbi').

AOSIS is a coalition of 44 small island and low-lying coastal developing States ('SIDS'), including five observers. Our work spans across three (3) thematic areas: climate change; sustainable development and macro-finance; and ocean governance.

Under our Chairmanship of AOSIS for 2021 and 2022, we are seeking to establish strategic partnerships with entities that can support us in fulfilling our mandate of amplifying our marginalized voices and advocating for the interests of our Membership. The Chair seeks to use the strong foundation set by the past Chair as a springboard and lead the international climate change regime into **full implementation mode**.

In this regard, we would like to invite your entity to work with and support AOSIS in the thematic area of **climate change** through the following modalities:

- **Capacity Building** – Conducting training and support activities for our Membership on a variety of matters such as, inter alia, negotiating skills, thematic subjects, etc. This will also involve capacity building and partnerships with your entity and regional SIDS academic institutions such as the University of West Indies.
- **Technical Assistance for Implementation** – Provision of technical expert support focused on enhancing the enabling environments of our Membership for their implementation of climate actions in line with the *Paris Agreement 2015*.

- **Technical Assistance for Negotiations** – Provision of technical expert support for the production of: 1) Position Papers – Aimed at advancing our interests in negotiations and providing short summaries of our position in a thematic area; 2) Technical Papers – Aimed at informing us on specific thematic topics to enhance our knowledge. The thematic areas that the Chair would like your entity to assist with are:
  - Finance
  - Transparency
  - Markets & Non-Market Approaches
  - Just Transition of the Workforce
- **Trust Building Activities:** Conducting trust building activities with our Membership through programme such as ecbi's Fellowship Programme and seminars.

The Chair looks forward to your entity's prompt response on this offer for a potential strategic partnership. If your response is favourable, we suggest that we organize a meeting in March 2021 to finalize the arrangement in greater detail via a Strategic Partnership Framework between our two entities.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to get in contact with my team through Ms. Lia Nicholson, Advisor (Climate Change) and Strategic Partnerships Coordinator, via email ([lia.nicholson@aosis.org](mailto:lia.nicholson@aosis.org)); or Mr. Michai Robertson, Advisor (Climate Change, Oceans, and Legal), via email ([michai.robertson@aosis.org](mailto:michai.robertson@aosis.org)) or WhatsApp (+1 347 630 5283), and copied to Ambassador Diann Black-Layne ([dcblack11@gmail.com](mailto:dcblack11@gmail.com) or [diann.black-layne@ab.gov.ag](mailto:diann.black-layne@ab.gov.ag)).

*Diann Black-Layne*

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**Ambassador Diann Black-Layne**  
 Lead Negotiator for Climate Change  
 Chair of AOSIS 2021-2022

cc: Ambassador Aubrey Webson, Chair, AOSIS  
 Ms Lia Nicholson, Advisor (Climate Change) & Strategic Partnerships Coordinator, AOSIS  
 Mr Michai Robertson, Advisor (Climate Change, Oceans & Legal), AOSIS

