

Submission by Palau on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on views on possible themes for the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64 (June 2026)

12 March 2026

MANDATE

The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit via the submission portal by 14 March 2026 views on possible themes for the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64. *FCCC/SBSTA/2025/L.5*

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) appreciates the opportunity to submit their views on possible themes for the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue (RD18).

AOSIS recognises the efforts by the SBSTA Chair in continuing to convene the research dialogue. AOSIS reiterates the unique role of the research dialogues in fostering the understanding of the latest scientific evidence as part of the science-policy exchange under the UNFCCC. AOSIS further reiterates the importance of scientific evidence for developing and vulnerable countries.

AOSIS recalls the role of the IPCC as the provider of the best available science (Decision 1/CMA.7 paragraph 5), including for RSO mandated events and informal consultations, and welcomes the ongoing work of the IPCC AR7 cycle.

Possible themes for research dialogue 18 (RD18)

Keeping in mind the themes of previous research dialogues, the ongoing work of the IPCC AR7 cycle, and the continued need for scientific input to inform all agenda items, AOSIS proposes the following themes for RD18:

- **Advances in the understanding of annual temperature changes** and their natural and anthropogenic drivers. Annual temperature increases in the context of the 1.5°C temperature limit of the Paris Agreement and advances in the understanding of overshoot pathways including overshoot timing and magnitude.
- **Climate impacts at the regional and global level as important indicators of climate change.** Presently observed impacts and future impacts and risks associated with different levels of global warming, including at 1.5°C and under conditions of temporary temperature overshoot, taking into account magnitude and duration of overshoot.
- **Advances in the understanding of ocean-related climate impacts** in the context of increasing global temperatures, including ocean warming, marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, deoxygenation and sea-level rise. Observed and projected changes and their implications for coral reef ecosystems, coastal protection, fisheries, food security and sustainable development in small island developing States, particularly under warming levels of 1.5°C and higher.

- **Advances in the understanding of sea level rise**, including the acceleration of sea level rise and its sources, the implications of overshoot for long-term sea level rise and the context of crossing tipping point thresholds of ice sheets, and options for reducing the rate of sea level rise.
- **Advances in the understanding of compound and cascading climate risks** associated with different levels of global warming, including the interaction of extreme weather events, sea-level rise and ecosystem degradation. Implications of these interacting risks for communities, infrastructure, freshwater resources and sustainable development in small island developing States, as well as remaining research needs to better inform policy responses and resilience planning. Advances in the understanding of the economic impacts of compound events, implications for inequality and poverty.
- **Observed and projected economic and non-economic loss and damage** under different levels of global warming including at 1.5°C and under conditions of temperature overshoot. Advances in the understanding, assessment and monitoring of loss and damage and remaining research needs, especially for the most vulnerable regions and countries such as small island developing states (SIDS).
- **Advances in early warning systems and climate services** that support improved preparedness and resilience to climate-related hazards. Developments in forecasting extreme events and slow-onset processes, and the role of accessible and actionable climate information in strengthening risk reduction and resilience in vulnerable developing countries, including small island developing States facing increasing climate impacts. Advances in the development of early warning systems for the crossing of tipping points.
- **The attribution of observed weather and climate extreme events to anthropogenic climate change**, especially at the regional level and in vulnerable developing countries. Advances made in attribution science and remaining research needs.
- **Emissions reductions requirements – including of methane – to reach climate goals** in this critical decade, including in scenarios with temporary temperature overshoot of the Paris Agreement 1.5°C limit. Advances in the understanding of the role of different greenhouse gases in near-term mitigation, including short-lived climate forcers such as methane. The role of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emission reductions in mitigation pathways in order to limit residual emissions and the need for carbon dioxide removal (CDR).
- **Sectoral transformations to reach climate goals**, including pathways for the transitioning away from fossil fuels in line with sustainable development, and the role of different drivers and actors in achieving this transformation. The role of measures agreed in the first Global Stocktake (GST) (1/CMA.5), e.g., the tripling of renewable energy capacity, doubling of energy efficiency, etc., and their relationship with the sectoral transformations.
- The importance of and advances in **climate science communication, education, and knowledge dissemination**, seeing how strengthening the communication of climate research to policymakers, educators, and communities can help bridge the science–policy–society interface and support informed decision-making, particularly in vulnerable regions.

AOSIS suggests that RD18 focuses on the global as well as the regional level and specific needs for national and regional research and research capacity building in the most vulnerable developing countries.

Regarding the format of RD18, a format similar to RD17 could be envisioned with high-level plenary presentations and discussions as well as parallel breakout sessions and an in-person poster session that allow for deep-dives into the RD18 themes and in-depth exchange with experts.

For the plenary presentations, there should be updates from the IPCC as the provider of the best available science, including progress made and future plans in promoting diversity and representation in the AR7 cycle. Plenary presentations should also cover recent research findings on the state of the global and regional climate, focussing on key indicators.

The parallel breakout sessions could be organised around the RD18 themes. The poster session was very useful in the past and was a successful part of RD17. It could be organized in a dedicated time slot with the experts present and focused on the RD18 themes. The posters should be on display for the entire duration of SB 64, enhancing the visibility of scientific input and its relevance to all agenda items.

There should be a balanced representation of experts in terms of geographies and gender, ensuring that vulnerable countries including AOSIS members are adequately represented.