



14 July 2020

H.E. Mr. Charles Michel  
President of the European Council  
Council of the European Union  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175  
B-1048 Brussels  
Belgium

Excellency,

**Subject: AOSIS and LDC message on European Green Recovery Plan**

We write to you in our capacity as Chairs of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group on climate change. On behalf of our groups, we would like to extend our sincere condolences for the loss of life due to the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). We express our solidarity and commitment to a coordinated global response to address the far-reaching consequences of the pandemic, that is driven by science and aimed to protect the most vulnerable. AOSIS and LDC countries share the overwhelming global consensus that COVID-19 recovery should align human health and planetary health for lasting resilience of people and planet.

We write on an urgent matter concerning upcoming decisions to be taken by the European Union Council on Next Generation EU and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). These decisions will be definitive of a recovery pathway for the EU and its Member States over a timeframe that will also be definitive of its climate pathway. We are heartened to learn that the European Commission and many EU Members support a green recovery in line with the European Green Deal and the principle of recovering better. As representatives of vulnerable nations the world over, we are hoping that the decisions taken by the EU Council will be bold, consistent with the best available climate science and 1.5°C pathways, and pave the way for enhancing climate ambition and action in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to be submitted in 2020.

We urge you to demonstrate leadership on putting green recovery into practice and to this end, commend for your consideration the following:

- Linking the EU budget and recovery funds to an increase of the 2030 NDC target to at least a 55 percent reduction below 1990 levels
- Applying the EU taxonomy and do-no-harm principle across the recovery funds and the MFF.



- Establishing a 50 percent climate spending requirement in the Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Aligning business stimulus measures with commitment to net zero by 2050 at the latest and the presentation of climate goals including milestones for 2025 and 2030

The European Union has always been a trusted and valued partner to AOSIS and the LDC group - in particular as it relates to championing ambitious climate action and providing capacity building and technology transfer for dealing with natural disasters and extreme events. We value this cooperation and hope to further deepen that cooperation in the future. At this time, AOSIS and the LDC group are looking to the European Union as a consistent advocate in the shared fight against dangerous climate change. As such, we hope you will consider the positive global impact that the EU recovery plans can have for meaningful action to abate climate change.

AOSIS and the LDC group look forward to upcoming discussions on advancing action on climate change including in the context of COVID 19 recovery efforts. We congratulate you on your initiative for keeping climate ambition alive. We hope that European Union's outlook on COVID-19 recovery will be considered in the context of the global movement for a more just and sustainable world.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

H.E. Ms. Lois M. Young  
Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States  
Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Sonam P. Wangdi,  
Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group  
Royal Government of Bhutan