



AOSIS VIEWS ON LOSS AND DAMAGE

**SIDS Expert Meeting on Loss and Damage
9-11 October 2012**



Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States

- ◆ Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States was recognized in RIO 1992.
- ◆ Barbados and Mauritius Conferences on Sustainable Development of SIDS considered climate change as principle threat to not only the sustainable development but also the survival of SIDS.
- ◆ Current lack of ambition to reduce green house gases and inadequate support for adaptation for SIDS means increased vulnerabilities, high exposure to the external shocks and adverse effects of climate change.



Failure to fulfill objective the Convention

- ◆ Loss and damage addressed by this work programme is a result of man made climate change.
- ◆ Loss and damage is linked to the failure to fulfill the ultimate objective of the Convention – preventing dangerous interference with the climate system.
- ◆ What happens when both mitigation and adaptation efforts fall short?
- ◆ Given the current level of mitigation ambition, this is inevitable.



Scientific snapshot

- ◆ IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) underestimated the sea level rise prediction.
- ◆ IPCC's SREX Report clearly identifies the human contribution to climate change and the likely contribution to mean sea level rise.
- ◆ New study found that half of all coral reefs could be lost with a temperature rise above 1.2 degrees celsius.
- ◆ Scientists concluded that “ there is little doubt...coral reefs will no longer be prominent within coastal ecosystems if global average temperatures exceeds 2 degrees celsius” (Frieler et. al, 2012).



Demonstrated need for an international mechanism

- ◆ AOSIS proposal in 1991.
- ◆ UNFCCC workshops in 2003.
- ◆ UNFCCC technical papers 2008.
- ◆ Work programme on loss and damage.



AOSIS proposal

- ◆ A holistic approach to bringing together tools to address adaptation, financial risk management and risk transfer, and loss and damage in one mechanism.
- ◆ A centralized mechanism at the international level under the UNFCCC is needed:
 - * to provide leadership and build trust amongst different stakeholders;
 - * to ensure efficient development and operation of approaches to address loss and damage; and
 - * to marshal the level and types of expertise required to address immense and complex problems of loss and damage.



AOSIS recommendation to the COP on loss and damage

◆ Adopt a decision in Doha to establish an international mechanism to address loss and damage with three mutually reinforcing components:

1. An insurance component;
1. A rehabilitation/compensation component;
1. A risk management component.



Insurance component

- ◆ Assist SIDS, LDCs and other developing countries to better manage financial risks associated with increasing frequent and severe climate-related extreme weather events.
- ◆ Some regions have limited access to commercial risk sharing and risk transfer products and where there is insurance, they are not affordable.
- ◆ International mechanism that pools the risks from all vulnerable countries will bring benefits to all and must be coordinated at the international level.



Rehabilitation/compensation component

- ◆ Needed to address the progressive negative impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification, increase sea and land temperature.
- ◆ Even with a range of new and innovative risk transfer mechanisms, loss and damage will remain and in many cases will be inevitable.
- ◆ AOSIS earlier proposed an international insurance pool to be funded by developed countries to compensate small island and low lying developing countries for uninsured loss and damage from slow onset events such as sea level rise.



Risk management component

- ◆ Provide both technical and financial support to risk reduction efforts in connection with climate related extreme weather events.
- ◆ Facilitate consideration of ways to reduce risk from impacts of progressive negative impacts of climate change.
- ◆ Support and promote risk assessment and management tools and facilitate and inform the insurance component and rehabilitation/compensation component.



Conclusion

- ◆ Loss and damage to small island developing states from the adverse effects of human induced climate change is now inevitable.
- ◆ It is the proper role of the Convention to minimize and address unavoidable loss and damage from impacts of anthropogenic climate change.
- ◆ As demonstrated, there is a need for the establishment of an international mechanism.
- ◆ Anything less than an establishment of an international mechanism in Doha will be a failure of the international community to address what are now well recognized