



## **Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBSTA)**

### **Submission of Nauru on behalf of The Alliance of Small Island States**

**Views from Parties and relevant organizations on ways to enhance the relevance of, and support the objective of, the work programme, taking into account paragraph 5 of the conclusions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2013.L9**

**20 September 2013**

1. Nauru welcomes the opportunity to present views on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS); a group of 44 countries among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
2. Nauru makes this submission taking into account paragraph 5 and in response to paragraph 8 of the conclusions contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2013.L9. Parties are invited to submit to the Secretariat, by 2 September 2013, their views on ways to enhance the relevance of, and support the objective of, the Nairobi Work Programme.

### **Objectives of Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)**

3. The objective of the NWP is “to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed and small island states to:

- Improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; and
- Make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current future climate change and variability.

4. It is the group’s view that the objective, modalities and work areas of the NWP, does not need to change. AOSIS is of the view that improvement is needed in the dissemination and usefulness of the NWP outputs for implementation of adaptation actions in country. AOSIS countries have expressed a need for this improvement.

5. The NWP's role is to disseminate knowledge and information on adaptation, and highlight the work of partners as widely as possible through a variety of knowledge products and publications. Organizations, institutions and private sector companies at all levels and across a wide range of sectors can engage through the programme by becoming a partner and putting forward an Action Pledge.

#### **Ways to enhance relevance of work programme**

6. We would like to provide general views on the NWP and the current adaptation landscape under the Convention. Since the establishment of the NWP, much has happened, in particular, the establishment of the Cancun Adaptation Framework and its Adaptation Committee. This is a significant change and we have not yet had an opportunity to agree on the relationship between the NWP and the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

7. We do not believe that considering the relationship between the NWP and the Cancun Adaptation Framework will require a revision of the NWP objective. Having reflected on the objective of the NWP, we believe that it is still relevant to our work on adaptation under the Convention.

8. AOSIS believes that it would be useful to look at the possibility of broadening the scope of modalities that the NWP uses to develop and disseminate information and advice beyond papers and workshops. An example of this could be a "training of trainers" programme in different regions.

9. In addition, to institutions under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, we believe that we will need to look at other relationships, especially with the new technology mechanism but also with the LEG. We also believe that it will be important to look at how we engage with partner organizations to ensure that this is truly helpful to Parties.

10. The NWP must be based on demand; demand driven could include Parties, not just Convention bodies; another reason to be more specific about which bodies under the Convention, we should link to those outside the Convention. The NWP can answer calls for information. If we are looking to develop an improved NWP that operates with a demand-driven approach, we might not want to pre-determine the areas of knowledge that we would like to build up and wait for the demands to come. In our view, demand should come from member countries and must be driven by the needs of countries.

11. AOSIS has expressed its concerns with the usefulness of partner engagement to countries. There has been some concern that there is a missing link between partners, which liaise with the NWP through the secretariat and Parties looking for support in their national implementation efforts.

12. AOSIS does not see the need to extend the current mandate of the NWP as it is already doing what it was set up to do. We note that this is a work programme that sits under SBSTA and therefore has no implementing function. We are of the view that there should be a call to specific bodies to provide the NWP with demands for knowledge and information and review these for action at the next SBSTA meeting.

13. Currently, there are no provisions for the regular monitoring and reviewing of the NWP's activities. This highlights the need to put in place a system for regular monitoring and reviewing of the NWP to assess whether the NWP is in fact becoming more relevant and practical or is it adding extra burden and taking away resources that could have been used at the national level for implementing adaptation work.

### **Conclusion**

14. For the reasons we have highlighted above, AOSIS would like to reiterate its views; that the group does not see the need to extend its objectives, modalities and functions beyond what it is set out to do. The focus should be on ways to improve and learn from lessons on what has not work. And that is, to improve the dissemination and usefulness of its outputs for implementation of adaptation actions in country.