



**Statement by Republic of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States at the Opening of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action  
Geneva, Switzerland 8 February 2015**

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Colleagues,

Maldives has the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a coalition of 44 small island and low-lying coastal nations that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

I would like to associate with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China.

Co-Chairs,

At the outset, let me thank you for taking on this challenging task in what is a critical year in the international effort to address climate change.

In the past few weeks alone, scientists have confirmed that 2014 was the hottest year on record and that sea level rise is accelerating more drastically than previously believed—underscoring the urgency of the challenge before us, particularly for our members, whose very survival is at stake. Needless to say, it is absolutely essential that we make substantive progress this week and that we avoid squandering our limited time on procedural matters.

Co-Chairs,

We are prepared to progress our discussions based on the elements for a draft negotiating text contained in the Annex of the Lima decision.

Building trust towards Paris will require that there are no surprises in our mode of work or the outputs of our negotiations. In this regard, we welcome your assurances that the negotiating text will be drafted in an open and transparent manner and will reflect the contributions of all parties. We also welcome your assurance that parties will have the opportunity to review the manner in which our inputs have been captured before this session in Geneva is closed as well as the

opportunity to further engage on the negotiating text and the issues raised at subsequent sessions.

Co-Chairs,

Finally, AOSIS has long held the position that the 2015 agreement should be an ambitious, legally binding Protocol capable of limiting warming to below 1.5 degrees. It must address all elements of the Durban Mandate, as well as Loss and Damage and Compliance.

We remain resolute in the view that Loss and Damage is distinct from adaptation and therefore request that they be treated as two separate and distinct discussions here in Geneva, with equal time given to both.

AOSIS would like to reiterate the importance of WS2 to increasing pre-2020 mitigation action, which has long been a priority for our group. We expect that there will be a productive year of work under this work stream, and look forward to the WS2 stocktake on Tuesday

I assure you of our support at this session and throughout the year as we work together to ensure we sign an ambitious agreement in Paris.

Thank you.