



## **Submission of Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States on views from Parties on specific thematic issues relating to capacity building under the Convention in developing countries**

**05 March 2014**

Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of 43 islands and low lying coastal countries that are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of Climate Change, welcomes this opportunity to present its views on Capacity Building under the Convention in developing countries, to be considered at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity building, to be held during SBI 40, as well as their views on the organization of that meeting.

This submission is in response to the conclusion adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Parties agreed that addressing Capacity-building under the Convention in developing countries is important if these countries are to effectively and successfully respond to climate change. What has not gained the consensus of Parties is the ways and means that Parties should undertake in efforts to build or enhance their human capacities so that they can undertake activities that will enable them to implement mitigation measures that will reduce their levels of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation strategies aimed at the negative impacts of climate change. AOSIS is of the firm view that the obligation to assist SIDS and other vulnerable countries is enshrined in the Convention, given that SIDS are the least responsible for the causes of climate change.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) do not have the requisite capacities to unilaterally develop and fund programmes that will address their needs and concerns with regard to building the required capacities to ensure that their economies and livelihoods are not adversely affected by climate change. They must look to the international community for support and it is incumbent of the international community to provide the assistance that they seek. If this is not satisfactorily addressed then the sustainable development of SIDS will be impacted in that current and potential future advances will be significantly curtailed. Without adequately addressing Capacity-building needs SIDS will always be dependent upon others to fill the gaps that exist. With that being said, many SIDS have taken steps utilizing their already limited resource base to establish climate change offices or committees, inadvertently assistance is still required to build the necessary knowledge and skills at the basic level. High turnover of personnel is also a factor for some countries, further deepening the need for a continuous capacity building programme.

The Durban Forum on Capacity-building can become instrumental in ensuring that the concerns of the SIDS can be addressed in a manner that would provide acceptable solutions to all. For the Forum to achieve the intention of the Parties it must go further than being used only as a space for dialogue. It must be complemented with a process that builds and acts on the outcomes of the Forum, rather than a talk shop.

AOSIS strongly believes that the call to further enhance Capacity-building requires an action-oriented process. Such a process, should be referred to as a work programme, that would seek to capture the cross cutting nature of Capacity-building. The process should include, but is not limited to, the following:

AOSIS strongly believes that this action-oriented process can be formulated through a 2-year work programme that will aim at achieving the following:

- Identifying the required capacities/skills for addressing challenges faced in adequately addressing actions related to mitigation and adaptation;
- Developing a template that will allow developing countries to determine what capacities they will require, building on the national capacity self-assessment process under the GEF;
- Providing a facility for understanding the outputs of the Durban Forum, which highlights best practices and key areas still to be addressed; and
- Developing a process to assist developing countries to meet their identified needs of education, training, services and awareness through facilitating the matching of resources with needs.

AOSIS is convinced that the need for such a work programme should be included in the Durban Forum for Parties to fully discuss with a view of finding solutions that will be satisfactory to all.