



**Dedicated Meeting on Ways and Means to
Advance the Technical Examination Process in 2015
10 February 2015**

**Intervention by the Republic of Maldives on behalf of the
Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**

Facilitator,

AOSIS welcomes these sessions today as a way to further strengthen Workstream 2 in 2015 and beyond. We thank the co-chairs for scheduling them and look forward to the discussion amongst parties and with the organizations that are present.

To begin, I would like to just take a step back and briefly reflect on why we started Workstream 2 in the first place – to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to close the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap. This is something that we all agreed in Durban was a high priority.

I think we can also all agree that emissions are not reduced by climate negotiators sitting in meetings. They are reduced by concrete action by governments and by the private sector. We talk a lot about meetings under Workstream 2 – meetings to identify opportunities with high mitigation potential, co-benefits and barriers – but let me be clear, the Workstream 2 technical expert process cannot stop there. This is not an academic exercise.

We can probably also all agree that there are exciting things happening all around the world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – concrete actions that are transforming the way we produce and use energy. This is happening for a variety of reasons. Yes, addressing climate change is one motivator, but we are also trying to increase our energy security, extend energy access, improve public health, save vital foreign exchange and reduce our energy bills just to name a few.

In other words, all of us, both developed and developing countries, want to do these things. All of us to some extent are already doing these things. We just need to do more, faster and now (MFN). AOSIS is of the strong view that these efforts can be accelerated through more effective international collaboration.

Our effort to strengthen Workstream 2 should be considered in this context. AOSIS believes that the technical expert process can serve several functions.

- The TEMs are a convener of relevant stakeholders. We want to hear from those in government, cooperative initiatives, civil society and the private sector who are successfully implementing actions and those that are interested in trying. We are particularly interested in models that can be scaled up and implemented by others. These stakeholders can bring a new dynamism to these discussions. They have an

intimate familiarity with the challenges of implementing specific actions and what is needed to overcome them.

- The TEMs can also demonstrate in what areas countries are most ready and interested to take action. If Workstream 2 is about anything, it is about the urgency for action, and in the near term, we will likely get the most if we focus our efforts on doing more of what we want to do.
- In many areas, this will require mobilizing resources in an efficient and effective manner, and here the infrastructure we have built under the Convention can play an important role. One of the principles under which we operate is that action should be country driven, and therefore the impetus is on the individual country to access the support mechanisms under the Convention. This is appropriate, but that does not mean there cannot be better focused coordination of the Convention bodies around specific opportunities. Workstream 2 should serve as a vehicle for the financial mechanisms (GCF, GEF, CDM), the technology mechanisms (TEC and CTCN), and the capacity building forum to interface with each other and with relevant outside entities to coordinate their efforts and make it easier for Parties to take advantage of specific mitigation opportunities. We look forward to this afternoon's discussions on the role of the UNFCCC institutions and leading international organisations.
- It is likely that we will discover some barriers to implementation that are not being effectively addressed by any of the Convention bodies or outside cooperative initiatives. *There will be gaps*. In this case, Workstream 2 should be the incubator of new initiatives. This could take any number of forms – an innovative financial instrument, a specialized capacity building task force, or maybe a narrow technology sharing agreement. Again, AOSIS believes that some of barriers to implementation can be overcome with better international cooperation. If that cooperation is not happening, then let's make sure it starts.
- Lastly, Workstream 2 can bring a level of accountability to cooperative efforts for achieving their climate objectives. We want initiatives to demonstrate their success through the TEP, both in submissions and engagement in the expert meetings. Successful initiatives should be given a prominent platform at high-level events so that they can attract new partners and new resources. Let's use the UNFCCC and the platform it provides to help scale up what is working.

So to summarize, WS2 and its technical process should convene the relevant stakeholders, demonstrate opportunities of high interest, catalyze greater coordination among the Convention bodies and other relevant entities, it should also identify and launch steps to fill the gaps in support.

Now not all of this can happen in the context of a single expert meeting, or even a series of expert meetings. There will need to be focused, substantial and continuous additional work

that takes place intersessionally, and we have heard a number of suggestions for how this could take place. AOSIS has suggested that the secretariat might require additional resources so that they can acquire expertise in the specific areas taken up in the TEMs. We have also suggested that regional TEMs should be considered. We might also consider new innovations, such as a regular inter-Convention task force that includes representatives from the various Convention bodies and mechanisms, and meets regularly to coordinate around opportunities identified through the TEP.

Now, Mr Facilitator, if you would indulge me a bit longer, I would like to speak a bit on some of the concrete things small island developing states would like to get out of Workstream 2. By now you should have heard us say a number of times that renewable energy is a priority for us. Islands are an ideal location for renewable energy for a number of reasons and it is a critical component of our sustainable development strategies. You have heard similar interests expressed by the African Group, and they have even developed some specific financing proposals on the matter. Therefore, we think the time is ripe for further technical work on “Renewable Energy in Small-scale and Isolated Grids.”

IRENA is already doing excellent work on this matter, so it would make sense for them to take the lead in coordinating the TEP with the secretariat. There are also many institutions doing relevant work like UNDP, SE4ALL, and many bilateral and multilateral financing institutions. Please invite them to participate. We also need to be sure that a representative group of energy ministries, energy companies, and utilities are also present. Then we assess, coordinate, and mobilize. By Paris, we would like to be in a position to announce that barriers have been overcome, new projects are moving into the pipeline, and new financial, technological and capacity building resources have been mobilized.

While we recognize that the mitigation opportunities from renewable deployment in SIDS is small in the global sense, the work done in SIDS is scalable and replicable. SIDS act as microcosms of both cities and larger societies. Going forward, we must focus increased attention on areas of high mitigation potential that can be transformative and replicable across a number of countries.

We think energy efficiency in buildings is another area ripe for additional technical work. We have begun exploration of this topic in both the energy efficiency and urbanization TEMs. Cities are already engaging in many such initiatives, and we should attempt to use this process to scale up globally. Relatedly, it is also probably time to commence technical work on transportation.

Mr Facilitator, we could go on, but will restrain ourselves. We propose to submit the rest of our comments in writing. These are more detailed and process oriented, but we thought it was important here to first layout the overarching purposes and objectives we see for Workstream 2 in 2015 and beyond.

Thank you.