

**Statement delivered by the Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Opening Plenary SBSTA
Bonn, Germany**

June 1, 2015

Good morning Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates. I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Mr. Chairman, the UNFCCC process is guided by climate change science and this is the body that addresses that science.

The recent findings of the 2013-2015 Review that was carried out by the COP with assistance from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and this body, underscore what communities on the frontlines of the climate change crisis have known for some time: that the so-called "guardrail", where up to 2 °C of warming is considered safe is wholly inadequate. It found that, while more science on the 1.5 °C warming limit is needed we should endeavor to push the defence line as low as possible. Furthermore, the SED concluded that limiting global warming to below 1.5 °C is still feasible and will bring about many co-benefits, but the window for action is closing rapidly.

In fact, with warming of less than a degree, small islands are already experiencing deadly and life-altering impacts, such as more frequent and intense storms, droughts, accelerating sea level rise, and other life-threatening impacts. Therefore, we call on the CTCN to explore enhancing the development and transfer of technology to urgently address the emissions gap and hence improve chances of achieving the crucial 1.5°C target.

The IPCC has confirmed that these impacts are likely to worsen under all modeling scenarios and that sea level rise will exacerbate coastal flooding, storm surges, erosion and other coastal hazards, threatening the vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities that support the livelihoods of island communities around the world.

It is essential that the actions we take are informed by the latest science, particularly the conclusions of the 2013-2015 Review. Therefore, the Joint SBI/ SBSTA contact group on the Review must, with the assistance of the Structured Expert Dialogue, deliver conclusions that lead to immediate implementation of the actions required to meet the 1.5 degrees goal.

Finally, AOSIS is of the view that it is critical that SBSTA continue to carry out its mandate to develop methodologies for the reporting of financial information by developed countries.

We assure you of our support and look forward to make immediate progress in these areas.

Thank you.