



**Statement delivered by Nauru on behalf of
The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
SBI Opening Plenary
Warsaw
11 November 2013**

1. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.
2. Nauru has the honor to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of 44 countries extremely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
3. AOSIS aligns itself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf the Group of 77 and China, and the statements made by Nepal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group and Swaziland on behalf of the African Group.
4. Mr. Chairman, our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the victims of Super-typhoon Haiyan, which left a wake of destruction in Palau, Micronesia, and most severely in the Philippines, as well as with the people of Vietnam and China who are now in the grips of the storm. The graphic illustration of climate change is particularly relevant to our work under the SBI, where we are discussing how to address the losses and damages from climate impacts that can no longer be avoided. Therefore, AOSIS is deeply disappointed that the SBI was not able to commence its work in Bonn and the delay requires us to redouble our efforts here in Warsaw

Mr. Chairman,

5. Loss and Damage is different from mitigation and different from adaptation. It is something else entirely. Slow-onset events such as sea level rise, ocean acidification, saltwater intrusion, and desertification are part of a new reality for members of our membership and in many countries around the world and must be addressed.
6. The human, social, and economic impacts are real and they are grave. We must therefore act with the urgency demanded, by establishing an international mechanism to address loss and damage here in Warsaw. The mechanism must address the needs of SIDS and other particularly vulnerable countries.
7. The delay in the SBI has also impeded crucial discussions on the scientific 2013-2015 Review and considerable work remains if we are to fulfill our mandate from Cancun to complete it by 2015. The Joint SBI and SBSTA contact group on the Review must, with the assistance of the Structured Expert Dialogue, deliver conclusions that will lead to immediate implementation of the actions required to meet the 1.5 degrees target.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The production of a compilation of Non-Annex 1 National Communications, to enable us to take stock of where developing countries are with respect to their mitigation efforts and adaptation needs is important to AOSIS and we continue to request the Chair of SBI to assist us in securing such a compilation with recommendations and outcomes to be included under Article 4.
9. Implementation of the enhanced monitoring, review and verification, including of support given, as we agreed in Durban is essential to build trust among the Parties and to promote environmental integrity. This includes the operationalization of international consultation and analysis, conducted in a manner that is respectful of national sovereignty with the aim of increasing the transparency of mitigation actions and their effects.
10. Enhanced MRV will require enhanced capacity-building support, including the delivery of support as we agreed in Durban. The technical advice and support of the Consultative Group of Experts to our members in preparing our national communications has been invaluable. In this regard, the continuation of the CGE with an expanded mandate to cover technical advice and assistance for biennial update reports and the development and communication of NAMAs, with sufficient resources, will continue to be essential for small islands.
11. The delivery of financial support is inextricably connected to items in this line of discussion as well as meeting the overall objectives of the Convention.
12. Progress on adaptation is also critical. This means progress in the implementation of the Adaptation Committee's 3-year work plan, including providing guidance to non-LDCs on the preparation of national adaptation plans. No progress can be made on adaptation in our countries without adequate, predictable and accessible funding.
13. On capacity building under the Convention, we call for a clear process for enhanced action. This should include a way to take action on the results of the capacity building reviews and ensure that the Durban Forum is more than just a platform for sharing experiences, but one that translates lessons learnt into actions of best practices.
14. Implementation of Article 6 of the Convention is crucial for laying the ground for building a climate-resilient, low-emission future. It is about creating informed and active citizenry and installing transformational changes in society towards sustainable living and consumption patterns. Next year's Dialogue on Article 6 will focus on public participation, in decision-making and climate. Therefore, for a successful outcome, we need to agree in this session the best structure for this Dialogue in order to fully address this issue of importance to all Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

15. In conclusion, I would like to remind parties that unless urgent, and dramatic action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few years, well before 2020, the opportunity to avoid global warming in excess of 2 degrees Celsius, let alone 1.5 degrees, above pre-industrial levels, and the cascade of catastrophic events that would follow, including the loss of entire nations, could be irrevocable.

Thank you.

