

**Statement by Nauru 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**

10 March, Bonn, Germany

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Colleagues,

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

Co-Chairs,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on the important leadership you have demonstrated already this year and assure you of our continued support and constructive engagement as we work together to achieve our common objectives.

Thank you for your thoughtful scenario note, we agree with the priorities and mode of work it proposes for this session, while recognizing that our discussions should become increasingly focused as we move forward. We also fully recognize that this is a party driven process and that we must soon move to direct consultations and negotiations between Parties.

Co-Chairs,

2014 is a special year for our members. Just two weeks ago, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, we joined our colleagues in launching the International Year of Small Island Developing States—the first time a group of countries has been so recognized.

The yearlong recognition is meant to call attention to the many contributions the people of Island Nations have made to our collective heritage as global citizens as well to raise awareness for the specific sustainable challenges facing SIDS, including the impacts of climate change.

It also comes at a crossroads for our work here. If we fail to take bold action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few years, well before 2020, the opportunity to avert the worst impacts of the crisis may be irrevocably lost.

We welcome the opening of the technical expert meetings under Workstream 2 of the ADP and are eager to translate the lessons we learn into concrete progress and real mitigation action on the ground.

We think the focus here on renewable energy and energy efficiency provides an opportunity to focus on an area of high mitigation potential and to highlight areas where intensive cooperation among governments, international organizations and

financial institutions, the private sector and civil society can produce new mitigation ambition, including through matching bright ideas with international support. It is also important to be mindful that these efforts have significant co-benefits for sustainable development and adaptation.

We look forward to this work informing the ministerial discussions on ambition in June and help expedite actions to be launched at the UN Secretary-General's Summit in September.

We will also continue to encourage Parties to raise the ambition of their 2020 pledges, or to come forward with new pledges for those who have not yet done so, and we think Workstream 2 will help give us all confidence that we can in fact do what is necessary.

Co-Chairs,

In terms of the 2015 agreement (under Workstream 1), we must also make clear progress and continue to build on the foundation of the Convention, including all of its principles and provisions. The fact that we are now negotiating a new protocol applicable to all does not relieve developed countries of their responsibility to take the lead in addressing climate change. We cannot afford any backsliding in the type, nature, or ambition of their mitigation commitments under the 2015 agreement.

The outcome of the Paris conference in 2015 should be a legally binding Protocol under the Convention that is applicable to all Parties, which will require universal participation and contributions from all parties. The safety, viability and survival of our members demands that the agreement be based on science and include a global goal of limiting global warming to well below 1.5 degrees. Therefore, we reiterate that the outcome of the 2013-2015 Review is central to the Workstream 1 process to ensure that we are meeting our imperatives.

In this context, the level of ambition of the 2015 agreement is critical to the survival of SIDS. We are therefore proposing that this session focus on the following, *inter alia*:

1. We should begin the identification of the elements that would be included in the final 2015 agreement.
2. We encourage focus on identifying the information needed to allow parties to present their information in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency, and understanding of nationally determined contributions.
3. This will inform a process that would lead to an urgent submission of parties' proposed national contributions in a transparent and verifiable manner that enables quantification and assessment against the long-term global goal of

holding warming below 1.5C; and move toward a process to review proposed national contributions.

Furthermore it must articulate:

- A balanced treatment of mitigation and adaptation, including a clearly defined relationship between mitigation ambition and adaptation costs as well as loss and damage, particularly when adaptation measures are not sufficient to address climate impacts; and
- A provision for long term, scaled up, predictable, new and additional finance, technology and capacity building to cover the costs of adaptation and loss and damage.

Unfortunately, we know that severe climate impacts are already occurring and that much worse still lies ahead. Only last week the Marshall Islands and Kiribati were severely damaged by so-called “King Tides” and thousands of people had to be internally relocated. We have also been seeing the unusual droughts, floods and heatwaves in many parts of the world in recent months.

The establishment of an International Mechanism to address Loss and Damage in Warsaw represents an important step and while our work continues there, addressing loss and damage is a reality for AOSIS and must be part of the 2015 agreement.

Co-Chairs,

There is much work to accomplish in a very short period of time, so holding an additional meeting in October will be essential to making the most of our discussions on these priority areas in both Workstreams.

Thank you.

