

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  
20 October, 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 that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. We align ourselves with the statements made by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China and Nepal on behalf of the LDCs.-

Co-Chairs,

First, let me thank you for your diligence and leadership throughout this process. Your scenario note lays out a sensible way to continue our discussions this week and we assure you of our full cooperation in this the final stretch to Lima.

As always our work must be informed by the best available science and we begin this meeting against the backdrop of startling news from the arctic. Ahead of the U.N. Climate Summit in New York last month, NASA reported that the Arctic Ocean is losing on average about 13 percent of its sea ice every decade; that is an area equivalent to about one-third the size of the United States since records have been kept. Similar reports about unsettling changes in the Antarctic also continue to come in.

The arctic melting is, of course, only one of the many disturbing climate impacts that are striking every nation and region around the world with increasing frequency and intensity. But from the perspective of a group of low-lying island and coastal nations that are highly vulnerable to sea level rise these impacts command an urgent call to action.

Given the reality of the impacts we are already experiencing, adaptation is absolutely critical. Of course, there are impacts that we can no longer adapt to so Loss and Damage must be included as a central element of the 2015 agreement, one that is distinct and separate from adaptation. The Loss and Damage mechanism should have technical and financial functions to support vulnerable SIDS and LDCs in addressing the direct impacts of climate change with a governance body that includes representation of SIDS. We look forward to discussing this more fully. For us, adaptation it is about survival.

Co-Chairs,

With Lima just weeks away, it is essential that we make significant progress this week in our discussions on Workstream 1 of the ADP, including on the nature of iNDCS.

More broadly we see the need for more clarity and details in the following areas:

- The 2015 agreement must be legally binding protocol under the Convention, applicable to all.
- Ambition should be in line with delivering a long term global goal of limiting temperature increases to below 1.5 and need to consider at this session ways to ensure this.
- Mitigation efforts captured in the 2015 agreement must be clearly quantifiable so that we are able to aggregate the efforts of all Parties.
- A further elaboration of the elements to be included in the 2015 agreement;
- The identification of the information needed to allow parties to present their intended nationally determined contributions in a manner that facilitates clarity, transparency, and allows us to consider in terms of the long-term goal.
- Finance is a fundamental building block of the 2015 agreement, and therefore it MUST contain commitments by developed country Parties and provisions to ensure scaled-up, adequate long term, predictable, new and additional finance to support mitigation and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries. This should complement other necessary means of implementation including transfer of technology and capacity building.
- The new agreement should also address the gaps of the current climate finance architecture and flows, including the shortage of funding for concrete adaptation in most vulnerable countries and the barriers to access resources for those capacity-constrained countries. Both public and private flows towards low-emission and climate-resilient sustainable development have to be scaled-up urgently and different types of financing should be used and prioritized for different activities.

But we know that addressing these threats we face adequately requires substantial emissions reductions in the near-term, well before 2020, and we think that Workstream 2 is our best opportunity to meet this imperative. We have seen very constructive and solutions-oriented discussions so far in areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as cities and land use. We look forward to the sessions on CCS and short lived climate pollutants this week.

AOSIS has offered a number of proposals for how this technical work can be strengthened. We need to do more to engage parties and put good ideas to work. The UNFCCC and Convention provide an important platform for exchanges between policy experts and practitioners, as well as for strengthening initiatives in areas with high mitigation potential.

However, providing technical information to parties is only the first step. Translating this progress into real action on the ground will require linking it to the ongoing political process and we see important opportunities where the COP can capture information from WS2 and give it higher visibility.

For example, there should be high-level events at COPs, where countries are able to provide updates and discuss national and multilateral activities they are taking to enhance mitigation effort. The ADP Ministerial at Lima should be the first of these events and it will allow countries to inform the UNFCCC of action partnerships established, such as the ones announced at the very successful SIDS Conference in Samoa last month (although with the resources and partners required for scaling them up).

There is also a need for political discussions on paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Warsaw decision. It is incumbent on developed countries to take the lead in addressing climate change by raising the ambition of their 2020 commitments, and with regard to KP parties, ratifying the Doha Amendment to Kyoto Protocol. In addition, we must fully implement the agreed outcome of the Bali Action Plan, particularly through immediate action by developed countries to enhance the delivery of finance, technology transfer and development, and capacity building.

You have done an extraordinary job bringing us so far along in this process and success is within reach. We assure you of our continued support as we work together to achieve our goals in Lima. .

Thank you.