



Statement by

**Ms. Lara Daniel
Second Secretary
of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations**

**on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States
at the Adoption of the Rio+20 Outcome document**

**27 July 2012
General Assembly Hall
New York**

Mr. President,

Nauru has the honor to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a grouping of 43 members most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and whose particular needs and vulnerabilities were first acknowledged at Rio in 1992.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Brazil and the people of Rio de Janeiro for being the gracious hosts of this historic event. I would also like to convey our thanks to the Bureau of UNCSO and acknowledge especially the co-chairs, H.E. Dr. John Ashe of Barbados, and H.E. Mr. Sook Kim of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. President,

“The Future We Want” embodies commitments which will advance our common aspirations to achieve sustainable development. I would like to highlight today a few of particular relevance to SIDS.

At Rio, Leaders called for continued and enhanced efforts to assist SIDS in implementing the Barbados Plan of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI). These are the essential blueprints for addressing the sustainable development needs of SIDS. Recent assessments show that we are falling short on our commitment under these outcome documents. So long as these gaps remain, SIDS will be unable to achieve the sustainable development for which we all strive. One tool which must be strengthened in this regard is UN system support to SIDS. We need more accountability, more responsiveness and less fragmentation from those tasked to assist us.

The time has come as well for us to turn our attention to the next SIDS Conference. In the same way that Rio+20 allowed us as an international community to take stock, the 20th Anniversary of the original SIDS conference will give SIDS a timely opportunity to take stock of how far we have come and how much further we still have to go. We thank the international community for their support, and look forward to working together in the upcoming General Assembly to put in place the structure necessary to ensure a successful meeting.

Mr. President,

As you are aware, climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. For AOSIS members, sea level rise and other adverse effects of climate change pose a significant threat to our efforts to achieve sustainable development. For some members, they represent the gravest threat to our survival and viability, including through loss of territory. We are gratified to see the seriousness of this issue reflected in the final document, and we look forward to seeing real action to convert the concern expressed in the Rio outcome to changes which will ensure the continued existence of AOSIS members.

Mr. President,

There can be no doubt that one of the most important agreements from Rio, is the decision to undertake work on Sustainable Development Goals. Developing these action-oriented goals, which will be global in nature and universally applicable, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities, is a task worthy of our attention. In order for these goals to reflect the rich diversity of our global community, we believe that it is essential that there is adequate representation of SIDS within the working group. Given the importance of the post-2015 framework to SIDS, we would also suggest that the Secretary General contemplate inviting representatives from the SIDS to be part of his high level panel on post 2015 development planning.

Mr. President,

We begin now the real work of Rio+20, ensuring implementation of our commitments so that our peoples will see benefits on the ground. AOSIS looks forward to work cooperatively with other to ensure “the Future We Want.”

Thank you.