

Statement by Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States

**Ad Hoc Working Group on the
Durban Platform for Enhanced Action Opening Plenary**

30 August 2012, Bangkok

Co-Chairs,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the positions of Co-Chairs of the ADP and assure you of the full cooperation and support of AOSIS as you facilitate the work of this important group.

I also wish to thank you for your note on how to approach discussions at the Bangkok session and for the further explanation you provided on the UNFCCC website yesterday. We appreciate your efforts and your willingness to meet with Parties over the last few days to discuss how we proceed.

I would like to first remind everyone of the delicately balanced Durban outcome, which brought together Parties with very different views and interests. The pre-2020 mitigation workplan – one of four main elements of the Durban package – was an absolute redline for AOSIS. It is the only reason we agreed to allow the postponement of the application of a new legally binding protocol until 2020.

Enhancing pre-2020 mitigation ambition is essential in order to minimize the adverse and avoid potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change in all countries, and is particularly critical to preserving the development prospects, viability and survival of SIDS.

It will be difficult to proceed very far in our discussions on the new Protocol until we know that the pre-2020 mitigation gap will be closed. At the moment, we simply cannot know if we are negotiating an agreement for a below 1.5 degree world, or a plus 3, 4, 5 degree world.

Whether or not we close the gap will have profound implications for what AOSIS will require in the new agreement. For example, can we rely on the Adaptation Committee to completely relocate all of our critical infrastructure further inland? Will the Green Climate Fund be able to

pay for it all? It is deeply disturbing that AOSIS must even contemplate these scenarios.

Moreover, if we do not close the gap, the mitigation cuts that would be required post-2020 to preserve even a small chance of achieving our agreed long-term temperature goal would need to be so drastic that they would stretch the limits of technical, economic, and political feasibility.

Therefore, we **must** close the ambition gap to preserve a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Anything less would entail an unacceptable level of risk for small islands.

Accordingly, the workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition **must** be prioritized under the ADP as a matter of urgency so that **immediate and meaningful progress** is made towards closing the ambition gap.

To be frank, we do not yet see this prioritization reflected in the way forward proposed by the Co-Chairs, and we ask for further opportunities to engage with you to ensure that this happens. AOSIS insists that there be sufficient time allocated during the second week to the mitigation ambition workplan.

At a minimum, our discussions in Bangkok should cover:

- the report on the mitigation ambition workshop held in Bonn;
- submissions and proposals made by the Parties;
- activities and possible outcomes for Doha; and
- the schedule of activities under the workplan for 2013.

AOSIS can go along with initial discussions proceeding in a roundtable format as proposed by the Co-Chairs, provided there is sufficient time reserved in the second week for detailed consideration of proposals for future activities and outcomes in Doha. AOSIS does not support convening a separate roundtable on principles outside the context of the two workstreams.

The mitigation ambition workplan should support, not detract from ongoing efforts to raise ambition under the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP so that those bodies can reach a successful completion of their work in Doha.

The present proposal from the Co-Chairs seeks to discuss the principles of the Convention disconnected from the substance. The ADP should not be a forum for renegotiating the principles of the Convention. Rather, the principles of the Convention should guide the work under both work streams. We must stick to the two work streams consistent with the agenda agreed to in Bonn.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

AOSIS is deeply troubled by the current trajectory of the climate change negotiations and the increasingly dire risk it presents to our members. To repeat, increasing pre-2020 mitigation ambition is absolutely critical to the development prospects, viability and survival of SIDS and many other vulnerable countries. Unless we organise our work to prioritise closing the ambition gap, we will have set up the ADP to fail.

I thank you, Co-Chairs.