



**Statement by Nauru on behalf of
the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
AWG-LCA Opening Plenary
Bonn, May 15 2012**

Mr. Chair, Nauru has the honor to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a grouping of 43 members most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Mr. Chair, AOSIS wishes to formally express its congratulations to you on your election to guide the AWG-LCA in its final year of work. AOSIS shares the view that the work of the AWG-LCA should be wrapped up as smoothly as possible, exercising due diligence towards effectively and efficiently completing the remaining work, particularly under Finance and Mitigation, before it is terminated in Doha this year as stipulated by decision 1/CP.17. At the outset let me be clear - AOSIS will not re-negotiate the decision taken at Durban to terminate the AWG-LCA.

The context for our work has assumed a much greater degree of urgency given recent alarming scientific findings on the acceleration of climate change and its adverse impacts. Global emissions, the main cause of human induced climate change, are rising at their fastest rate in history and we may soon cross the threshold at which the viability and very survival of SIDS will be seriously threatened.

Recent science points to a gross underestimation of the extent of sea-level rise - the rate of sea-level rise over the past twenty years is double the rate observed over the last century. Massive ice loss from the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica has accelerated and is now emerging as the largest contributor to sea-level rise. Observed regional sea-level rises in the Pacific and Caribbean, where most of our members are located, is greater than the global mean.

The IPCC Special Report on Climate Extremes (IPCC SREX) indicated that over 95% of deaths from natural disasters occurred in developing countries between 1970 and 2008 and that in many cases in small exposed countries, particularly Small Island Developing States, losses from extreme events exceeded 1% of GDP, and in some cases up to 8%.

Mr. Chair,

Given these realities, we demand that the approach in this working group and all other under bodies under the UNFCCC be guided by a greater sense of urgency and ambition. While a small atoll state in the Pacific might be in imminent danger today, tomorrow it will be millions in vulnerable communities in the vast Asian mega deltas spanning Pakistan, India and Bangladesh and vulnerable communities in Africa. We must see our common endeavor for what it truly is - an obligation to humanity – both current and future generations.

At Durban we made progress across all the building blocks of the Bali Action Plan and we assigned a limited number of tasks to the AWG-LCA to complete, prior to its termination in Doha. We also decided to launch the negotiation and adoption of a new legally binding agreement by 2015 under the Durban Platform.

We are in a different place at the beginning of 2012 than we were last year after COP16 in Cancun. AOSIS believes that we risk imperiling the success of the Doha Conference if we do not approach our work with a sense of urgency given the limited time left this year.

Mr. Chair, for this reason AOSIS is not comfortable with the approach suggested in your scenario note where you have proposed that we start with a period of reflection on what has, or has not been achieved from Bali in 2007 to Durban last year. Our strong views is that, as a priority, we must immediately launch work on the implementation tasks assigned to the AWG-LCA in Decision 2/CP.17.

The annotated agenda for this session provides us with good guidance on these priority tasks. For example, under the shared vision building block we

must immediately begin work on the identification of the global goal for reducing global emissions by 2050 and the time frame for the global peaking of global emissions. AOSIS believes that at COP-18, the AWG-LCA can deliver on both tasks. Similarly on the 2013-2015 Review, we must continue work to confirm the scope of the Review for a final decision at COP-18.

While AOSIS was not fully satisfied with the outcomes on adaptation, finance and technology, we nevertheless recognize that some progress was made at Cancun and Durban with the establishment of institutions and new processes. Our time in Bonn should be used to support the work of these new bodies and processes to enable them to deliver on their mandates.

On finance we believe that at Bonn we can begin consultations on the work programme on long term finance to ensure it delivers an outcome that could form the basis for decision-making in Doha that provides greater certainty to developing countries on financial flows after the end of the fast start finance period in 2012.

And of course, an overriding priority for AOSIS is continued work on the mitigation pillar to ensure an ambition of effort consistent with what the science requires. We need to be absolutely clear on the necessary follow up on the results of the in-session workshops focused on clarifying the mitigation targets and pledges of developed and developing country Parties.

With this in mind, we wish to flag for Parties our desire to work hard this year to ensure the environmental integrity and comparability of mitigation targets and pledges, including a common accounting framework. We look forward to working with others to make this happen.

AOSIS remains committed to a successful outcome to our work here in Bonn and in Doha. However this requires decisive leadership from our Chair and strict adherence and focus from all Parties to the decisions taken and mandates established by our outcome in Durban.

I urge all Parties to remain focused on the context for our work, protecting and safeguarding our peoples from the ravages of climate change. The time for reflecting and evaluating is over. Humanity demands action and they demand it now!

I thank you.