



**Statement delivered by Nauru on behalf of  
The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)  
Opening Plenary Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)  
Bonn, Germany - 14 May 2012**

Mr Chairman, I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the 43 Member State Parties of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). At the outset let me express our appreciation in seeing you in the chair once again and we are certain that you will guide us towards a successful session here in Bonn.

We would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China.

Mr Chairman, I am sure that you are aware that we are faced with a very challenging schedule of meetings at this session and we suggest that we prioritize our objectives at this session.

Since we last met in Durban less than six months ago, there is increasing scientific evidence that the climate crisis is getting worse. The rate of sea level rise over the last twenty years is double the rate observed over the last century, significantly above the upper end of the range projected in the IPCC's 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report. For SIDS, this represents a grave threat to our survival and viability.

AOSIS recognizes that the response to the challenges posed by climate change must be guided by what the science tells us. We are therefore very pleased that a session of the Research Dialogue has been scheduled for this session. As we have expressed in our submission, we would like the scientific community to address various emission scenarios, the implications of global warming levels and carbon dioxide concentrations especially in relation to the 1.5 degree Celsius level, ocean acidification, sea level rise risk assessment, including with ice sheet responses, and assessments of the emission reduction pathways required to limit global

warming to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius. We trust that the scientific community will respond to these requests as our responses to climate change will be based on the results of these studies.

Another area that we would like to see the research dialogue address is the data required to ascertain the loss and damage that would occur in small island states due to climate change and sea level rise, and the development of innovative financial mechanisms, including insurance, to offset the losses induced by slow onset events including droughts and sea level rise. We recognize that the actual debates on these issues will occur in the SBI, however, these discussions must be guided by the science. We also look forward to holding discussions with GCOS to ensure that the systematic observation implementation plan responds to the new data requirements that are identified.

Regarding the Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation, we thank the organizations for the information they have provided. However, we must emphasize that this information must include the additional work they are doing to respond to the challenges of climate change beyond their normal work programmes. If this cannot be described, then we must reconsider what value the NWP is providing.

Mr Chairman, the SBSTA will also address other issues very important to AOSIS including methodological issues under the convention and the Kyoto Protocol associated with common reporting formats for the biennial reporting guidelines, review guidelines, the Clean Development Mechanism, LULUCF, agriculture, and addressing safeguards, among others. Discussions on methodological issues under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol must seek to ensure environmental integrity and must not degrade our collective emission reduction efforts. We do not have the time to elaborate our views on these issues in this opening statement. However, please be assured that we will address them when they arise in the agenda.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion, AOSIS is prepared to work with you and with all the Parties to ensure that we have a successful session of the SBSTA.

I thank you.