



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

Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action Opening Plenary 27 November, Doha, Qatar

Thank you Mr. Chair.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

At the outset, Nauru would like to associate this statement with the statements made by the Group of 77 and China, the Least Developed Countries and the African Group.

Mr. Chair,

As you recall, the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasized the urgency in addressing climate change. It added that if we did not act with urgency and ambition to reduce emissions, we would not only significantly limit our chances to achieve lower stabilization levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, but we would also increase the risk of more severe climate change impacts.

In response to these alarming findings we launched the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Bali Action Plan. However, today we find ourselves in a much worse situation than we faced in 2007.

The 2012 IEA *World Energy Outlook Report* states that global energy related carbon dioxide emissions reached a record high in 2011 and we only have a 50% probability of limiting the long term average global temperature increase to 3.6 degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels and a 6% probability of limiting it to 2 degrees Celsius if current trends continue.

In every corner of the world we are seeing increasingly more severe and frequent climate related impacts. Sea-level rise, which poses an existential threat to small island developing states and low-lying coastal communities, is increasing at rate much faster than predicted when the AWG-LCA started its work in 2007.

Tropical cyclones, such as Super storm Sandy, which recently struck the Caribbean and the US are more intense and deadlier.

It's not just small islands that are feeling the impacts. The recent World Bank Report entitled *Turn Down the Heat* states that we are losing the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets at a rate that has more than tripled since the period reported in the Fourth Assessment Report. The report also states that the last decade has seen an exceptional number of extreme heat waves around the world, including in Europe, Russia and the United States over just the past few years. No country is immune – big, small, rich and poor – we are all feeling the impacts of climate change.

Mr. Chair,

It is for these reasons that AOSIS has consistently called for a greater sense of urgency and ambition to guide our work here in the AWG-LCA. To accomplish this we must focus our limited time in Doha on the work that was explicitly mandated to the AWG-LCA at Durban.

Mr. Chair,

This includes decisions on a global goal for emissions reduction and a timeframe for peaking. The recent UNEP *Bridging the Emissions Gap Report* concludes that to “stay within the 2°C limit global emissions will have to peak well before 2020.” The report also states that our goal of keeping warming below 1.5°C can still be met. However, to do so, we must act quickly and decisively. This is why we reiterate our call for an agreement that aggregate global emissions will peak in 2015 and decline thereafter.

Mr. Chair,

With respect to the Review of the long-term global temperature goal, we are calling for the definition of the modalities for a science-based review of the adequacy of the temperature goal with a view to strengthening it to well below 1.5°C. The modalities of the review need to ensure that the review is narrow in scope and facilitates a decision based on the work of a scientifically unimpeachable expert review group.

Mr Chair,

With respect to mitigation, we are concerned that some developed countries have treated the LCA as an opportunity to retreat from the rigorous and multilateral rules-based regime under the Kyoto Protocol. Here in Doha, we must ensure that the targets presented by those developed country Parties not participating in a second commitment period are consistent with and at a scale required by science. Their targets must be comparable in substance to those under the Kyoto Protocol, to be determined through the application of a robust set of common accounting rules for developed country parties. We also call on developing countries to bring forward mitigation action where they are yet to do so, supported by finance and technical support from developed countries. To move forward in Doha, we request that parties urgently commit to more clearly articulating their emission mitigation targets and pledges, and to further work to better understand them going forward.

Mr. Chair,

On finance, we call for a commitment by developed countries to ensure that there is no gap in the provision of scaled-up, new and additional, predictable and adequate climate finance to developing countries after the end of the fast start finance period. Developing countries have immediate and urgent needs, given our particular vulnerabilities to climate change, and the devastating climate change related impacts we are experiencing. In this regard, we call for the establishment of a second fast start-like period from 2013-2015.

Mr. Chair,

We believe that we must work diligently and earnestly to conclude the work of the AWG-LCA here in Doha. However, this work must proceed in a transparent, inclusive, party-driven process.

Let me assure you of the constructive participation of the AOSIS membership as we embark on our work.

I thank you.