



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
27 November, Doha, Qatar**

Thank you Co-Chairs,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a coalition of 44 members particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

AOSIS associates itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, The Gambia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries, and Swaziland on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on your election to the positions of Co-Chairs of the ADP. I also wish to thank you both for the constructive way you led our work in Bangkok and assure you of the full support of AOSIS in Doha and beyond.

Co-Chairs,

Time is not on our side. The window to achieve the 'below 2 degrees' global goal, let alone the stated goal of over 100 countries of well below 1.5 degrees, is closing. According to the IEA, we will be locked into more than 2 degrees of temperature rise unless concerted international action is taken by 2017.

Yet, based on current pledges the world is on track for 3-5 degrees, a scenario that would be catastrophic for SIDS and other vulnerable countries. Increased mitigation ambition under the Kyoto Protocol and the LCA must be a concrete deliverable here in Doha.

Additionally, in Durban, we decided to launch a workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition to identify and explore options for a range of

actions that can close the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap. We have not yet fulfilled this agreement; it is arguable whether we have even started.

Let me be very clear, the pre-2020 mitigation workplan – one of the central elements of the Durban package – was an absolute redline for AOSIS. It is the only reason we were able to join consensus on a mandate that would not see a new protocol in effect until 2020. A comprehensive schedule of activities under the workplan for 2013 must therefore be a key deliverable in Doha.

AOSIS has made a submission outlining our priorities for Doha, including concrete elements for a COP decision on pre-2020 mitigation ambition.

First, we must agree on a set of intensive and focused workshops to identify the most cost-effective policies and measures to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and identify the means of implementation required to implement them. The workshops should be organized along thematic issues, including energy, industry, transport, buildings, forestry, agriculture, tourism and waste to facilitate active engagement of relevant government ministries.

Secondly, regular high-level engagement is critical to deliver political guidance and overcome inaction.

Finally, we must agree to take action to close the pre-2020 ambition gap. As stated by AOSIS Leaders in our recently adopted Declaration we demand a concerted global effort from all, with developed countries taking the lead, to enhance their mitigation ambition in order to close the pre-2020 ambition gap, in particular by urgently increasing the ambition of their current targets and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and by bringing forward mitigation action where they are yet to do so.

Co-Chairs,

On the second workstream relating to our vision for a new legally-binding agreement, we wish to emphasize that the outcome of the

process launched under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action should be a Protocol under the Convention, applicable to all Parties, to be adopted no later than 2015. This new Protocol must strengthen the multilateral rules-based and legally binding regime, be based on science and the principles of the UNFCCC and ensure the survival of all SIDS.

While progress on the post-2020 framework is important, including planning our work to move forward, it is important to emphasize that a failure to close the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap would have profound implications for the scale, scope and nature of the necessary commitments and obligations under the new Protocol.

Co-Chairs,

I wish to conclude by commenting on the modalities of our work. AOSIS sought in our recent submission the creation of one contact group for each workstream. It is important that our work fully respects the agenda we negotiated in Bonn, which launched two separate workstreams, and that equal time be allocated to both. Accordingly, we have some concerns regarding the creation of a single contact group, as proposed in your informal note of 5 November 2012.

However, in the interests of moving the discussions more quickly to substance, we support continuing with the round table format, and the use of an informal ADP plenary to take stock of progress and to reflect on how best to take our work forward into 2013.

Finally, we support two additional negotiating sessions next year that enable the participation of all delegations. An early session in April is likely to increase the productivity of our work in Bonn. We also see the need for a session in the second half of 2013, given the extensive list of activities we are proposing for next year, and for which we seek the support of all Parties. If we are to constructively engage in an important conversation about how to increase pre-2020 mitigation ambition, we must ensure we have the space to do this.

I thank you.