



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

**Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the  
Kyoto Protocol  
Opening Plenary  
27 November, Doha, Qatar**

Madame Chair,

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

Nauru associates this statement with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G77 and China, the Gambia on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, and Swaziland on behalf of the African Group.

Madame Chair,

We have now spent close to seven years negotiating further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. In each year since this exercise began, we have seen the impacts of climate change accelerate. We have seen temperature records set. We have seen precipitation records set. We have seen record drought conditions. This year, global arctic sea ice extent reached a new low. Over the last two decades we have seen the rate of sea level rise double the rate observed over the last century. Recent projections show that in order to save even 10% of coral reefs, global warming needs to be limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial. At 2°C warming there is likely no chance for coral reef survival.

Yet, we also know from a recent report by the World Bank that we are on course to experience a 3-5 degree increase in temperatures if ambition is not increased. Together we face a man-made disaster of epic proportions that is on our doorstep, due to our own actions. We can no longer pretend that it is not our responsibility to take action and to do so urgently.

To be credible, in Doha the AWG-KP must deliver amendments to the Kyoto Protocol that establish a **five-year second commitment period** to run from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2017. This second commitment period must have a single, common and legally-binding base year of 1990, with commitments that are provisionally applied pending their entry into force from 1 January 2013, to ensure that there is no legal gap between the first and second commitment periods.

Madame Chair,

**To achieve this, the overarching issue which must be addressed here in Doha is the ambition of Annex I party commitments.**

Study after study after study after study has told us that the level of mitigation ambition on the table from Annex I Parties is inconsistent with the achievement of staying below 2 degree and our goal of staying well below 1.5 degree goals.

According to the most recent UNEP Gap report, we now face a global mitigation gap of 8-13 billion tonnes by 2020. This gap must be closed to meet our below 2 degrees and well below 1.5 degree goals. Closing this gap entirely remains technically feasible but it can only be achieved by increasing ambition beyond the current pledges.

Most of the proposed QELROs in our KP discussions derive from pledged ranges of possible reductions first presented by Parties in 2009. However, many of the individual QELROs that Parties have brought forward are now plainly inadequate and inconsistent with pathways to the agreed global goal. Annex I Parties must present ambitious targets that are consistent with the scale of the challenge.

The Kyoto Protocol must not be an exercise in creative accounting, or a public relations exercise; commitments must be real and they must deliver effective emission reductions.

We welcome those Parties that have expressed a willingness to participate in Kyoto's second commitment period. These are the Parties with whom we should be negotiating at this point to deliver the agreement.

We have been gravely disappointed by those **other** Annex I Parties that now claim to be “**helping**” the process move forward, by retreating from their Kyoto commitments, or declining to take legally-binding commitments under the KP’s CP2 in the guise of freeing themselves for a future agreement we do not yet have. In our view, these actions are **an abdication of responsibility** owed to the international community under the Protocol and an abdication of responsibility owed to the most vulnerable among us.

For seven years, Annex I Parties have talked and talked, but at some point the hard work must be done. And we have arrived at this point.

How many more times do we have to be told by scientists that the grand experiment we are engaged in with the world’s climate system is beyond irresponsible, as we risk crossing climatic tipping points at temperature increases even below 2 degrees?

How many more times do we have to be told by NGOs, IGOs, humanitarian organizations, the OECD, the IEA, the IPCC, UNEP, DARA and others that more can be done, more must be done and the best time to do more is now??

How many more times do **small island states and least developed countries** have to entreat developed country Parties to do more, before the fundamental injustice of climate change sinks in and Annex I Parties step up their ambition? We reiterate that AI Parties can, and therefore must, do more.

Madam Chair

The time for an increase in ambition is here in Doha. Annex I Parties have agreed to take the lead in reducing emissions and this is the time to demonstrate this leadership decisively through ambitious, credible and transparent reductions.

We assure you of AOSIS’s full support for a successful conclusion to our negotiations at this session.