



**Statement delivered by Nauru on behalf of  
The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)  
Opening Plenary 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties  
serving as the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol  
Doha, Qatar - 26 November 2012**

Mr President,

Nauru has the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of 44 countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Nauru associates its 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.

Mr President,

Although there are many issues on our CMP agenda, what the world is truly waiting to see is a new set of clear, ambitious and credible emission reduction commitments from Annex I Parties for the Protocol's second commitment period, which will begin in just over one month's time.

AOSIS is of the view that these commitments should be established in the context of a **five-year second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol to run from 2013 to 2017**, and that we should ensure no gap in the legally-binding nature of commitments between commitment periods through agreement on the provisional application of amendments pending their ratification.

Mr President,

The emission reduction commitments we agree under the KP are the most visible part of Kyoto's multilateral, rules-based system. And we all know that the level of ambition of the Kyoto commitments has for years set the tone for the international process as a whole. These commitments must send a signal to the world that we are serious about addressing climate change, and that our multilateral process can deliver internationally legally-binding commitments at a scale that responds to what the science demands, and with the urgency required.

AOSIS is grateful to the large and growing number of Annex I Parties that have unambiguously expressed their willingness to participate fully in the Protocol's second commitment period

through binding commitments in an amended Annex B. We look forward to similar expressions of willingness from a broader group of Parties as we go forward.

**But it is not enough just to take a commitment.** The objectives of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol are one and the same and they are very clear – to prevent dangerous climate change. Based on the best available science, this means stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations at below 350 ppmv of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, and a limitation of temperature increases to well below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels – the goals that are supported by more than 100 vulnerable Parties in this process. It is essential that here in Doha the decisions we take do not jeopardize our ability to achieve the below 2 degree and 1.5 degree goals.

The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report indicated that a 25-40% reduction from Annex I Parties in aggregate is needed by 2020 in order to be consistent with limiting temperature increases to 2.0 to 2.4 degrees C. The commitments proposed by those Parties ready to join a second commitment period are roughly consistent with an aggregate **20% reduction below 1990** levels by 2020. So this ambition must be urgently increased, and the time for this increase is here in Doha. All who can do more absolutely must do more.

In weighing up a move to deeper commitments, AOSIS asks all Parties to put the interests of vulnerable countries on the scales with your own interests, and to really consider which way these scales should tip. The numbers we adopt here under the Kyoto Protocol **are not just abstract numbers**. As we are learning, these numbers represent emission levels that translate directly to lives lost, to land area lost to sea level rise, to families displaced due to droughts and floods, and to suffering that some of us cannot begin to comprehend. It is not an exaggeration to say that over time, as a result of action taken or not taken here in Doha, we may see whole languages, cultures and potentially whole countries lost.

Mr. President,

**In addition to agreeing more ambitious numbers, we must also ensure – here in Doha – that hot air and surplus units are not allowed to diminish the effective emission reductions delivered by our amended Annex B.** It is not in our collective interest to adopt a second commitment period that on its face, promises greater ambition, but in reality may deliver far less than appears or nothing at all. The carryover of surplus Kyoto units must be addressed decisively in Doha because it holds the potential to completely erase what may otherwise be achieved from CP2 commitments. In our view, the G77 and China proposal addresses all legitimate Party concerns. We encourage those few Parties who oppose this solution to consider the broader impacts of their actions on vulnerable countries and on the integrity of the international effort to tackle climate change.

Other issues of importance to the members of my group at this session include the extension of the share of the proceeds to provide much needed revenue for the Adaptation Fund, the improvement of the environmental integrity of the Kyoto mechanisms, and reaffirmation of the

eligibility rules, to ensure that only Parties with legally binding QELROs in Annex B for the second commitment period remain eligible to participate in the flexible mechanisms.

Mr. President,

To conclude, we all know that we have clear leaders in this process, and we have clear laggards. And there is a reason we focus on the leaders. Although the Kyoto Protocol covers only a subset of Annex I emissions, the Kyoto Protocol is where those Annex I Parties that are **truly committed** to addressing climate change demonstrate this leadership by taking ambitious, legally-binding individual emission reduction commitments.

If a group of Annex I Parties can lead with a level of ambition that is consistent with what the best available science requires, we are convinced that this will inspire others to do the same. As small island developing States, directly experiencing the impacts of climate change, we must hold out this hope.

Mr President,

You can be assured that the members of AOSIS will work constructively over the coming days toward the delivery of a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol that is ambitious and credible, and of which we can all be proud. I thank you.