



**Statement delivered by Nauru on behalf of
The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
Closing Plenary SBI38
Bonn**

14 June 2013

1. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.
2. Nauru has the honor to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of 44 countries extremely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
3. AOSIS aligns itself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf the Group of 77 and China, and the statements made by Nepal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group and Swaziland on behalf of the African Group.
4. Mr. Chairman, even as the waters rise around us, here in Germany, and at our island and coastal nations around the world, we face further unfortunate—and untenable—delays under this critical line of discussions and the numerous important topics connected to it.
5. AOSIS is deeply disappointed that the SBI was not able to commence its substantive work here in Bonn. We are committed to a constructive discussion on procedure. However, procedural issues must not impede the substantive work essential to addressing climate change conducted by the SBI and the other bodies of the Convention. We call on Parties and the SBI Chair to resolve this procedural impasse before the start of the 39th session of the SBI.
6. In light of the lost time, we must find a way to move the work of the SBI forward and ensure we deliver on our mandates for the COP in Warsaw, noting that many SBI issues are time-sensitive. We therefore encourage the Chair to forward draft text emerging from informal work during this session to be considered by the SBI in Warsaw.

Mr. Chairman

7. The failure of the SBI to commence its work at this session has huge implications for the work on Loss and Damage, requiring us to redouble our efforts to see this through in Warsaw.
8. Addressing loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change is an

issue of fundamental importance to the members of AOSIS whose communities and economies are trying to cope with immediate losses that are now being experienced for which there is no capacity to respond. Indeed the very existence of a number of our member countries is in peril and the science tells us that impacts such as sea level rise, ocean acidification and temperature increases are manifesting faster and in greater volume than projected just five years ago. We are put in a position of having to deal with loss and damage from climate change impacts that cannot be adapted to. The survival of our member nations is in all our hands. This is a grave responsibility and we must act with the urgency it demands and establish an international mechanism to address loss and damage in Warsaw.

9. The entirely avoidable delay in the SBI has also held up crucial discussions on the scientific 2013-2015 Review and considerable work remains if we are to fulfill our mandate from Cancun to complete it by 2015. The Joint SBI and SBSTA contact group on the Review must, with the assistance of the Structured Expert Dialogue, deliver conclusions that lead to immediate implementation of the actions required to meet the 1.5 degrees target.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The production of a compilation of Non-Annex 1 National Communications, to enable us to take stock of where developing countries are with respect to their mitigation efforts and adaptation needs is important to AOSIS and we continue to request the Chair of SBI to assist us in securing such a compilation with recommendations and outcomes to be included under Article 4.
11. Implementation of the enhanced monitoring, review and verification, including of support given, as we agreed in Durban is essential to build trust among the Parties and to promote environmental integrity. This includes the operationalization of international consultation and analysis, conducted in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty, with the aim of increasing the transparency of mitigation actions and their effects.
12. Enhanced MRV will require enhanced capacity-building support, including the delivery of support as we agreed in Durban. The technical advice and support of the Consultative Group of Experts to our members in preparing our national communications has been invaluable. In this regard, the continuation of the CGE with an expanded mandate to cover technical advice and assistance for biennial update reports and the development and communication of NAMAs, with sufficient resources, will continue to be essential for the members of my group.
13. Delivering on the obligations for financial support is inextricably connected to items in this line of discussion as well as meeting the overall objectives of the Convention.
14. Progress on adaptation is critical. This means progress in the implementation of

the Adaptation Committee's 3-year work plan, including providing guidance to non-LDCs on the preparation of national adaptation plans. No progress can be made on adaptation in our countries without adequate, predictable and accessible funding.

15. On capacity building under the Convention, we call for a clear process for enhanced action. This should include a way to take action on the results of the capacity building reviews and ensuring that the Durban Forum is more than just a platform for sharing experiences, but one that translates lessons learnt into action.

Mr. Chairman,

16. As we leave Bonn without the results we all had expected, I would like to remind parties that unless urgent and dramatic action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few years, well before 2020, the opportunity to avoid global warming in excess of 2 degrees Celsius, let alone 1.5 degrees, above pre-industrial levels, and the cascade of catastrophes that would follow, including the loss of entire nations, could be irrevocably lost.