



**Statement delivered by Nauru on behalf of
The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
Opening Plenary ADP
Bonn June 4**

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Colleagues

Nauru has the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of 44 countries that are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

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.

Co-Chairs,

At the outset, let me thank you again for your leadership. You have set the stage for us to make substantial progress at this session and beyond, and I assure you of our continued support as we work to close the emissions gap and fulfill the ultimate objective of the Convention.

Our work this session must be motivated by a renewed sense of urgency, bearing in mind that time is running out for the countries I represent. Scientists have confirmed that unless we dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the short-term, well before 2020, the opportunity to keep global warming below the 1.5-degree threshold that is essential to ensure the survival of all our members may be irrevocably lost.

Thus in ADP Workstream 2, we must promote opportunities to mitigate by focusing on specific mitigation policies and actions that have the greatest promise, are cost effective and scalable. Then, we must enable

interested Parties to deploy these immediately, by engaging those with on-the-ground expertise in the development and implementation of successful mitigation actions, and by overcoming barriers to implementation, such as the delivery of scaled-up financial resources, technology, and capacity building.

We were grateful for the broad support our Workstream 2 non-paper enjoyed at the last session and look forward to elaborating on it further this session.

As I said, concrete progress on Workstream 2 is required to prevent a catastrophe for us all, particularly the most vulnerable. It is also important to remember that a failure to close the mitigation ambition gap by acting decisively now will have profound implications for the scale and nature of obligations under the 2015 agreement.

Co-Chairs,

We know that effectively dealing with climate change will demand a sustained effort for decades to come so discussions under Workstream 1 of the ADP must also be ambitious enough to protect the interests of future generations as well as our own.

It is the view of AOSIS that the outcome of the process launched in Durban should be a Protocol under the Convention applicable to all Parties, to be adopted no later than 2015.

As we continue to develop the core elements of the new legally binding agreement, we should build on the foundations of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, including their fundamental principles and provisions. The new legally binding agreement should be based on the best available science, strengthen the multilateral rules-based and legally binding regime, and ensure the survival of the most vulnerable. Being “applicable to all”, it will require universal participation and contributions from every Party.

Co-Chairs,

In addition to other key elements raised in the co-chairs note, elements that AOSIS sees as absolutely essential to the ADP agreement include:

mitigation ambition at a scale that can keep warming well below 1.5 degrees Celsius; a mechanism to address Loss and Damage; and a compliance system to give confidence that the commitments of all Parties will be met.

We urge world leaders to work expeditiously to generate the political will required for us to be successful. We welcomed the announcement made by UN Secretary-General Ban that he will convene a leaders' summit in 2014 and see it as an important decision point for Parties, with developed countries taking the lead by putting forward more ambitious targets using the 2014 Kyoto Protocol ratchet mechanism and for non KP Parties to make comparable commitments. We must all work together to raise ambition to the scale and on the timeframe needed to turn us away from disaster.

Thank you.