



**Statement by Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States
At the Opening of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for
Enhanced Action**

12 November, Warsaw, Poland

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Colleagues

Nauru has the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a coalition of 44 island and low-lying coastal nations particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

AOSIS associates 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 also welcome you to your first session as co-chairs of this important working group and thank you for the leadership you have already demonstrated. I assure you of our continued support and constructive engagement as we work to close the emissions gap and work towards a 2015 agreement.

The time we have to act is rapidly slipping away for the members of our group.

The latest IPCC review confirms 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 catastrophic global warming in excess of 2 or 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels could be irrevocably lost.

While the UNEP gap report reminds us that taking the action required remains entirely technically and economically feasible, but only if parties increase ambition and achieve real emissions reduction beyond current pledges.

Co-Chairs,

We have agreed to organize our discussions into two separate workstreams and it is important that both be allocated adequate time here in Warsaw.

Both Workstreams must be driven by a sense of urgency, mindful that a failure to act decisively now will only require a more reactive and vastly more expensive response later. Failure to close the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap will have profound implications for the scale and nature of obligations under the 2015 protocol.

To that end, AOSIS has submitted a plan under ADP Workstream 2 that would complement negotiations on the 2015 agreement with a new, truly collaborative technical process focused squarely on assessing the most promising mitigation opportunities and identifying strategies to overcome the obstacles that have prevented their wider implementation.

In fact, we have brought renewable energy experts from each of our member regions—the Caribbean, AIMS, and Pacific regions—to Warsaw so they can share success stories about the exciting work that is happening in their countries. Stories of our collective efforts and experiences should inform the discussions of the ADP ministerial meeting with a view to adopting a decision on a detailed action plan for 2014 under Workstream 2.

We must have sufficient time allocated to Workstream 2 at the ministerial meeting and in the ADP negotiations to reach an ambitious outcome. We have been consulting extensively with parties and look forward to discussing the details of our proposal in the coming days.

We will also continue to encourage Parties to raise the ambition of their 2020 pledges, or to come forward with new pledges for those who have not yet done so.

Co-Chairs,

We must also make progress under Workstream 1 and continue to build on the foundation of the Convention, and all its principles and provisions. The fact that we are now negotiating a new protocol under the Convention does not relieve developed countries of their responsibility to take the lead in addressing climate change. There cannot be any backsliding in the type, nature, or ambition of their mitigation commitments under the 2015 agreement.

The outcome of the ADP Workstream 1 should be a legally binding Protocol under the Convention that is applicable to all Parties and adopted no later than 2015. The safety, viability and survival of our members demands that the agreement be based on science and therefore include a global goal of keeping global warming well below 1.5 degrees.

The alarming impacts of climate change that are unfolding before our eyes are all the more tragic because so many solutions are within reach. We thus call on developed countries to fulfill their longstanding commitments to provide the finance and technology needed to address climate change and its unnecessary impacts once

and for all. We also need an ambitious and balanced outcome in the other areas mandated in the Durban Platform—adaptation, finance, technology transfer and development, capacity building, and transparency of action and support.

Damages are real and happening now, as Super-typhoon Haiyan so graphically illustrates. We urge all Parties to work with an increased sense of urgency this week and above all focus on doing our part to achieve an ambitious, comprehensive and meaningful outcome.

Thank you.