



CMP
Statement by Nauru on behalf of
the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
Opening Plenary
Warsaw, November 2012

Mr. President, Nauru has the honor to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a grouping of 44 members most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

We associate this statement with the statements made by Fiji on behalf of the G-77 and China, Nepal on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries and Swaziland on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President

- Roughly a year ago, when we all sat together to begin our work in Doha, the world wondered if we would succeed in adopting a Kyoto second commitment period that would actually mean something.
- Would we deliver legally binding commitments? Would they be sufficiently ambitious? Would we finally agree on a way to manage the surplus AAU problem that had plagued us? Could we minimize the creation of new surplus? How would we address difficult issues of eligibility, to ensure that the benefits of the flexible mechanism accrued to those Parties who commit to internationally legally binding commitments?
- Well, after two extremely difficult weeks, we did indeed adopt a second commitment period and closed some of the most gaping loopholes in our accounting system.
- And certainly we did deliver a number of tangible outcomes:

- Yes, we did deliver quantified economy-wide commitments for 38 Parties that are ready for ratification.
- Yes, we did improve the environmental integrity of the Protocol significantly through adoption of new Article 3.7 ter - a provision which removes second commitment period hot air at the outset, so that Parties do not profit from emissions budgets bigger than they should actually need.
- And yes, we created fenced off PPSR accounts that Parties with second commitment period targets can use to manage surplus units they may later need for their own compliance. We did this also to improve environmental integrity by heading off another future accounting problem.
- Each of these elements was an achievement. And it is essential that we lock in these gains and guard against the undoing of these achievements, which took so very many years to secure.
- But, if we are completely honest with ourselves, the bulk of our effort in recent years has been spent trying to close accounting loopholes that many of our developed country Partners desperately wanted to keep open, or trying to persuade Parties not to open new loopholes to weaken the mitigation effort that is already falling short.
- Another painful reality is that despite all our efforts in the years leading up to Doha to achieve legally binding commitments, which we all said we wanted, only three Parties have ratified the Doha Amendment . And, of the Parties that have ratified, not one is a developed country Party. The fact of the matter is that while we are patting ourselves on the back, we do not at the moment have in place a legally binding second commitment period.

Mr. President,

- To come back to the most central issue that we face – ambition – developed countries have fallen short. In years to come, the people around the world that we are here to represent will suffer the additional impacts that are the consequence of developed countries'

failure of ambition in Doha. The commitments inscribed in Annex B are completely inconsistent with pathways to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees, a limit that is absolutely without question necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change on particularly vulnerable Parties.

Mr. President,

- The level of ambition for the second commitment period was a major disappointment in Doha last year – but it is one that we very much hope will be remedied over the next 12 months, because one key element agreed in Doha was a process to ratchet up ambition in 2014.
- Under this tool, each Party with a commitment for the second commitment period will revisit this commitment no later than 2014 with a view to increasing ambition in line with the more than 25-40% reduction that best available science requires from Annex I Parties.
- As a first step, we agreed in Doha that Parties with commitments under the second commitment period will submit information on their intention to increase their ambition for the second commitment period. They will also bring forward information on their emission trends, projections and the potential for increasing their ambition. This information will be considered by Ministers at a roundtable event in Bonn next June. We need to make sure here in Warsaw that the necessary arrangements are in place to make this happen.
- So, Mr President, 2014 is a year of great expectations and a time for true leadership. A number of Annex B Parties are well on the way towards achieving their commitments - because largely because these commitments were not sufficiently stringent in the first place. We expect the progress they have made to date be reflected in 2014 in commitments to deeper emission reductions for the second commitment period, to be reflected in adjustments to their QELROs over the next 12 months.
- Developed countries sought this ratchet up provision in exchange for our acquiescence to an 8-year commitment period. We now expect

that developed country Parties will now use this mechanism to deliver the increases in ambition necessary to meet the demands of science and truly lead in tackling climate change.

- Equally, we expect those Annex I Kyoto Parties that do not have commitments under Kyoto's second commitment period to provide information on their plans to increase ambition under the Convention for 2020 - since we are all well aware we have a gap in mitigation ambition that must be closed.

Mr. President,

- AOSIS looks forward to both very substantive and very productive discussions at this session.
- We urge all Parties to expedite their national processes for the submission of letters of approval, so that the Doha Amendments enter into force at the earliest possible time.
- And, as always, the members of AOSIS assure you of our full support.