



Statement delivered by Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States
(AOSIS) SBI Opening Plenary
Bonn, Germany
4 June 2014

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

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.

AOSIS aligns itself with the statement made by Bolivia on behalf the Group of 77 and China, and the statements made by Nepal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group and Sudan on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The contributions of the IPCC Working Groups 2 and 3 to the fifth assessment report confirm what we are already experiencing in small island developing states—the detrimental effects of climate change such as sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events. The report projected with high confidence that sea-level rise will exacerbate inundation, storm surge, erosion and other coastal hazards, thus threatening vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities that support the livelihoods of island communities. Our food security may be particularly impacted, according to the IPCC, which found it is very likely that subsistence and commercial agriculture on small islands will be adversely affected by climate change. The 5th Assessment Report leaves little doubt that small island developing states are facing numerous life-threatening and life-altering impacts. Simply put, without urgent action we will run out of food and land.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, we strongly support the statement by G77 on the importance of making progress at this session on the second review of the Adaptation Fund to ensure the sustainability and adequacy of its resources. Furthermore, I would like to highlight two main priorities of AOSIS under the SBI for this session: Loss and Damage and Review.

As you know, the impacts of climate change are accelerating across the world, and our membership has been particularly hard hit. There are and will be

resulting losses and damages that we can no longer prevent through mitigation, and which will overwhelm our capacity to adapt. AOSIS first brought the issue of Loss and Damage to international attention over two decades ago and has been one of its most forthright champions from its inception to the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism last year. For this reason, we are extremely disappointed that there is currently no representative from AOSIS on the interim Executive Committee, and we have initiated consultations to correct this. We must insist that there be a permanent SIDS seat on the Executive Committee on the Warsaw International Mechanism, and look for a decision on this matter at COP20.

Second, it is essential that the actions we take are informed by the latest science, and therefore the 2013-2015 review is a priority on our agenda. The Joint SBI/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 goal. The Review must be based on the best, latest and most relevant science and must ultimately consider the specific impacts and risks to key sectors and systems at different levels of warming with a focus on particularly vulnerable countries such as SIDS and LDCs.

AOSIS is of the view that the Structured Expert Dialogue should take into consideration national and regional reports, studies, and other credible sources of information that are not always included in peer-reviewed journals in order to get a more complete picture of the effects of related-climate impacts.

Mr. Chairman, as always we appreciate your leadership and stand ready to help achieve our shared goals.

Thank you.