



## **Implementation of all of the elements of decision 1/CP.17 Matters related to paragraph 7**

### **Submission by the Republic of Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**

The Republic of Nauru, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), welcomes this opportunity to provide views in response to the request under FCCC/ADP/2012/3, paragraph 22, for information, views and proposals on the work of the ADP. This submission elaborates on our 1 September 2013 and 7 June 2014 submissions.

Enhancing ambition in the pre-2020 period requires the full implementation of previous commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol and the agreed outcome of the Bali Action Plan on mitigation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building. In this regard, sufficient time should be allocated during the ADP sessions for Parties to further advance the issues raised in paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision 1/CP.19.

Regarding paragraphs 7 of decision 1/CP.17, previous AOSIS submissions have explained how a technical, collaborative and solutions-focused process under ADP Workstream 2 can further its mandate “to identify and to explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap with a view to ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all Parties”.

The efforts to close the mitigation gap must be led by developed countries. Nonetheless, the WS2 technical process should accelerate near-term mitigation action by examining mitigation opportunities in *both* developed and developing countries, as well as their associated co-benefits and barriers to implementation. The examination should include the specific means of implementation – financial resources, technology, and capacity building – needed by developing countries to take advantage of mitigation opportunities consistent with their own nationally determined development objectives.

The WS2 technical process should leverage key strengths of the UNFCCC, including by using its convening power to foster a robust multi-stakeholder dialogue and by identifying ways to more effectively mobilize the Convention bodies.

There is a growing consensus, reflected in the recent informal note of the Co-Chairs, that the WS2 technical process has made a very positive contribution to the UNFCCC. The Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) in particular have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from both developed and developing country Parties. Therefore, **the WS2 technical process should continue until the mitigation ambition gap is closed.**

The WS2 technical process can be improved by:

1. Increasing the effectiveness of the TEMs;

2. Linking WS2 with mitigation initiatives;
3. Convening annual mitigation ambition ministerial/high-level meetings;
4. Creating and maintaining a dynamic online menu of policy options; and
5. Providing adequate technical and administrative support for WS2 activities.

## **1. Increase the effectiveness of the TEMs**

To maximize the effectiveness of the TEMs, AOSIS proposes the following:

- Significant advance notice (at least three months) should be provided to Parties regarding the specific topics to be covered at upcoming TEMs, which would improve preparation of and facilitate greater participation by Party and non-Party stakeholders with relevant expertise on the specific topic to be addressed. This notice should include the meeting agenda, names of facilitators, and any framing questions or background papers.
- Party and non-Party expert stakeholders, including representatives from relevant ministries, subnational and local governments, civil society, and the private sector, should be provided with the opportunity to meaningfully participate in TEMs discussions.
- More time at TEMs should be allocated to interaction and discussion among experts. TEMs should go beyond panels followed by Q&A and make use of innovative meeting formats (e.g., breakout groups) when appropriate and useful for drilling down on policy options and finding ways to address identified barriers to implementation.
- Subsequent TEMs should build on the discussions from earlier TEMs with the objective of identifying specific desirable policy options and the political, technical and finance interventions necessary to implement the policy options, which might include agreements to overcome collective action problems. In this respect, the Secretariat should enlist the assistance of outside agencies with relevant expertise in the planning of TEMs and preparation of relevant documents.
- All Parties should be encouraged to propose topics for future TEMs on opportunities with significant mitigation potential.

In addition, there are many international and regional events throughout the year when experts gather to discuss issues relevant to the policy options and good practices being discussed under the WS2 technical process. Many of these experts may not be able to attend WS2 TEMs during formal sessions of the UNFCCC. Parties should explore options for engaging these experts in the context of these outside events or potentially through regional TEMs so that WS2 may benefit from their expertise. For example, the organizers of those events should be encouraged to submit to the UNFCCC any outcomes relevant to the work of WS2. These supplementary, or regional, meetings in parallel to the plenary TEMs will allow for deeper analysis of regional situations.

## **2. Linking WS2 with mitigation initiatives**

Many successful mitigation initiatives have already been highlighted in the TEMs, demonstrating that many effective models for cooperative action already exist. WS2 can help Parties and other non-Party stakeholders involved in these initiatives, including those announced at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, in the following ways:

- Providing a platform (by virtue of the UNFCCC's convening power) to showcase and raise awareness of mitigation initiatives by sharing technical information and case studies through WS2 submissions and TEMs;
- Highlighting progress of initiatives at annual ministerial/high-level meetings (see below), including opportunities to scale-up ambition, expand participation, and mobilise additional resources; and
- Identifying ways in which the Convention bodies could help scale up these mitigation activities.

There is also value in examining existing mitigation initiatives to help Parties identify the gaps in the international programmes and cooperative initiatives supporting implementation. Through this work WS2 can catalyse the expansion of existing initiatives and the launch of new initiatives. Whether these new or expanded initiatives would be coordinated through the UNFCCC or other external bodies will depend on the nature of the initiatives and the participants.

For example, many small island developing States (SIDS) have set ambitious targets for increasing the share of renewable energy in their domestic energy systems over the coming decades. IRENA has been studying the potential for and barriers to renewable energy in SIDS. WS2 can be used as a platform for bringing together SIDS stakeholders and IRENA with development partners, implementing agencies, and appropriate Convention bodies to accelerate efforts by the participating countries. Such action would then occur outside the UNFCCC.

### **3. Convening annual mitigation action Ministerial/high-level meetings**

AOSIS proposes annual COP ministerial/high-level sessions on enhancing mitigation action (beginning with COP20) in order to ensure a dedicated space for consideration of enhanced mitigation opportunities by ministers. "Ministerial champions" should be invited to highlight progress on specific actions and initiatives, including those announced at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, as well as opportunities to scale-up ambition, expand participation, and mobilise additional resources. Ministers should also provide guidance on how Convention bodies can be leveraged to better support these efforts.

We should learn from past high-level meetings and ensure that sufficient time is allocated to interactive discussion and collaboration around concrete initiatives. In essence, these ministerials should be the political equivalent of the TEMs – focused on solutions and the corresponding multilateral cooperation and/or means of implementation that will be needed.

Further, drawing on the structure of the upcoming Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and recognizing that considerable climate action can be undertaken by private actors, there should be an opportunity for non-Party stakeholders to meaningfully participate in both these high-level sessions and in the mitigation action that results from them.

### **4. Creating and maintaining a dynamic online menu of policy options**

The Technical Paper produced following the first set of TEMs provided a good synthesis of the information contributed by Party and non-Party stakeholders. However, the TEMs are on-going, and the sectors they are examining are always evolving. In order to better and more fully capture the dynamic nature of the information being generated and compiled under WS2, and pursuant to paragraph 4(c)(iii) of the Conclusions of the

Co-Chairs adopted in Warsaw, the Secretariat should create a dynamic online menu of policy options for enhancing mitigation action.

The online policy menu should be organized by policy option/good practice and should include detailed technical information for each, including:

- Climate benefits;
- Other co-benefits;
- Costs, including type of financing required;
- Other barriers to implementation, including technology, capacity building, and collective action problems; and
- Strategies/options for removing barriers to implementation, including innovative business models and support from Convention bodies, UN agencies, and cooperative initiatives.

The following attributes would make this dynamic online policy menu a helpful addition to WS2 and the UNFCCC more broadly:

- It should be searchable by policy option, technology, available finance, etc.
- It should enable Parties to easily identify sources of support, including programs and initiatives, available to assist them in the implementation of policy options and good practices.
- It should be updated regularly based on the latest TEMs and Party and non-Party stakeholders submissions, and linked to other relevant sources of information to make it easy for Party and non-Party stakeholders to get the most up-to-date technical information on various policy options and good practices.

In addition, capturing technical information in an online tool would enable a much more thorough, focused and on-going examination of the barriers to implementation and sources of international support. This would help Parties more systematically identify opportunities for new cooperative action, as well as gaps and shortcomings in the current international support system, which could inform negotiations elsewhere in the UNFCCC process to better target financial, technology, and capacity building resources.

#### **5. Ensuring sufficient technical and administrative support for WS2 activities**

The proposals for improving WS2 outlined above will require additional resources and discussions on their budgetary implications should take place so that required decisions can be agreed in Lima. The UNFCCC secretariat, in particular, should be provided with sufficient resources to ensure a dedicated staff with relevant expertise in key sectors, to be able to fulfil its responsibilities, including organizing the TEMs and ministerial meetings, maintaining the dynamic online policy menu, and liaising with Parties and cooperative initiatives.

In addition, the Convention bodies should be engaged as appropriate, including the Technology Mechanism, the Capacity Building Forum, and the Standing Committee on Finance.