



**Statement by Maldives 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
Bonn, Germany**

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Colleagues,

The Maldives 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.

Co-Chairs,

At the outset, let me thank you for your diligent work and assure you of our support as we move into these critical discussions in the final months before Paris.

Since we last met in Geneva, Cyclone Pam and Typhoon Maysak left a trail of destruction in our member states of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, and FSM killing dozens, upending businesses and agriculture and destroying 90 percent of the housing stock in some of the affected communities. These extreme weather events are happening in the context of an average global temperature increase of less than 1 degree C, reminding us that without bold and very urgent action, far worse is yet to come and all countries will be affected.

The findings from the recent technical report from the Structured Expert Dialogue of the 2013-2015 Review should give us all very serious cause for concern: 2 degrees of warming is associated with very high risks that are incompatible with the objectives of the Convention. That said, the report confirms that limiting warming to well below 1.5 degrees C is still feasible, but requires early peaking and sharp reductions in global emissions. The science of the IPCC WG3 and 2014 UNEP Gap Report further shows that zero global GHG emissions would be needed by 2060-2080. To that end, the view of the most vulnerable countries, and the majority of Parties to the Convention is the right one - a 1.5 degree limit must be a part of the Paris agreement for the sake of present and future generations.

Co-Chairs,

Under all projected scenarios, avoiding the worst impacts of climate change require us to rapidly scale up and implement solutions in the near term. We believe Workstream 2 under the ADP, which focuses on pre-2020 ambition, has already produced a useful set of good practices and policy options for ramping up ambition. We look forward to advancing this work during the follow up Technical Expert Meetings on renewable energy and energy efficiency at this session.

Co-Chairs,

In terms of the Paris agreement, we have our work cut out for us here if we hope to stay on track for the looming deadline. Progress has been made, with a number of Parties coming forward with their iNDCs and pledges for the Green Climate Fund. AOSIS members are committed to tabling our iNDCs as soon as possible. But the truth is that the emissions reductions required to guarantee the survival of the members of AOSIS don't yet add up, and we still find ourselves a long way short of the goal of \$100 billion a year by 2020 in climate finance agreed in in Cancun.

AOSIS is of the view that the 2015 agreement must be an ambitious, legally binding Protocol capable of limiting warming to below 1.5 degrees. It needs to be designed to increase ambition through consecutive commitments toward achieving our long-term goal, and it must fill gaps in current climate finance architecture and flows, including the significant increased of support for adaptation projects in most-vulnerable countries and promote enhanced mitigation efforts. The barriers to access for capacity-constrained countries must also be addressed.

Co-Chairs,

Finally, with the effects of climate change already taking a toll, and other slow-onset impacts such as ocean acidification and sea level rise, now impossible to avoid, Loss and Damage must be anchored and given permanence in the 2015 agreement. We look forward to working with the international community to take the bold action so urgently needed in Paris. As it has been said, we are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and the last one that can do something about it.

Thank you.