

**Statement delivered by The Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) SBI Opening Plenary
Paris 2015**

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman,

The Maldives has the honor to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of 44 countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Mr. Chairman, we recognise that time is short here and we need to devote extra attention to the ADP at the expense of these talks. However, it should not set a precedent for how we conduct our business moving forward.

The recent findings of the 2013-2015 Review that was carried out by the COP with assistance from SBSTA and this body, underscore what communities on the frontlines of the climate change crisis have known for some time: that the so called “guardrail” of 2 °C is far from safe, and therefore wholly inadequate. It also found that, while more science on the 1.5 °C warming limit is needed we should endeavor to push the line of defense as low as possible.

Furthermore, the Structured Expert Dialogue concluded that limiting global warming to below 2 °C is still feasible and will bring about many co-benefits, but that the window for action is closing rapidly.

It is therefore essential that the actions we take here and in the new agreement are informed by the latest science, and the conclusions from the Review make it clear that we must scale up and deploy the solutions required to meet the “below 1.5” goal in earnest.

Mr. Chairman, AOSIS is committed to further improving the environmental integrity of the CDM. The ongoing review of the CDM modalities and procedures offers a welcome opportunity to build greater confidence in the CDM as a mitigation tool, through restrictions on certain project categories, and tightened “additionality” requirements.

In addition, we feel strongly that the review should be used to consider how the CDM itself can be used to generate substantial net emission reductions through various combinations of tools, including conservative baselines, discounting CERs upon issuance, shortened crediting periods and voluntary cancellations for the benefit of the environment.

At the same time, the CDM’s contribution to net mitigation should now be made unambiguous, through rules and systems to ensure no double counting of the same emission reductions between host and investor party.

Success in these areas will be crucial to helping the CDM further contribute to mitigation ambition and to the Convention's overall objective.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to Agenda Item 5 b, AOSIS also believes that there is room to improve the environmental integrity of Joint Implementation, as well as room to ensure that JI delivers net emission reductions that the atmosphere sees through its operation. We look forward to continued engagement in this area.

As always we appreciate your leadership and stand ready to help achieve our shared goals.

Thank you.