

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

Good morning Madam Chairperson and distinguished delegates. I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of 44 countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Madam Chairperson, the UNFCCC process must always be guided by climate change science and this is the body that addresses that science.

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 defence line as low as possible.

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

In fact, with warming of less than a degree, small islands and countries with low-lying coastal areas are already experiencing deadly and life-altering impacts, such as more frequent and intense storms, droughts, accelerating sea level rise, slow onset events, and other life-threatening impacts. We urge parties to expedite the approval of the Tech Report so we can put its findings to work as soon as possible.

The IPCC has confirmed that these impacts are likely to worsen under all emissions scenarios and that sea level rise will exacerbate coastal flooding, storm surges, erosion and other coastal hazards, threatening the vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities that support the livelihoods of island communities around the world. AOSIS is of the view that it is critical that SBSTA continue to carry out its mandate to develop methodologies for the reporting of financial information by developed countries.

Madam Chairperson, AOSIS also notes the importance of systematic observations for identifying and understanding Climate variability and Climate Change. We also recognize that most of the observations serve other purposes, including weather and air-quality forecasting, disaster risk reduction, water and food security, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, and sustainable development.

AOSIS would like to express our appreciation to the GCOS Secretariat for:
a) preparing the comprehensive report on the status of Global Observing System for the Climate (hereinafter the GCOS SR 2015), including the assessment of the adequacy of the global observing system and the progress made in the

implementation of the GCOS implementation plan for the global observing system for climate in support of the UNFCCC 2010. b) the draft outline of a new GCOS Implementation Plan, to be completed in 2016. c) the report on the workshop on Enhancing observations to support preparedness and adaptation in a changing climate-learning from the IPCC 5th Assessment organized in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change Secretariat.

We would also like to recognize the Global Framework Climate Services (GFCS) support for the National Adaptation Plan process. We encourage the GFCS to continue to support action under the Convention under all priority areas, including under the new energy priority area AOSIS would also like to congratulate Professor Petteri Taalas on his election as the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization and thank Michael Jarrud the outgoing Secretary General for his contributions to the WMO.

Finally, with respect to agenda item 11 we feel that now is the time to formally adopt the rule set for the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period. We emphasize, however, that this must be done in a manner that fully respects the set of rules agreed in Doha for the environmental integrity of the Protocol. These include new Article 3.7*ter*, new eligibility requirements agreed in connection with the mechanisms, restrictions on the carryover and use of surplus units to those Parties that have Annex B commitments for the second commitment period, and cancellation rules. We agreed these rules for very good reasons and only after extremely lengthy deliberations, and this must not be forgotten.

We assure you of our support and look forward to make immediate progress in these areas.

Thank you.