

AOSIS Overview Statement  
UNFCCC Climate Change Conference  
May 2016  
Bonn, Germany

Madame President, Executive Secretary, Colleagues,

It is my privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, a coalition of 44 small island and coastal states that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

At the outset let me thank you all for your extraordinary leadership and accomplishments over the past year. Many of us have been working to build an effective climate change agreement together for years and we should all be proud of what we achieved together in Paris.

But we also know that much hard work is still ahead of us and there is very little time to do it. We support the way forward proposed in the agenda and are eager to make progress as we prepare for COP 22 in Morocco.

Indeed, an onslaught of climate change impacts across our membership this year alone underscores the pressing need to implement the Paris Agreement in earnest. In February, Fiji was hit with the one of the most powerful cyclones ever to make landfall. That was followed by one of the worst droughts ever to hit the Western Pacific, leading to water emergencies in Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. The Caribbean region is experiencing severe drought conditions, for example, Antigua and Barbuda is experiencing its worst drought in history, leading to a water crisis. Across the wider Caribbean, governments are forced to implement scheduled water usage. Then perhaps the most severe coral-bleaching event ever turned reefs bone white across the tropics. And just last week scientists confirmed that five islands in the Solomon archipelago have been lost to sea level rise. We cannot afford to let the world lose the sense of urgency for climate action that preceded the Paris conference. The stakes are higher than ever.

These impacts and record high temperatures globally already occurring for a global mean warming of around 1oC reinforces the necessity and wisdom of the Paris Agreement long term temperature limit of 1.5oC, and they reinforce our understanding that this is a limit we must not breach and that all efforts globally now need to go into peaking and then reducing global emissions as fast as possible.

It is no accident, then, that several of our members were among the first to complete the domestic ratification processes for the Paris Agreement and we were encouraged that the signing ceremony last month saw a record number of

signatories. We urge all countries to follow suit so that we see the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

The diplomatic community has shown how seriously it takes climate change. Now we have to carry this momentum home so that we take the action required to avert the worst impacts of the crisis and adapt to the ones that can no longer be avoided.

Unfortunately, even if all countries fully meet their INDC commitments made in Paris, we would still be on track for warming well in excess of our global goal of 1.5 degrees. This would spell catastrophe for our members and, indeed, the rest of the world as well. We must use our time at this session and in the lead up to Morocco to facilitate the rapid scaling up of climate action.

At the same time, the finance support developing countries need to make the transition to renewable energy and adapt to impacts is well short of the \$100 billion per year by 2020 pledge and UNEP's recent Adaptation Finance Gap Report reminds us that the total finance for adaptation in 2030 would have to be approximately 6 to 13 times greater than international public finance today. Climate change cannot be solved without adequate support.

The good news is that the solutions are more cost effective the sooner we implement them and success stories for climate action abound. Our job now is to seize the opportunities and bring them to scale around the world. Let's get started