

APA 1-3
AOSIS Opening Statement
Bonn, Germany

Co-Chairs,

On behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) thank you for your continued leadership and hard work. As you know, Fiji, one of our members, will serve as President of COP 23. Having a Small Island Developing State serving in this role underscores not only the existential threat we face from climate change, but also the leadership we are taking to do something about it. It is critical that we set the stage here to make the SIDS COP a success later this year.

It is clear the impacts of climate change are worsening daily. Since we met in Marrakesh, five islands in the Solomon Islands archipelago were lost to sea level rise and an onslaught of ominous climate records were set around the world. It is our responsibility to urgently progress our work on the Paris Agreement in earnest.

We must make measurable progress here. By the end of this session, Parties should have identified critical elements required for further consideration and development in to text at COP 23.

Much work remains:

Firstly, it will be critical to ensure that guidance on features, information, and accounting for NDCs help us accelerate our efforts to limit global temperature increases to no more than 1.5°C. This is particularly important and has direct implications on the adaptation efforts that countries need to undertake, which in turn will be reflected in countries' adaptation communications.

Secondly, developing the transparency framework of Paris Agreement will be an essential component of the Paris work programme. We must move to text by COP23 at the latest in order to meet the 2018 deadline set in Marrakesh, and we encourage the Chairs and their facilitators to be proactive in moving us towards that text.

Third, delivery of the necessary means of implementation is critical for the full implementation of our NDCs, especially for SIDS, which are already struggling with climate impacts.

Fourth, reaching a decision on how the Adaptation Fund can serve the Paris Agreement is a priority for AOSIS. While the views from Parties shared in the submissions were helpful, it is our view that the matter is now ready for a decision. Also, initiating work on a new collective quantified finance goal will be central to making real progress. In addition, sources of finance for loss and damage need to be defined in order to effectively implement Article 8 the Paris Agreement. We are reminded that financing decisions affects processes and process further affects outcomes.

Fifth, we look forward to advancing the work on the Article 15 mechanism on implementation and compliance. AOSIS stresses that this mechanism remains a critical component of the architecture of the Paris Agreement. As a result, its modalities should be developed in step with other mechanisms of the Agreement.

Finally, we are well aware that our collective mitigation commitments fall well short of what is needed to avert catastrophic climate change impacts. An effective Action Agenda is an important part of driving climate action in the near-term.

The Facilitated Dialogue in 2018 takes on urgent importance. The Facilitative Dialogue must be effective in informing Parties of the current level of ambition and what needs to be collectively done to stay on track for staying within the 1.5-degree limit we set in Paris.

In that context the Dialogue should identify options for achieving this, with a view to inform Parties in preparing NDCs to be communicated by 2020. This is essential for the survival of SIDS and to avoid catastrophic impacts in all countries. The IPCC special report will be crucial input into that Dialogue.

We look forward to working with the current and incoming COP Presidency to ensure that the design of the Dialogue is fully completed by COP23 and carried out in 2018. We also urge countries to continue to ramp up their ambitions and aim to overachieve year after year.

Thank you.