

SBSTA 46  
AOSIS Opening Statement  
Bonn, Germany  
May 2017

Chair, On behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, I thank you for your exceptional work leading our work in Marrakesh and I assure you of our continued cooperation and support at this session.

I will quickly list some of the priorities for AOSIS at this session:

After another year of ominous climate records and tragic impacts around the world, including the loss of 5 islands in the Solomon Islands archipelago, it is clear that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees is absolutely critical. Having the Special Report on 1.5 degrees as early in 2018 as possible will be vital so it can properly be considered in time for the Facilitative Dialogue later that year. Already this year Cyclone Donna intensified to a Category 3 and hammered parts of Vanuatu.

This highlights the vulnerable nature and special circumstances of SIDS and the need to effectively address the issues of adaptation and loss and damage.

The harsh reality of worsening impacts for SIDS also underscores our need to find ways to work together cooperatively and collaboratively to raise our mitigation and adaptation ambition. In this context, we hope that Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, related to markets and to non-market approaches, can generate some of these opportunities.

With respect to markets, key priorities for AOSIS, include

- providing centralized oversight over all units or mitigation outcomes generated under the UNFCCC process or transferred for recognition at the international level toward achievement of NDCs;
- establishing a common international accounting framework, applicable to all Parties, so that we can ensure no double counting or claiming of reductions takes place and provide transparency;
- ensuring that use of market-based mechanisms do not erode the environmental integrity of Parties' NDCs, individually or in aggregate;
- ensuring that Article 6 delivers a substantial overall mitigation in global emissions, going beyond offsetting. Our recent submission on Articles 6.2 and 6.4 details how this can be achieved.
- And finally, delivering a share of proceeds to support the adaptation needs of particularly vulnerable developing country Parties

With respect to the work programme on non-market approaches, under Article 6.9, we look forward to the further elaboration of modalities for this work, and the identification of thematic areas of focus. In our view, this work could begin by exploring synergistic policy approaches in three initial thematic areas:

1. Fossil fuel subsidy reform
2. The phasing out of inefficient and polluting technologies
3. Opportunities to increase deployment of renewable energy technologies in power generation

In these areas of focus, work programme modalities might, for example, share best practices on synergistic approaches that promote innovation, and promote technologies by leveraging and generating adaptation and mitigation co-benefits. This framework has an important role to play in fostering NDC implementation and in identifying ways to engage non-Party stakeholders in implementation.

At this session AOSIS also looks forward to our engagement in the discussions to develop methodologies for accounting financial information under Article 9.7 of the Paris Agreement. We thank the Secretariat for the very helpful technical paper prepared to guide this work. We also appreciate the work of the co-facilitators in the progress made so far, which has been captured in the reflections note. We believe that the discussions on this item have matured to a stage where we can now capture them to form the basis for recommendations on elements to guide the development of the modalities for accounting financial information.

Finally, AOSIS welcomes the adoption of the decision on the Excom's report to the COP at COP 22, which approved the indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan of the Excom and provides guidance for further developing it. This ensures that work on loss and damage will continue. We also congratulate Parties for their hard work on the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, noting that Parties share a common understanding on the need for periodic review of the WIM in light of emerging and evolving circumstances. This bodes well for the role of the CMA in enhancing and strengthening the WIM as outlined in article 8 of the Paris Agreement.

Thank you.