

Submission by the Republic of Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Views on what available information should be considered at the in-session workshop on the 2013 - 2015 Review to be conducted at the thirty-eighth session of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies.

April 2013

Nauru welcomes the opportunity to present views on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a group of 44 countries among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

In-session workshop at thirty-eighth session of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies.

By Decision 1/CP.18, the COP requested the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, to organize the 2013-2015 review in a flexible and appropriate manner in line with decision 2/CP.17, so as to allow for adequate and timely consideration of the inputs to the 2013-2015 review as they become available. It also requested them, with the support of the secretariat, to take the steps necessary in 2013 for the subsidiary bodies to start the consideration of inputs without delay at their thirty-eighth sessions.

AOSIS is of the view that the strengthening of the long-term global goal to 1.5°C is critical to the survival of many small islands nations, least developed countries and coastal communities around the world. The 2013 - 2015 Review is therefore central to the achievement of the Article 2 of the Convention and, as such, needs to be carried out in a focused, organized and scientifically robust manner.

The 1/CP.18 mandate has within it a number of actions that have to be taken in order for the 2013 - 2015 Review to be successfully carried out, viz:

1. It calls for the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies to take the steps necessary to start the consideration of inputs at the thirty eighth session;
2. It calls for the establishment of a Joint Contact Group to assist the Conference of the Parties in conducting the review, supported by expert consideration;
3. It calls for the establishment of a Structured Expert Dialogue that aims to support the work of the joint contact group through a focused exchange of views, information and ideas, to ensure the scientific integrity of the review;

4. It calls for the subsidiary bodies, beginning in 2013 and with the assistance of the secretariat, to gather and compile information relevant for conducting the review, including the sources listed in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161.

AOSIS is of the view that these four mandates cannot be considered in isolation, but have to be seen as an integrated package of actions that reinforce each other and that need to be addressed at the Thirty Eighth Session of the SBs.

Priorities for the thirty-eighth session

The priorities for the Thirty Eighth Session should be to address all four sets of actions, as part of the process of initiating action on the implementation of the 2013 - 2015 Review.

Joint Contact Group

The COP mandate to the Joint Contact Group (JCG) is "to assist the Conference of the Parties in conducting the review, supported by expert consideration of the inputs referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161, through, inter alia, workshops and other in-session and intersessional activities in accordance with paragraph 162 of that decision."

It is clear from this, that the JCG has been assigned the responsibility for exercising leadership of the 2013 - 2015 Review process, under guidance from the Chairs the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

The establishment of the Joint Contact Group is therefore critical for the start of the formal Review processes. This should be accorded the highest priority at the thirty eighth session, with a view to completion within the first day, or two of the session.

The Joint Contact Group will also have to meet to develop the workplan for the Review of the "Overall progress made towards achieving the long term global goal, including a consideration of the implementation of the commitments under the Convention".

Structured Expert Dialogue (SED)

Decision 1/CP.18 also established "...a structured expert dialogue that aims to support the work of the joint contact group". The specific role of the Dialogue is to:

- a) Consider on an ongoing basis throughout the review the material from the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as it becomes available, as well as relevant inputs referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 161, that are published after the cut-off date of the Fifth Assessment Report, through regular scientific workshops and expert

- meetings and with the participation of Parties and experts, particularly from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- b) Assist the subsidiary bodies with the preparation and consideration of the synthesis reports on the review.

It is clear from the COP decision that this SED is intended to be the forum where the scientific inputs will be considered.

What is therefore required at the Thirty Eighth Session is for the SED to be established and become functional. This will require three sets of actions to be taken, viz:

- a) The appointment of the Facilitators of the Structured Expert Dialogue. This should be done by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies acting in collaboration with the constituencies specified in 1/CP.18
- b) A determination of the inputs that are to be considered by the SED for the review of the adequacy of the goal; and
- c) A workplan for the operations of the SED for the assessment of the adequacy of the long term global goal which should detail *inter alia* inputs required and rationale, source, timing of availability, and timing of consideration by the SED/JCG.

The SED needs to develop its own workplans so that it may begin work expeditiously. This workplan should contain a clear timeline to the end of 2015, and should identify the modalities that will be used for consideration of the inputs, synthesis of the inputs into reports to the JCG and consideration of the reports and development of recommendations by the JCG to the subsidiary bodies.

Consideration of Inputs - In-session Workshop at the thirty-eighth session

The mandate in this regard for the thirty-eighth session is to "... take the steps necessary in 2013 for the subsidiary bodies to start the consideration of inputs without delay at their thirty-eighth sessions."

The development of the workplans by the SED and the JCG at the thirty-eighth session, would go a long way in taking the steps necessary to start the consideration of inputs, by identifying what inputs are needed. These processes can be further augmented by the in-session workshop that has been proposed by the Chairs the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

Such a workshop, if held very early in the session, can provide a very useful input into the deliberations of the SED and JCG, and inform the development of their

workplans. The workshop should be a forum where Parties and experts are invited to, *inter alia*, provide their views on the types of inputs required and the rationale for same; on the sources of the inputs; and on the timing of their availability. The workshop report will be used to inform the deliberations on the workplan under the SED (which can include both formal and informal meetings), and to inform any overarching conclusions developed by the JCG, as appropriate

This will fulfill the mandate given by 1/CP.18 to take the steps necessary in 2013 for the subsidiary bodies to start the consideration of inputs without delay at their thirty-eighth sessions.

Gathering and Compiling Information

The JCG, in its conclusions at the thirty-eighth session, should invite parties, research organisations, scientific bodies, and all other interested entities to submit to the 2013 - 2015 Review process, information that would be relevant to the conduct of the Review in keeping with the scope, required inputs and timelines identified in the workplan of the SED. That information will be compiled by the Secretariat and used by the SED in its deliberations.