

KEY MESSAGES - OPENING STATEMENTS

Excellencies, colleague delegates, greetings.

Allow me to warmly congratulate the Government and people of Denmark on the hosting of this historic meeting. We thank you for the extraordinary preparations in this beautiful city of Copenhagen and we warmly welcome and thank the President of COP-15 for her leadership.

I associate myself with the statement made by G-88 and China ^{and} ~~and~~ the Africa Group

Mr. Chair, you have heard from AOSIS in the past ^{regarding} ~~and~~ our views on what we expect from this historic meeting are well known. You are aware that we believe that we have a moral imperative to act. All of us face this, but as small island states going under water, ~~since we are~~ ^{given that} losing our territorial integrity, facing increased poverty and frankly our ^{very} survival is threatened ~~and~~ we stand to lose the most if nothing happens ^{here}.

Naturally then, for ourselves and for the world, we are here to work towards an ambitious outcome that satisfies three criteria: one which addresses the threat from climate change in a manner that is commensurate with the scale of the problem faced by all; to do so with the ^{and adequacy} urgency ^{to agree on an outcome} needed; and ~~one~~ which guarantees the long term survival of SIDS and other vulnerable countries – LDCs, ^{as well as} countries in Africa ^{and Latin America} affected by drought and desertification.

We will not accept anything less; we cannot.

To achieve this ^{outcome}, requires two internationally ~~and~~ legally binding ^{instruments} ~~outcome~~, a view universally shared, although ~~we~~ ^{there may} disagree about the ^{be}

③ We endorse support for loss and damage including permanent loss and damage from slow onset events.

Pledge to work with the Presidency of the COP to make this^a successful – transparent, party driven process. Like all other parties, AOSIS will work for success – that is, to deliver a long-term solution.

AOSIS is ready for the task.

Thank you.