

# SAMOA



## CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

To The

## UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Second Session  
Geneva, 8-19 July 1996**

Statement

by

Ambassador Tuiloma Neroni Slade

Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations  
on Behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

**Ministerial Segment  
Wednesday, 17 July 1996**

**Statement by Ambassador Tuiloma Neroni Slade,**  
**Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations,**  
**on Behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**

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Mr President, Honourable Ministers,

I have the honour to speak for the 30 Convention Parties who are members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

We are here under obligation of the Convention and at the direction of the Berlin Mandate to strengthen, as a matter of urgency, the commitments of Annex I Parties, through the adoption of a Protocol or another legal instrument at the third session of the Conference of the Parties, and in a manner consistent with the Convention's Objective.

The Convention's Objective directs us to stabilise atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Our small island and low-lying developing countries believe that we have discerned first hand the dangerous impacts of human interference with the climate system. Tropical storms of increasing frequency and severity are devastating our homes, national economies and development plans. Global sea level has risen between 10-25 cm in the past century: clearly, it poses the most profound threat to small island and low lying states.

We now have the conclusions of the IPCC Second Assessment Report, built upon transparent processes, based on the work of over 2000 leading scientists and endorsed by policymakers representing the global community. The conclusions confirm that impacts we have long known were dangerous will be felt in vulnerable areas around the world if action is not taken urgently to stabilise concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The SAR sounds a clear warning that we can no longer indiscriminately use the atmosphere as a dump for humankind's waste. We ignore this at the risk of the most serious consequences.

Uncertainties remain. But many of the anticipated changes may well be irreversible by the time there is certainty of outcome. Moreover, the momentum of change in the combined atmosphere-ocean system is such that the modifications of atmosphere composition taking place as a result of current human activity are already committing our children and their children to living in a world substantially worse to the one we know today. From the island perspective, dangerous anthropogenic interference is already occurring to the climate system.

Mr President,

While the Second Assessment Report fills us with concern, it also provides us with hope, for the success of our negotiations.

The IPCC considers that significant reductions in greenhouse gases are technically possible, and economically feasible. It also notes that significant "no regrets" opportunities are available; and that there is a rationale, on the basis of potential risk, for action beyond no-regrets at Annex I party level.

To stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations at or near present levels, immediate and very substantial cuts of about 50-70% of current levels of emissions are required. On the basis of the SAR estimates and projections, we believe that the targets and timetable proposed in the AOSIS Protocol remain credible and achievable.

The AOSIS Protocol proposes a flat rate of 20% cut in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at 1990 levels by 2005. This is only a first step, consistent with the IPCC report, and to be reviewed after 5 years, and subject to adjustments at that time as necessary.

The IPCC indicates that 10-30% reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions below present levels are feasible at zero or negative cost through "no regrets" measures. Using technologies that presently yield the highest output of energy services, efficiency gains of 50-60% would be technically feasible over the same time period.

A key task of COP2 is to endorse the IPCC SAR and to make a clear statement that a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent concentrations of greenhouse gases is dangerous and must be prevented. A Ministerial declaration from this COP to that effect is necessary; a clear responsibility Ministers must take. AOSIS believes that such a statement would also provide direction and encouragement to the Berlin Mandate process towards a protocol or another legal instrument for adoption at COP 3 next year.

Finally, Mr President,

In light of the discussions we have had this week, AOSIS would like to call the attention of Ministers to the principle of equity enshrined in Article 3.1. This principle compels us to acknowledge the role of historical emissions, the obligation to provide space for the development aspirations of poorer countries, and the need to provide for future generations. Accordingly, Article 3.1 requires the developed country Parties, all of them, to take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof. This principle of equity should not be distorted to justify delay on the basis of the national circumstances of any individual country or to frustrate the achievement of the Convention's Objective.

Thank you.

# RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Western Samoa NAME OF SPEAKER: Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade  
 DAY: 17/07/96 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTE-TAKER: Lo STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

AGBM-RELATED ISSUES		
The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: <i>to strengthen as a matter of urgency, the commitments of Annex I Parties.</i> <i>representing the 30 Convention Parties members of the Alliance of Small Island States</i>
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <i>- consistent with convention's objective.</i>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: <u>20</u> % by <u>2005</u> year <input type="checkbox"/> no <i>at 1990 levels</i>	Comments: <i>- to be reviewed after 5 years.</i> <i>- realistic, but demands world action.</i>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES	
Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <i>Substantial cuts of about 50-70% of current level of emissions are required.</i>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <i>- Development plans are hindered.</i> <i>- services of energy conservation is key.</i>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>Recognize the serious risk the climate is experiencing.</i> <i>- confirms climate will be substantially worse for children's generation.</i> <i>- permeates concern for the permanence of our planet; it also provides hope, for the success of our negotiations.</i> <i>- The targets + timetable proposed in AOSIS protocol is achievable</i> <i>- calls for its endorsement</i>

SBI-RELATED ISSUES		
Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments:
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments:	

OTHER COMMENTS:

*Most profound threat of altered climate system is to these small island States.*