

# OPENING STATEMENT FOR AOSIS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ENELE SOPOAGA FOR THE 9<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr President. AOSIS would like to congratulate you on your ~~the~~ election to the Chair.

We would also like to thank the Government of Italy for all the arrangements for hosting this 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties.

AOSIS welcomes the continued and strong interest in the Climate Change Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

*The earliest entry into force & implementation of the latter, the Kyoto Protocol, remains the highest priority to AOSIS*

Mr President

AOSIS notes the threat of the adverse impacts of climate change particularly for small island developing states. The imperative for real action is serious as pointed out in the United Nations General Assembly last year by the former chairman of AOSIS, HE Tuiloma Neroni Slade of Samoa, and also echoed by Ms Waller-Hunter at the UNGA and I quote,

*"... it may be just that we will manage to get our sustainable development policies right. Yet we will face the risk that all will be undermined because of climate change..."*

Clearly Mr President, we need action on adapting to the impacts of climate change. *to*

*this on year* and we draw attention to the International Meeting *to*  
the review of the BPOA to be held in Mauritius next  
Mr President.

As you know, AOSIS introduced the concept of insurance at INC 3 in 1991. We are very pleased that this issue is gaining momentum. We are grateful for the recent UNDP workshop for small island developing states on *Insurance and Climate Related Extreme Weather Events*.

As a sustainable development and climate change necessity, it is important that we elaborate mechanisms for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency

technologies. We welcome the ongoing work of the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition that evolved out of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa.

We see that there is a need to link development and transfer of renewable energy technologies with the Special Climate Change Fund. However the Special Climate Change Fund should ~~also~~ <sup>top</sup> give priority to adaptation activities as recognised by the synthesis report prepared by the Secretariat on the Fund.

*to the adverse  
impacts of climate  
change*

On the issue of funding, AOSIS feels compelled to raise here the importance of ensuring full participation of small island developing states at these important meetings. Currently the level of financial support for Small Island Developing States makes it extremely difficult for us to participate effectively.

AOSIS notes the important issues for discussion at the Conference. AOSIS has been participating actively in these discussions. In particular, we wish to see meaningful ~~emphasis~~ progress in Article 4.8 and 4.9. We also wish to be assured that sinks in the Clean Development Mechanism ensure that the environmental and socio-economic integrity of the CDM is maintained.

Mr President,

AOSIS stands ready to ensure that this COP a success.

Thank-you.