



**Statement to be delivered by Ms. Lara Daniel  
Second Secretary of Nauru to the United Nations  
Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)  
5th Session of the OWG-SDG on Sustainable Energy  
November 27, 2013**

**Co-Chairs,**

Nauru is pleased to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, namely the Pacific, Caribbean, and AIMS.

We thank you co-chairs for your leadership and excellent job in moving the process and work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development thus far.

We appreciate the presentations made by the eminent panelists, namely Professors Kammen and Modi, as well as the keynote from IRENA Director-General, Mr. Amin and the comments made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, SE4ALL, Mr. Yumkella. Your insightful and rich experiences and perspectives are most helpful.

In the same vein, we thank the UN Technical Support Team for their excellent work in the preparation of the Brief on Energy to guide our discussions yesterday and today.

We also want to acknowledge, with appreciation, the recommendation made by Professor Jeffrey Sachs and his able Group for the consideration of Climate Change and Sustainable Energy to be the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment or SDG in the post-2015 development agenda framework.

**Co-Chairs,**

Sustainable Energy is, without a doubt, the main factor of all productive activities and affects sustainable development. It is the key enabler for all countries, including SIDS, and all people to improve their standard of living and well-being through the creation of jobs, making businesses more competitive, promoting social development, and ensuring preservation and protection of natural environment for generations to come.

Our environment, energy, and socio-economic challenges are all related – and tackling them together offers the best chance to enable access to and lower the cost of electricity and transportation for households, the best chance to lower the cost of transaction and make businesses and industries more competitive, and the best chance to reduce carbon emission and other harmful impacts on our land, water, ocean and seas.

Serious considerations should therefore be given to Sustainable Energy as a dedicated and explicit Sustainable Development Goal in the post-2015 development agenda.

**Co-Chairs,**

Globally, energy security remains a key priority, and both sustainability and energy security are challenges that are global in nature. The issue of energy security is particularly topical because of the high fluctuations of oil prices and the effects of climate change that everyone, no matter where they are, is experiencing nowadays.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) know things are getting worse for us, as we watch our environments degrade before our very eyes. Climate change is an energy-related issue, and the efficient provision of reliable, accessible, and affordable energy services are critical to sustainable development and achievement of the MDGs. International actions to address climate change remains grossly inadequate and emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally at a distressing rate, indicating the need to address climate change as a cross cutting and persistent crisis.

Energy dependence is a major source of vulnerability for many SIDS and many remote and rural island communities have little or no access to modern and affordable energy services. At the same time, difficulties in expanding transportation and electricity generation to meet the growing demand are likely to remain the single most important constraining factor in the economic development of the majority of SIDS.

**Co-Chairs,**

Energy is a cross-cutting issue, which presents us with an opportunity to tackle some of the toughest challenges of our time.

To breed success in the transformation shift toward clean, modern, affordable, and accessible energy can help us create jobs, promote social protection, make economies and businesses more competitive, and ensure that we preserve and protect our environment for generations to come.

Such transformational shift will bring improvements as part of a larger socio-economic shift bringing resources and jobs to marginalized rural, remote, and poor communities such as those in the small island states in the Pacific, Caribbean, and AIMS regions. SIDS could revolutionize their fortunes if access to affordable and modern renewable energy services were in place because we have lots of wind, sun, and ocean.

**Co-Chairs,**

I also want to highlight some of the efforts of SIDS in the area of sustainable energy, including the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in the areas of, inter alia, access to affordable, modern energy services, renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development.

SIDS have also been making some progress in their joint pursuit of energy security and development of low carbon economies. Through a partnership involving the Alliance of Small Island States, the Governments of Denmark and Japan, the World Bank and the UNDP, SIDS have responded to this challenge by creating an institution to assist in increasing the amount of renewable energy in the energy portfolio mix and to increase energy efficiency. This sustainable energy initiative is called the SIDS DOCK and comprises members of SIDS and with support from our development partners has the potential to transform the energy sector of SIDS and create the foundation for low carbon growth and energy security by 2033.

We continue to call for an integrated approach to establishing or strengthening innovative regional and national energy roadmaps, with strong emphasis on both renewable energy and energy efficiency, detailed resource planning, and energy storage and capacity development, taking into account social, environmental, and economic considerations. We further call to improve the access to energy for poor and remote areas as well as instituting Regional Data Repositories and finance mechanism for the implementation of renewable energy projects in SIDS.

Sustainable development must have an inclusive agenda in the post-2015 development framework and specifically address the needs of countries in special case that are vulnerable.

SIDS recognize that we cannot overcome our challenges by ourselves. In the absence of cooperation and assistance from the international community, our success in this regard will remain but an illusion. International support, particularly with the means of implementation, is therefore paramount to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of SIDS in transforming its energy sector.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

In conclusion, I call for a united front and common vision for accessible, affordable, modern, and sustainable energy for all and that together we shall overcome all challenges and unlocking the opportunities that will secure the energy needs of our people and communities in the years to come.

The progress we make today will not only provide for the security, independence, and quality of life we aspire for, but it will also impact the lives of future generations. Sustainable Energy must be integrated as one of the SDGs under the post-2015 development framework.

I thank you.