

ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS)
INTERVENTION STATEMENT
on
Energy
Economic Growth, Employment, and Infrastructure
for
11th Session of Open Working Group on Sustainable Development
7 May 2014

Thank you, Co-Chairs for giving me the floor.

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of G77 & China.

Co-Chairs,

On Focus Area 6, water and sanitation we would like to add:

- i) Ensure resilience of water systems to natural and human-induced disasters, especially those exacerbated by climate change.
- ii) Propose on improving water-use efficiency in all sectors, with a particular focus on agriculture and industry.

Co-Chairs,

On Focus Area 7, we support the targets. We would like to remind parties that the accelerated deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency is essential both for the sustainable development of SIDS, and for the world to reach its climate change goals and targets. To this end, would like to call attention to the following points:

- The current timeline (i.e., by 2030) for investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency is not sufficient to ensure the sustainable development of the SIDS. We much accelerate the timeline to 5 years.
- To be successful, we must urgently develop an integrated approach to establishing and strengthening regional and national energy roadmaps, with special emphasis on renewable energy and energy efficiency, detailed resource planning, and energy storage and capacity development.
- On means of implementation, recognizing that some of these discussions are already happening under Sustainable Energy for All, and the UNFCCC, we would suggest the following:
 - Access to capital for renewable energy and energy efficiency;
 - Access to affordable renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies;
 - Technical assistance to develop domestic capacity to install and maintain renew and energy efficiency installations; and
 - Creation of an online energy database, which promotes international cooperation for research, skills, knowledge-sharing, technological development and implementation of appropriate renewable energy and energy efficient technologies will be central to making progress in the limited time available

Now I would like to turn to Focus Area 8, Economic Growth, Employment, and Infrastructure. It is essential that our efforts focus on a number of fundamental realities for developing countries, particularly SIDS when it comes to bringing our infrastructure into the 21st Century and growing our economies.

- We must stress the fundamental role social and economic infrastructure, such as land, maritime and air transport, ports, telecommunications, ICT, and energy play in enhancing competitiveness and integrating into global markets, particularly in countries in special circumstances like SIDS.
- Infrastructure development must take into account increasing natural and human induced disasters, especially those exacerbated by climate change.
- As economic growth is a major determinate of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, we must ensure that growth is both climate-friendly and climate-resilient.
- There is an imperative to also consider containment of any monopoly power that leads to prohibitive costs.
- There is a need to be conscious on the definition of youth, to ensure we do not tolerate child labor.
- We also see a utility in having targets for critical factors involving socio-economic development, such as increased productivity through savings and investment, performance of productive sectors of the economy (i.e. agriculture, fisheries, and tourism), trade, and human resource and institutional capacity.
- We must make use of proven macroeconomic policies, making use of monetary and fiscal instruments to raise productivity, create employment and income opportunities. These are preconditions for fostering responsive, resilient, and sustainable and economic growth.
- Scaling up investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency is a great opportunity to create jobs and income opportunities in countries with unique vulnerabilities such as SIDS.
- There is only mention of particular focus on LDCs but not other special case countries such as SIDS, but we must stress that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development due to their unique and particular vulnerabilities.
- Supporting effective and efficient delivery of financial products and services at national, regional, and international level is critical to improve the rate of saving and investment, especially for developing countries with unique and particular vulnerabilities such as SIDS.
- Economic and sectoral policies should strive toward strengthening linkages between financial intermediaries and productive economic activities at all levels to foster productivity and growth. This is currently something lacking in SIDS.
- Improving market access in developing countries, particularly those in special situations by creating better access to information and affordable transportation is vital for economic growth.
- Finally, supporting private sector led growth, by promoting investment in productive economic activities such as sustainable tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, is key to SIDS economic growth.

Thank you.