



# AOSIS Standpoint

The alliance of small island nations feel strongly that changes are not occurring rapidly enough and global climate goals referenced in the Paris Climate Agreement are not ambitious enough.

“The Maldives is one of the small states. We are not in a position to change the course of events in the world. But what you do or do not do here will greatly influence the fate of my people. It can also change the course of world history.”

Statement by H.E. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom (Maldives) 4 December 1997, Kyoto, Japan (COP 3)

## Highlights

At present SIDs have the lowest carbon emissions annually and are the lowest contributors to global warming. Yet we are the most globally vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The SIDs are at risk of rising sea levels, tropical storms, el nino oscillation events, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Displacements and migrations are culturally difficult to implement and there is a limited financial and practical capacity for movement of people, this is a mounting concern in the current global climate. Global trading systems are at risk which can have global economic consequences. SIDs are experiencing the effects of climate change that industrialized countries have brought upon them and they need to be held responsible for their reckless actions. Adaptation in the face of climate change needs to happen quickly and in a timely manner. However, they are costly and beyond the financial capacity of SIDs. Public health is the biggest concern as SIDs need health surveillance and forecast systems with routine vaccinations and health education to ensure minimal consequences.

## Examples of Vulnerable areas:

- In Barbados and many other islands, almost all foods, fuels, construction materials and other goods are imported
- In the Maldives and Papua New Guinea, some 50–80 per cent of the land area is less than 1 metre above mean sea level
- In the Seychelles, about 80 per cent of the infrastructure and population are found along the coast
- Critically limited resources are required to address pressing short-term environmental problems in Grenada
- In Palau, prolonged droughts are experienced during El Niño Southern Oscillation events
- Throughout the South Pacific region, frequent and more intense tropical cyclones, as well as climate-related and other extreme events, were experienced during the 1990s.