

**Nauru Statement for Prep-Com on Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva Switzerland
14 – 15 July 2014**

Thank you Mr/Madam Co-Chairs for giving me the floor.

Nauru has the honor to deliver this statement and to provide its views on the post 2015 framework on disaster risk reduction.

Nauru like other small island developing states, continue to grapple with the effects of natural disasters, some with increased intensity and some exacerbated by climate change, which impedes progress towards sustainable development.

The fragile natural environment and biodiversity of Nauru are highly vulnerable to climate change - a vulnerability that is compounded by the environmental disaster caused by the phosphate mining. This will further exacerbate the impacts of natural disasters in addition to those impacts that are exacerbated by climate change. Thus, increasing the vulnerability of Nauru to natural disaster and climate change to a great extent.

The population and infrastructure in Nauru is almost exclusively located in the coastal zone. While Nauru established a disaster risk management unit in 2010, it continues to lack an appropriate disaster alert system in place. For example, there is no local weather monitoring station to alert the nation of (any impending) natural disasters and no siren in place to alert the public for an effective nationwide evacuation.

Nauru acknowledge the relevance of the recent consultation that took place in the Pacific to this work and further reiterate some of the SIDS specific statements and call for actions that were identified in the SAMOA Pathway adopted last Friday by the Preparatory Committee to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which include the following:

- There is a critical need to build resilience of countries and strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increased preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters. This includes establishing the most basic but vital infrastructures in place such as weather monitoring stations and early warning systems.
- Enable SIDS to access technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, post disaster response and post disaster recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programs.
- Strengthen and support SIDS with contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population

evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, including women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and people with disabilities.

- Support SIDS efforts to mainstream policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development into national planning.

On the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster, Nauru provides the following views:

- While the post 2015 framework is a global framework it must take into account special case and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS.
- Stress the need for a concise, ambitious and action oriented post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation, and incorporates implementation framework to address implementation gaps and when they exist.
- Need for strengthening national systems for monitoring and supporting the implementation of the post-2015 framework, which could include periodic review of the post 2015 framework. For this matter, National finance, planning institutions and relevant agencies play a central role.
- Need for linkages between the post 2015 framework and the Sustainable Development Goals to strengthen coherence and reduce reporting obligations on countries with limited capacity.

Finally, on the link between the post 2015 framework and the UNFCCC pertaining to the guiding question reflected in Conference Document A/CONF.224/PC (1)/14:

- While we agree that Disaster Risk Reduction is a theme that is common to both the Hyogo Framework for Action and the UNFCCC.
- Nevertheless, there are some significant distinctions between the Hyogo Framework for Action and the UNFCCC that need to guide the framing of and the development of disaster risk reduction targets in the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

More specifically:

- Under the UNFCCC, risks are related to anthropogenic climate change and the added burden of the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on top of existing risk from natural hazards
- The UNFCCC aims to reduce anthropogenic or human induced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to stabilize GHG concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system
- UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol operates under legally binding provisions, and particularly on the premise that increased risks in many vulnerable

developing countries is due to anthropogenic climate change and from cumulative historical anthropogenic GHG emissions and future GHG emissions that have been generated largely outside of these vulnerable developing countries

- The international community under the UNFCCC has already placed a legal obligation on developed countries to provide the incremental cost of measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to the adverse impacts of anthropogenic of climate change
- Under these elements, adaptation costs are explicitly linked to financial, technical and capacity building support from developed country Parties

Under the Hyogo Framework for Action,

- Its scope is limited to disasters caused by natural hazards
- The disaster risk reduction approach under the Hyogo Framework for Action aims to reduce the financial burden to donors of humanitarian assistance and aims at reducing natural hazards
- It does not acknowledge GHG emissions as an external driver of the risk for many countries or address the need for mitigation or emission of GHG as a means of lowering the cross boundary risk to other countries
- International financial support is voluntary and does not contemplate mandatory financial support from developed countries to impacted developing countries
- Hyogo addresses what can be done at the national level using national resources, national institutions including using national funding
- Under Hyogo, the State has the primary responsibilities for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to ensure to reduce disaster risk reduction

Having identified some important key differences, it is therefore important that the post 2015 framework have some clarity on how the different objectives, contexts and legal obligations of the two frameworks are considered.

Let me assure you of Nauru's continued support to the work on the post 2015 framework.

I thank you!

