

PAPER NO. 11: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS))

*Introduction to the
Draft Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change
submitted by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the
Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)*

BACKGROUND:

The text of a Draft Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Draft Protocol), was submitted by the government of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on 20 September 1994, six months prior to the first Conference of the Parties (COP1), and in accordance with Article 17 of the Convention.

During COP1 in Berlin, the Draft Protocol played a central role in the negotiation of the Parties' decision on the adequacy of the commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b) of the Convention, and in the drafting of the Berlin Mandate which establishes a process aimed at strengthening those commitments. At COP1, more than 70 Parties and signatories to the Convention associated themselves with a proposal calling for the post-Berlin process to "be based on the proposal for a protocol by the Alliance of Small Island States." The Berlin Mandate, adopted by consensus at the close of the COP1, provides that the "protocol proposal of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which contains specific reduction targets and was formally submitted in accordance with Article 17 of the Convention, along with other proposals and pertinent documents, should be included for consideration in the process."

The following comments are based on the intervention of Ambassador Annette des Iles, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of AOSIS at the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, and have been updated to emphasise their consistency with the provisions of the Berlin Mandate.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The primary aim of the Draft Protocol is to build on the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Convention) by strengthening the specific commitments of developed country Parties to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂); by requiring developed country Parties to adopt specific targets and timetables for the control of emissions of