

**Report of
Ambassador Enele S Sopoaga (Tuvalu)
AOSIS Representative COP8 Bureau of
Eighteenth Session of the
Subsidiary Bodies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
June 2003
Bonn, Germany**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Eighteenth Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB-18) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were held from 4-13 June 2003, in Bonn, Germany. Over 1288 participants attended the meeting, though it was evident that a number of AOSIS countries were not present. The main problem was caused by shortage of funding (see later discussion).

2. General Overview:

- 2.1 Intersessional SB meetings are generally typified by slow progress on most issues as Parties are unwilling to conclude on issues before the COP. This meeting was no exception. Discussions on the Budget appeared to be the most contentious and lasted till the end of the final day. Of considerable concern is the fact that the United States clearly wishes to differentiate between funding associated with the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.
- 2.2 One notable element of the SB was the apparent intransigence of OPEC countries on a number of issues, despite considerable overtures to accommodate their interests. There appeared to be an orchestrated move aimed at demonstrating to the Russians that the Kyoto Protocol was not going anywhere and that the Russians should think hard about whether or not to ratify the KP. The intransigence of the OPEC lead to no text coming forward on Articles 4.8 and 4.9 despite many countries (including AOSIS) bending over backwards to accommodate their concerns. The debate on this issue lead to a split in the G-77/China with AOSIS taking one viewpoint and the OPEC faction (including the spokesperson for the G-77/China – a non-OPEC country) taking another. Despite personal attacks on some AOSIS members, we were able to clearly indicate that we would not accept the OPEC blocking tactics.
- 2.3 In a number of agenda items, Annex I Parties attempted to insert language that linked adaptation to mitigation. This appeared to be aimed at progressing the issue of developing country commitments in the second commitment period. This was not a clever move. Implying that adaptation funding was conditional on mitigation action incurred the wrath of the G-77/China and did not please AOSIS. AOSIS is in a very strategic position to move forward on the issue of developing countries commitments (in whatever form these may take). Linking the issue to adaptation is not going to help this advancement.
- 2.4 The other substantial issue at SB-18 was the discussion on modalities for including sinks in the CDM. Confusion still reigns on this issue, with the consolidated negotiating text containing four definitions on baselines. This in itself vindicates AOSIS's cautious approach to this issue. As it stands all of AOSIS's text proposals remain.

- 2.5 It is highly unlikely that Russia will ratify the Kyoto Protocol in time for a possible COP/MOP in Milan. Apart from the complexities of the Russian bureaucracy, it appears that Russia is still looking for indicators on future developing country commitments. AOSIS is well placed to give an assurance that we are willing to move forward on this issue. We may need to consider whether we should prepare a paper for the World Climate Conference being held in Moscow in September on this issue.
- 2.6 In the absence of the President of the previous COP (India), AOSIS's representative on the Bureau, Tuvalu, had the honour of chairing the Bureau meeting at the SBI.
- 2.7 A copy of my report of that Bureau meeting is attached as Annex I to his report.

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVICE (SBSTA)

3. **Agenda Item 3(a) and (b) Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Scientific, Technical and Socio-economic Aspects of Impacts of, and Vulnerability and Adaptation to, Climate Change: Scientific, Technical and Socio-Economic Aspects of Mitigation:**
 - 3.1 The SBSTA recalled that the TAR should be routinely used as a guide for agenda items on the COP and subsidiary bodies. The SBSTA decided to complete its work under the TAR agenda item under two heading relating to mitigation and adaptation. It invited Parties to submit by **30 October 2003** their views on the scope and priorities for the consideration of the two agenda items. The SBSTA also noted the two agenda items in relation to the objectives of the Convention and sustainable development.

Comment: Reference to the TAR continues to be a controversial issue. Some developing countries see this item as a link to commitments in the second commitment period. Needless to say so do many Annex I Parties. AOSIS (Mauritius) played a key role in getting quite a good outcome on this issue. The reference to continued consideration of agenda items and the reference to the objectives of the Convention help move the debate on scientific aspects of climate change and its impacts are important outcomes.

4. **Agenda Item 4(a) Methodological Issues: Review of Methodological Work under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol**
 - 4.1 The SBSTA noted the need to prioritize its methodological work as a means of assisting Parties in implementing their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. It invited Parties to submit, by **15 August 2003**, their views on elements of a possible future work programme. The conclusion included a table on initial proposals by Parties on elements of possible future work. This included items such as: revision of Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Good Practice Guidance on LULUCF, harvested wood products, work of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization, guidelines under Articles 5,7 and 8 of the KP, synthesis of third national communications, information on policies and measures, clearing house on technology transfer, methodologies for assessing adaptation technologies, guidelines for non-Annex I communication, and so forth.

Comment: This agenda items is very important as it brings together all the methodological work being undertaken in a broad range of issues. It could easily establish an agenda for steering discussions towards future commitments. There is no specific AOSIS coordinator for this issue. Nevertheless, AOSIS may wish to make a submission on this item before the August deadline.

5. Agenda Item 4(b) Methodological Issues: Issues relating to Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the Kyoto Protocol.

- 5.1 SBSTA prepared technical guidance on methodologies for adjustments under Article 5.2 of the Kyoto Protocol for use by Expert Review Teams to calculate adjustments. This agenda item included two draft decisions for COP 9: technical guidance on methodologies for adjustments under Article 5.2 of the KP and Issues relating to the implementation of Article 8 (Expert Review Teams) of the Kyoto Protocol.

Comment: AOSIS did not follow this issue. This is an unfortunate oversight. It would be useful to identify a technically competent AOSIS representative who can follow this issue and participate in Expert Review Teams.

6. Agenda Item 4(c) Methodological Issues: Issues Relating to Reporting and Review of Greenhouse Gas Inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

- 6.1 SBSTA recommended a draft decision for COP 9 on a training programme for members of expert review teams for technical reviews of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties; Code of conduct for the treatment of confidential information; and elements for inclusion in the agreement for expert review services.

Comment: AOSIS did not follow these discussions.

7. Agenda Item 4(d) Methodological Issues: Land use, land-use change and forestry: definitions and modalities for including afforestation and reforestation activities under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol:

- 7.1 SBSTA noted that it made progress on definitions and modalities for including A&R project activities under the CDM in the first commitment period and requested the Secretariat to organize pre- sessional consultations and agreed to continue its work on the draft negotiating text at SBSTA-19. SBSTA produced a draft negotiating text which includes an annex which contains a number of brackets on: definitions of forest, reforestation, and afforestation; carbon pools; project boundary; baseline net greenhouse gas removals by sinks; actual net greenhouse gas removals by sinks; leakage; issuance of various types of CERs; and non-permanence of projects. The annex also contains a bracketed appendix, providing guidance on the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of projects

Comment: This issue continues to be extremely complex. Currently there are 4 definitions on baselines. This is justification in itself for AOSIS's cautious approach to including sinks in the CDM. All of AOSIS's proposals relating to non-permanence, definitions and environmental and socio-economic impacts remain in the negotiating text. So too is AOSIS's insistence that the modalities for including sinks in the CDM relate only to the first commitment period. This is consistent with the mandate given in Marrakech. **The AOSIS coordinator for this issue is Tuvalu (Ian Fry).**

8. Agenda Item 4(e) Methodological Issues: Good Practice Guidance and other Information on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

- 8.1 The SBSTA noted progress on the IPCC's work LULUCF and decided to continue to consider work in relation to harvested wood products.

Comment: The scientists associated with the IPCC's work on LULUCF are working hard to develop good practice guidance on LULUCF. Their report is likely to be available at COP 9 and

may be submitted for adoption by the COP. We should be cautious with this process. While the IPCC produce excellent work, there are inherent biases associated with promoting the forestry sector and these biases may not truly represent good climate science. The issue of harvested wood products progresses slowly and again with certain inherent biases. We need to keep a watchful eye on this as well. **Tuvalu is the coordinator for this work (Ian Fry).**

9. Agenda Item 4(f) Methodological Issues: Emissions from Fuel used in International Aviation and Maritime Transport

- 9.1 SBSTA invited ICAO and IMO to hold two expert meetings before SB-20 to improve methodologies for estimating and reporting on emissions from these sectors.

Comment: In the final Plenary of SBSTA, Ambassador Astrada (Argentina) expressed concern about the response to this issue. He noted that emissions from airlines had doubled in the last decade, yet we were welcoming the information provided by ICAO. This is clearly one of the areas where we need to focus attention. It is a sensitive issue as SIDS are reliant on ship and airline transport. Some are flag states or owners of airlines. Nevertheless, these are major emissions sources that need to be addressed. **The AOSIS coordinator for this issue is the Bahamas (Mr Arthur W. Rolle).**

10. Agenda Item 5: Development and Transfer of Technologies

- 10.1 SBSTA requested the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) to consider including in the future work programme activities to enhance the development of environmentally sound technologies and consider the workshop on synergies with other conventions. The SBSTA requested to the Secretariat to organise a roundtable at COP 9 to discuss enabling environments for technology transfer, to organise a special meeting of the EGTT in India and to continue links with TT:CLEAR and other processes.

Comment: AOSIS may wish to explore synergies between the Johannesburg Coalition on Renewable Energy and the work of the EGTT. **The AOSIS coordinator for this issue is Trinidad and Tobago. He was appointed as an informal facilitator on this matter.**

11. Agenda Item 6: “Good Practices” in Policies and Measures among Parties included in Annex I to the Convention:

- 11.1 The SBSTA welcomed progress in the implementation of this issue.

Comment: This is one of the issues where OPEC countries continue to block progress. They are ably assisted by some members of the Umbrella Group. As we approach 2005 when Parties will be asked to assess their progress in meeting their target, the discussion on policies and measures will have greater significance. It is evident that Annex I Parties are no where near meeting their targets. We should remain vigilant on this issue, despite the difficulties. **Samoa has been the spokesperson on this issue. We may need to find someone else to replace the Samoan delegate when he leaves (see later note).**

12. Agenda Item 7: Research and Systematic Observation

- 12.1 The SBSTA requested Parties to submit by **15 September 2003** their views on priorities for actions arising from the Second Report on the Adequacy of the Global Observing Systems for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC. SBSTA also prepared a draft decision for COP 9 which request the GCOS to coordinate the development of a five-to-ten year implementation plan for integrated observing systems and to support developing countries, especially the least-developed and SIDS in baseline atmospheric networks and encouraged GCOS to establish a voluntary GCOS funding system.

Comment: The recognition of the needs of SIDS in developing climate observation systems is very important. We should consider making a submission on this important issue. **The AOSIS coordinator for this is the Cook Islands and Mauritius (Myra MOEKA'A and Soobaraj SOK APPADU)**

13. Agenda Item 8: Cooperation with Relevant International Organizations:

- 13.1 The SBSTA agreed to consider this item further and take into consideration the workshop to be held in Espoo, **Finland 2-4th July 2003**. It welcomed the IPCC decision to undertake a Fourth Assessment Report and encouraged Parties to coordinate issues relevant to the Convention and the WTO at the national level.

Comment: The development of the Fourth Assessment Report is important. AOSIS countries should try to find appropriate scientists to make contributions to this report. The text referring to the WTO is disappointing. The UNFCCC needs to explore this issue further. It is not just a matter for national governments. AOSIS did not have anyone following this issue at SBSTA. **Normally this is covered by Palau (not present at SB) or Tuvalu (overloaded with other agenda items).**

14. Agenda Item 9(a) Other Matters: Issues relating to cleaner or less greenhouse gas-emitting energy

- 14.1 The SBSTA did not complete consideration of this issue.

Comment: This is Canada's proposal to get credit for exporting natural gas to the US. AOSIS has made interventions in previous COPs and SBSTAs opposing Canada's proposal. **Samoa is the current AOSIS coordinator for this issue. We will need to consider a replacement when the current representative leaves.**

15. Agenda Item 9(b) Other Matters: Issues relating to the Implementation of Article 2.3 of the Kyoto Protocol

- 15.1 SBSTA did not complete consideration of this issue.

Comment: This is one of the OPEC countries favourite issues. It is not surprising that little progress was made. There is no specific AOSIS coordinator for this issue.

16. Agenda Item 9(c): Other Matters: Any Other Matters

- 16.1 SBSTA noted the importance of the World Climate Change Conference in Moscow in September, noted information provided by the World Climate Research Programme and the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme on the Brazilian proposal (model for attributing the sources of historic GHG emissions), and welcomed the Indian technology bazaar in New Delhi in **November 2003**. The SBSTA also noted that a special meeting of the EGTT and a workshop on adaptation will take place at the same time as the New Delhi bazaar. The SBSTA requested the Secretariat to develop the agenda for the adaptation workshop.

Comment: The proposal for an adaptation workshop in India is likely to create a special agenda item on this issue at the next SBSTA meeting. Given the strong position of the AOSIS on the issue of adaptation AOSIS representatives held discussions with the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and underscored the importance of progressing work on adaptation. AOSIS may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat in developing an agenda for this workshop. It may be an appropriate place to re-introduce the issue of insurance outside the difficulties of Article 4.8 and

4.9 discussions. In this respect MJ (FSM) indicated that she would circulate a report of the insurance workshop held in May, 2003.

AOSIS delegations also saw the necessity to build closer alliances with the likeminded parties on adaptation, and agreed to seek directions from respective Capitals with the view of progressing the idea at COP9.

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

17. Agenda item 3(a) and (b): National Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention:

- 17.1 The SBI concluded that the compilation and synthesis of third national communications from Annex I Parties merited further consideration.

Comment: As indicated in the AOSIS Brief for SB-18 most Annex I Parties are well above their emissions reduction targets. AOSIS may want to draw attention to this fact and use this as a basis for consideration of issues relating to future commitments. Currently there is no AOSIS coordinator for this issue.

18. Agenda Item 4(a): Financial Matters Relating to Parties Not Included in Annex I: Financial Mechanism: The Special Climate Change Fund

- 18.1 The SBI decided to consider, at SBI-19, further guidance to the GEF, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund and to recommend a draft decision for COP-9.

Comment: In discussions on this contentious issue, AOSIS emphasised the importance of funding for adaptation activities. **AOSIS's coordinator for this issue, Barbados (Rawlenson MOORE)** has been appointed co-chair. We may need to explore an alternative representative at the COP, bearing in mind that Barbados will continue to support our endeavours.

19. Agenda Item 4(b) Financial Matters Relating to Parties Not Included in Annex I: Provision of Financial and Technical Support.

- 19.1 The SBI acknowledged that financial resources would be required to enable the provision of detailed information as required for national communications from Non-Annex I Parties. It also noted that the frequency of submission of second and where appropriate third national communications by Non-Annex I Parties will be determined at COP 9 and that Parties are requested to submit their views on this frequency by 15th August 2003.

Comment: The new guidelines for Non-Annex I communications places a considerable burden on SIDS. AOSIS should highlight this point in any submission on this issue due in August. **Cuba (Sr Luis Raul PAZ CASTRO) is the AOSIS coordinator on this issue.**

20. Agenda Item 5: Capacity Building:

- 20.1 The SBI, in preparation for the conduct of the comprehensive review of implementation of the framework for capacity building in developing countries endorsed a terms of reference for this work. Among other conclusions the TOR said the report should identify needs and gaps and assessment of factors and constraints in capacity-building activities in developing countries.

Comment: The TOR for the capacity building review are fairly generic in nature. AOSIS may wish to consider the need for specific elements relating to adaptation needs of SIDS. **Guyana (Ms Denis SIMMONS) and Cook Islands (Myra MOEKA'A) followed and coordinated this issue for AOSIS.**

21. Agenda Item 6(a) Implementation of Article 4.8 and 4.9: Progress on the Implementation of Activities under Decision 5/CP.7 (modelling of response measures and insurance for impacts)

21.1 SBI did not reach a conclusion on this item and would consider it further at SBI-19.

Comment: As indicated earlier in the introduction, this is one of the issues where AOSIS had to stand up to the G-77/China, due to the blocking tactics of OPEC countries. The key element of this item is the discussion on insurance matters – a crucial issue for SIDS. The report of the workshop on insurance will be made available soon. It may be worth considering preparing an AOSIS submission on this issue prior to COP 9 as this was the intent of one of AOSIS's proposals on this issue, even though submissions have not been called for (because of the absence of any conclusion). **The Federated States of Micronesia (MJ MACE) is the AOSIS coordinator for this issue.**

22 Agenda Item 6(b): Implementation of Article 4.8 and 4.9: Matters relating to LDCs

22.1 The SBI noted that further discussion was needed to address modalities relating to the implementation of National Adaptation Plans of Action and that the implementation of NAPAs should promote integration of adaptation concerns into the development processes in LDCs.

Comment: The discussion on NAPAs appears to be a forerunner to funding on adaptation in general. Annex I Parties continue to place hurdles in the way of Least Developed Countries in their pursuit of receiving expedited funding for their immediate adaptation needs. The language in the decision referring to further consideration of modalities for implementation is a clear signal from Annex I Parties that funding for implementing NAPAs will not come easily. While AOSIS has a number of LDC constituents we should follow this issue as a whole as it appears to be establishing precedents for adaptation funding in general. **Samoa (Lavasa MALUA) is the AOSIS coordinator for this issue.**

23. Agenda Item 7: Article 6 of the Convention (education, training and public awareness):

23. The SBI welcomed the Secretariat's proposal for an Article 6 information network clearing house and invited the Secretariat to: continue work on the development of the clearing house project. The SBI also invited Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 15 August 2003, their views on possible ways to improve reporting in their national communications on activities aimed at implementing the New Delhi Article 6 work programme.

Comment: AOSIS may wish to prepare a submission in relation to Article 6 for the August deadline. The AOSIS coordinator for this issue is usually Niue, however he was not present at SB-18.

24. Agenda Item 8: Request from Group of Countries of Central Asia regarding their Status under the Convention

24.1 SBI did not reach a conclusion on this issue and would consider the item again at SB-19.

Comment: There is no AOSIS coordinator for this issue.

25. Agenda Item 9(a): Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings: COP 9

- 25.1 The SBI decided that round table discussions will be the mode of exchange during the high-level segment at COP 9. In the event that the COP would be held in conjunction with the COP/MOP, political statements will be the mode of exchanges during a joint high-level segment.

Comment: AOSIS was not directly involved in these consultations.

26. Agenda Item 9(b): Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings: Arrangements for the first COP/MOP

- 26.1 The SBI concluded that the meetings of the COP and COP/MOP would be held in conjunction, while recognising their legally distinct nature with separate agendas. COP 9 would have a high level segment would be held on the 10th and 11th December 2003.

Comment: AOSIS did not participate directly in the issue, due to internal differences in perspectives on how to organise the COP/MOP in relation to the COP.

27. Agenda Item 9(c): Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings: Future Sessional Periods

- 27.1 The SBI noted that the proposed dates for the 2008 sessional periods (2-13 June and 1-12 December 2008). It also noted the increasing difficulties faced by the UNFCCC process with regard to agenda management.

Comment: AOSIS was not directly involved in these consultations.

28. Agenda Item 9(d): Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings: Effective Participation in the Convention process.

- 28.1 The SBI invited the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and other bodies with limited membership and the Secretariat to continue efforts to facilitate effective participation and promote transparency in the process and report back at SBI-20. SBI also drafted a COP decision which recommends that the COP/MOP-1 adopt a draft decision on the arrangements for its first session.

Comment: AOSIS was not directly involved in these consultations.

29. Agenda Item 10(a) Administrative and Financial matters: Interim Financial Performance for the Biennium 2002-2003

- 29.1 The SBI noted the concern shared by Parties about the shortfall in the Trust Fund for Participation and requests the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of the Trust Fund's replenishment.

Comment: This is a crucial issue for AOSIS as a number of AOSIS countries were not able to attend due to funding difficulties. AOSIS countries should indicate early that they wish to attend COP 9 so that they do not miss out on funding.

30. Agenda Item 11(a) Other Matters: The Use of Guidelines for the Preparation of National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties: Report of the Workshop

- 30.1 Based on the recommendations of the workshop, SBI requested the secretariat to develop, in consultation with the CGE, a template to further facilitate the use of the

UNFCCC guidelines. The SBI also encouraged the secretariat to organize regional and sub-regional workshops on the use of the UNFCCC guidelines and to exchange experiences.

Comment: Despite concerns expressed at COP 8 by AOSIS about the burden they would create, the new guidelines for the preparation of national communications appear to have gained a life of their own and now appear a *fait-accompli*. At SBI, AOSIS said the implementation of the guidelines will require additional financial resources and capacity building. AOSIS should continue to work to highlight the special circumstances (i.e. limited capacity and funding) to undertake the next round of national communications. **The AOSIS coordinator for this issue is Cuba (Luis CASTRO).**

31. Agenda Item 11(b) Other Matters: Proposal by Croatia on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

31.1 The SBI decided to continue its consideration of this issue at SB-19.

Comment: AOSIS (Tuvalu) had informal consultations with the co-Chair on this matter.

32. Agenda Item 11(c) Other Matters: Special Circumstances of Croatia under Article 4.6 of the Convention

32.1 SBI invited Croatia to submit, by 30 September 2003, inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks including data from 1990 or earlier. The SBI would consider this further at SB-19

Comment: AOSIS (Tuvalu) has informal consultations with the co-Chair on this matter and supported the current conclusion.

OTHER ISSUES:

32. The Bureau Meeting at SB-18

32.1 The Bureau held a meeting during the SB. As indicated earlier Ambassador Sopoaga chaired this meeting. A report of the Bureau meeting is attached.

33. AOSIS Representation on various bodies:

33.1 AOSIS held preliminary discussions on nominations for various bodies and expert groups, so positions were confirmed.

Vice Chairs SBI and SBSTA and Rapporteur: It was noted that AOSIS is eligible to nominate people for these three positions. This will need to be considered at COP 9. Ambassador Ashe briefed the Group on matters related to its representation on the governing bodies of the Convention, and in response to a request for nominations from amongst the membership of AOSIS for the post of Chairman of SBSTA, it was recalled by Ambassador Ashe, who cited the provisions of Rule 22, para 1, of the UNFCCC's Rules of Procedure, as applied. He explained the last sentence of this paragraph in some detail, which was specifically added to exclude an AOSIS representative serving as either the President, the Chairman of a subsidiary body, or as the Rapporteur of the Bureau of the COP (see below), in the capacity of a representative from AOSIS as opposed to being a representative of the respective regional group:

Rule 22

1. At the commencement of the first meeting of each ordinary session, a President, seven Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies established by Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, and a Rapporteur shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. They will serve as the Bureau of the session. Each of the five regional groups shall be represented by two Bureau members and one Bureau member shall represent the small island developing states. **The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the five regional groups. (emphasis added)**

Although there is no such sentence in para 5 of Rule 27, which, *inter alia*, deals with the election of the Vice-Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Subsidiary Bodies, (Rule 27, para 5 states: "Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chairman of any subsidiary body other than those established by Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, shall be elected by that subsidiary body from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. The Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms of one year."), and while it is true that AOSIS is eligible for such positions, the practice (and indeed the explicit protocol) adhered to by AOSIS to date is not to field candidates to these positions, respecting the final sentence of Rule 22. This can be attributed to the fact that an AOSIS representative, who has an interest in any of the aforementioned positions, can seek the endorsement of his/her respective "regional group." for the position in question. To illustrate, at SB18, GRULAC endorsed Arthur Rolle of the Bahamas to complete the second year of Philip Weech's (he is now a member of the UNFCCC Secretariat) term as the Vice Chair of SBSTA; previously, the representative of Mauritius served in a similar capacity as a representative of the African Group on SBSTA.

AOSIS is well-represented in the Convention process. There is a need for caution when deciding to field candidates for what can be described as relatively minor positions, lest such a candidacy re-opens the debate on whether there should be an AOSIS seat on the COP. This is especially the case given that for positions such as these, the Group's members can contest these positions through their respective regional groups.

CDM Executive Board: It was re-confirmed that Ambassador Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) and Ms Desna Solofa (Samoan replacement for Ambassador Slade) have been endorsed by AOSIS to serve a second term on the CDM Executive Board when these positions become vacant in December of this year. It was agreed that Ms Solofa would replace Ambassador Slade as the Board's AOSIS alternate. In this regard it should be noted that while members on the Board serve in their individual capacity, precedent has been established to allow governments of the incumbent to nominate a replacement if the incumbent leaves during their term, as was the case in regards to Ms. Solofa. In all such decisions the final endorsement remains with AOSIS members, and that endorsement was re-confirmed at SB-18.

The Bureau: It was agreed that Pacific Island countries would consult at COP 9 to either renominate Ambassador Sopoaga for a second term or consider a replacement for the AOSIS representative on the Bureau. AOSIS members present at SB-18 considered that a representative from the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea should be considered for the Bureau seat at COP 10, bearing in mind that the AOSIS

Bureau seat has traditionally been held by the Pacific region, because of that region's well known marginalisation within the Asian Group, vis-a-vis the COP Bureau. Consideration is also needed to the fact that if a region of the Group is now desirous of having the seat rotated to it, such a rotation cannot be limited to one region but will have to include all regions. In this regard, it should be also be recalled that the Seychelles from AIMS region has been endorsed by the Group at COP 6.5 to be its representative on the Article 6 Committee (of the Kyoto Protocol); Seychelles is expected to serve for two consecutive terms .

Expert Group on Technology Transfer: Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) was confirmed to serve a second term as AOSIS's representative of the EGTT.

Furthermore, GRULAC has endorsed St Lucia to replace Barbados, which has voluntarily stepped down, on this Expert Group.

Expert Group on Non-Annex I Communications: AOSIS currently has representatives from GRULAC and the Asian Group on this group. These positions will fall vacant at COP 9. Due to internal complications with the Asia Group, it may be necessary to nominate an AOSIS representative from the Pacific directly.

Furthermore, GRULAC has endorsed Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas and Cuba for three of its five allocated seats on the Expert Group.

34. Consultations and Preparation of Brief for COP 9

- 34.1 It was agreed that FIELD and SPREP would undertake the editorial function of preparing the AOSIS brief for COP 9. To help facilitate this process it was suggested that issue coordinators for AOSIS would make contributions on their issues. Emails lists would be established to help facilitate greater input from AOSIS members into the brief.

Comment: To further improve AOSIS coordination, it was also thought useful that the synchronised AOSIS brief for COP9 was made available to the AOSIS Plenary meeting in New York immediately before the COP9, for information and also for coordination with Capitals.

35. Departure of FIELD (Samoan) Representative:

- 35.1 It was not officially announced at the AOSIS meeting (as he snuck out early), but reliable sources suggest that Jürgen Lefevere will soon be leaving FIELD to follow his heart and perhaps take up a position with the European Commission. Jürgen has been a tireless and dedicated contributor to the work of AOSIS for many years and has been the inspiration for many new initiatives under the AOSIS banner. We wish him all the best in his move.

36. Future Commitments:

- 36.1 As stated earlier, AOSIS is well placed to develop strategies for embracing wider commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. Also in order for AOSIS to maintain its formidable relevance as a negotiating Group, it needs the strongest support of Members governments through consistency of experts/negotiators' attendance at workshops, seminars and conferences. It was agreed that Ian Fry (Tuvalu) would facilitate AOSIS future discussions on this issue.

37. Negotiations Workshops

- 37.1 It was noted that SPREP had organised a workshop on negotiating skills for Climate Change negotiators in the Pacific just prior to SB-18. AOSIS members at SB-18 agreed that efforts should be made to explore funding opportunities to host similar workshops in

other AOSIS regions. These workshops should, besides the negotiations skills, also aim at developing capacity to improve AOSIS data, and to further advocate the adverse impacts of Climate Change on SIDS particularly at the international level.

38. Early Nominations to Attend COP 9

- 38.1 AOSIS member countries were encouraged to nominate early for COP 9 to ensure funding and to seek accommodation bookings as soon as possible.

CONCLUSION

As reflected above certain fundamentals have to be addressed if any positive progress under the UNFCCC can be expected. The problem of lack of funding is serious. Finger pointing between Annex I countries and developing countries continues, and will lead the process to nowhere. There is also an apparent decline in focus on the original objectives and goals of the UNFCCC, which is alarming. AOSIS can play the critical role of breaking the stalemate, and initiating strategies that will move the process forward for future actions.

Despite the reduced number of AOSIS delegations in Bonn, the delegates who were present did an extremely good job and I want to extend to them my sincere thanks. Big thanks should also go to our colleagues from the FIELD Office in London and to the SPREP in the Pacific for their respective support, as well as to our own respective technical advisers for their commitment and support.

**ANNEX I:
AOSIS REPORT OF THE BUREAU
FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2003**

The President of the Bureau Minister Baalu from India was unable to attend the meeting so I had the honour of chairing the Bureau meeting

Report of the Chair of SBSTA: Halldor Thorgeirsson noted progress on the SBSTA agenda and noted the launching of discussion on Art 2.3 (Annex I Parties to implement policies and measures to minimize adverse effects, including adverse effects of climate change). He noted concern by G-77/China that there was a lack of focus on the issue of adaptation.

Report of Chair of SBI: Daniella Stoycheva said there continued to be a major divide between developed and developing countries. She said there were three major issues:

- Non-Annex I Communications
- Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings
- Budget for the Secretariat (and link to uncertainty of the future of the Kyoto Protocol)

Consultations by the President: There are a number of positions that become vacant at COP 9 and must be elected by the various regional groups. These include:

- The Bureau
- The Expert Group on Technology Transfer
- The Least Developed Countries Expert Group
- The Consultative Group of Experts on national communications from non-Annex I Parties

Gonzalo Menendez from Panama will be consulting with the various regional groups concerning election of officers.

Preparation and Arrangements for COP 9: There are complications with the Presidency of COP 9. Usually goes to host country, but Italy is not official host country. Presidency is likely to be selected from Eastern European group.

Logistical Arrangements for COP 9: Ms Rizzo from Italian Government said conference facility very large. There will be transport to conference centre from hotel. She encouraged early hotel booking and organisation of visas.

Status of Ratification/ Arrangements for Convening COP/MOP1 with COP 9: Still waiting for Russia to ratify. The Russian member of Bureau said delay in ratification being caused by government needed to answer many questions from NGOs. Russia needs to ratify by 1st Sept for COP/MOP to start at COP 9.

If no COP/MOP, then there may be ministerial roundtables at end of COP.

Calendar of Workshops and Meetings: Secretariat has compiled list of workshops to be held. Still problem with funding. Mr Viswanath from India indicated that India will host workshop on technology and adaptation in New Delhi, November 2003.

11th Session of CSD: Ms Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary noted the agreed new format for CSD meetings She said that agenda for CSD will deal with energy, air pollution and climate change in 2004.

Executive Board of the CDM: Jans Juergen Stehr, Chair of CDM EB gave brief update on work of EB. Said EB Panels developing new methodologies for baselines. If this work finishes, registrations of CDM projects may start in the 3rd Quarter of this year. He noted that Ms Desna Solofa of Samoa had been appointed to replace Ambassador Slade as AOSIS alternate on CDM EB.

Other Matters: Russian delegate reminded Bureau of World Conference on Climate Change. Currently proposals for 500 papers have been received.
