The Paris Agreement and Small Island Developing States

Obligations and Opportunities

March 14, 2016
COP - 21

- SIDS dominated the Paris COP negotiations
- Paris is a foothold to a steeper journey going forward
- Negotiated various elements: long-term temp goal, loss and damage and scaled up and reliable financial resources...
1.5 to stay alive

- In 2009, SIDS noted the 2 degree ceiling on temperature rise
- 2015, the final decision text emphasized "well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels"
- ...and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 (this is not supported by the remainder of the text)
- The absence of the decarbonization mandate makes this almost impossible
Scaled-up funding

- SIDS demanded the continued availability of funds, particularly for adaptation
- Existing funds to support climate finance are significantly undercapitalized
- Financial resources should aim to balance adaptation and mitigation
- Promises were made and are subject to politicking and the continued support of donor countries
Loss and Damage

- SIDS insisted on a separate Article on L and D (Article 8)
- L and D measures on risk insurance initiatives received indications of support
- The decision text restricts this Article..."does not involve or provide any basis for liability or compensation"
Obligations

- First global agreement that obliges all countries who are 'Parties' to the agreement to take meaningful action on climate change

- The INDCs collected before COP 21 will put the world in a 2.7 degrees pathway
Obligations

- All countries are required to report mitigation and adaptation actions
- To be used in a Global Stocktake exercise every five years
- Formulate long-term strategies aimed at low carbon emissions development
Developed v Developing

- Developed countries - have more stringent reporting requirements
- Should provide additional resources such as financial, technology and capacity building to assist developing countries
- Developing countries - will be provided with assistance to carry out their obligations, to develop and implement strategies and cope with the impacts of climate change
Opportunities

- The Bahamas has limited access to grant funding under this agreement
- The agreement creates a balance between mitigation and adaptation measures
- Framing will be key...investment instead of aid...especially in the Family Islands
- Use National priorities to move us forward
Thank You.

Questions...