

# 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 a 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...