

STATEMENT BY SOLOMON ISLANDS

AMBASSADOR MOSES MOSE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers Your Excellences, fellow IMO members, good morning.

As we have mentioned in this Committee before, Solomon Islands, like many other States, but especially SIDS and LDCs, are suffering from the effects of climate change, particularly in our low-lying islands. We have already had whole communities that have had to relocate due to coastal inundation. And as a nation remotely located from international markets, we are deeply sensitive to the impact of any rise in transport costs on our economy.

Solomon Islands has therefore been following the work of IMO very closely on this agenda item, co-sponsoring papers to MEPC 69, 70 and now 71. And this delegation is very pleased with the dedication that IMO has signalled through the establishment of the Roadmap and the resource that has been allocated through the intersessional meetings.

Mr Chairman, having listened now to many discussions, including in last week's ISWG, we are encouraged that many countries share our interests and are willing to find common ground and a way forward on this issue. We must seize on this opportunity to produce tangible progress so that IMO has something credible to report to COP 24 in 2018.

Mr Chairman, this delegation believes that the initial strategy must contain a clear vision and high, quantified, level of ambition. And it must also progress the measures that will be needed if we are to have a chance of communicating to our government, to UNFCCC, to the industry and to our people that we are walking the walk and not just talking the talk.

Chair, for us, the discussion on measures will help us both understand what options we may have to achieve the level of ambition required, but also start to see what impacts on States might be, and therefore how these impacts could be addressed. For us, the ambition to reduce GHG must be matched with efforts to reduce transport cost-related risks for States. This complex negotiating process will benefit from adopting an iterative approach - we have to start the real work soon, we must not endlessly debate where to start or we will have wasted our time.

We align our support to the statements made on this issue by the Ministers of Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu, and our co- sponsors, and look forward to making significant progress this week and in the further ISWGs.

I request the Secretariat to include my statement in the report from this Committee.

Thank you