

To whom it may concern,

Aruba welcomes the opportunity for input of the OCT's on the public consultation by EU regarding the key climate issues.

Aruba's vision is to become independent of fossil fuels in 7 years (2020). This is a very ambitious goal that not only requires courage to come forward with such a vision, but also requires action and dedication to follow the roadmap that has been set out to reach that goal.

Aruba has a vision, but still needs to draft a 'gap report' to match and to be able to follow the roadmap. Aruba is not (yet) part of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, nor Kyoto (2), however Aruba has a pledge of the Prime Minister – at the RIO 2012 – when Aruba signed an agreement with Carbon War Room.

The countries that will make the difference are those that in absolute terms produces/emits more gas that holds the warmth and the countries that are an example for other countries. Aruba can be a model country for others. This is also the scope of Aruba's agreement with Carbon War Room. As a model country Aruba can easily have all sectors involved and produces and gives high quality service taking the effect on the environment and the people into account.

The government of Aruba has been informed by local Meteorological Department of Aruba to rephrase the definition of "Poor Countries" that is referenced in the answer of question #5.

The Meteorological Department indicates that even though Aruba is considered a Small Island State, and a colony of the Netherlands, it usually does not get any benefits when it comes to financial assistance for Meteorological instruments. These instruments are to be used for early warning purposes, in times of calamity and research, such as for monitoring conditions of climate change such as monitoring the sea level, clouds, rain and temperature.

As known, climate related changes, will induce radical weather events around the globe, including events on Aruba. In the last two years Aruba has experienced different severe weather events, including 2 microbursts which induced several material damages. Furthermore impending sea-level rise will cause greater damages to Aruba's beaches during hurricane swells, northeastern storms swells and tsunamis. These beaches create, maintain and contribute to almost 80% of Aruba's GDP. This contribution is mainly from tourism.

Due to man-made climate changes from develop-countries such as the USA, and Europe, Aruba suffers now from severe weather events, and other climate related threats that can destroy the whole island economy. In order to adapt to these changes the Meteorological Department of Aruba needs to get the proper equipment to issue severe weather warnings when needed. Furthermore extra equipment's need to be install now near Aruba's western coast in order to start conducting research on the effects that sea-level rise will have on Aruba main income source.

Aruba as a Small Island State currently cannot financially support these equipment's. On the other hand unfortunately due to the way "Poor Countries" are defined, Aruba can never receive the needed funds from foreign sources.

Therefore Aruba has a remark on question 5 that also regards question 4 too. We want to refer to the following text:

*Discussions on the appropriate financing to enable and **support poor countries** to implement their mitigation commitments and address adaptation challenges will remain a central element in the elaboration of the 2015 Agreement. Climate considerations both for mitigation and adaptation will need to be fully integrated into all public and private investments in the coming decades.*

Aruba would like to have the definition of “ Poor Countries” to be defined as all SIDS including current colonies.

Furthermore for the transitory phase of 2012 to 2020 Aruba will have finished the implementation of the options of reduce, produce and adapt more efficiently. The more challenging and costly part will be when implementing the ‘last’ 20 to 10 percent of independency for fossil fuel.

Projects like Aruba’s Linear Park are example of adaptation, conservation of nature, urban renewal and commercial development.

It is also clear that Aruba has to make sure that there will be a law that implements this international agreement so that Aruba can guarantee its contribution on the efforts to mitigate and adapt to the climate changes.