



United Nations

**Report of the International Meeting
to Review the Implementation of the
Programme of Action for the
Sustainable Development
of Small Island Developing States**

**Port Louis, Mauritius
10-14 January 2005**

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Chapter I

Resolutions adopted by the International Meeting

Resolution 1*

Mauritius Declaration and Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Having met in Port Louis from 10 to 14 January 2005,

1. *Adopts* the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which are annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session that it endorse the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as adopted by the International Meeting.

* Adopted at the 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January 2005; for the discussion, see chap. VIII.

Annex I

Mauritius Declaration

We, the representatives of the people of the world participating in the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis from 10 to 14 January 2005,

1. *Reaffirm* the continued validity of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States¹ as the blueprint providing the fundamental framework for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

2. *Also reaffirm* our commitment to the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,² and underscore that the full implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development⁴ and the outcomes of other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits will contribute to the sustainable development of small island developing States;

3. *Reiterate* that the acknowledged vulnerability of small island developing States continues to be of major concern and that this vulnerability will grow unless urgent steps are taken;

4. *Reaffirm* our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States for their sustainable development through the further full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;⁵

5. *Also reaffirm* that small island developing States continue to be a special case for sustainable development;

6. *Recognize* that the tragic impacts of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami that occurred on 26 December 2004 and the recent hurricane season in the Caribbean and Pacific highlight the need to develop and strengthen effective disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, emergency relief, and rehabilitation and reconstruction capacities;

7. *Welcome* the declaration of the special Association of South-East Asian Nations leaders meeting held in the aftermath of the recent disaster in countries in and around the Indian Ocean, the proposed establishment of a regional natural disaster early warning system for the Indian Ocean and the South-East Asia region, and enhanced international cooperation and partnerships to build and manage effective regional early warning systems, public education and awareness, and disaster management;

8. *Commit* ourselves to fully implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁶ and to further promoting international cooperation on climate change;

9. *Reiterate* that an effective multilateral system based on international law, supported by strong international institutions with the United Nations at the centre,

is fundamental for achieving international peace and security and sustainable development;

10. *Acknowledge* efforts at the regional level which address the sustainable development of small island developing States and, in this regard, pledge our support to enhance subregional, regional and interregional cooperation;

11. *Reaffirm* our commitment to support the sustainable development strategies of small island developing States through technical and financial cooperation, regional and interregional institutional assistance and an improved international enabling environment;

12. *Recognize* that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development;

13. *Also recognize* that particular attention should be given to building resilience in small island developing States, including through technology transfer and development, capacity-building and human resource development;

14. *Further recognize* that international trade is important for building resilience and the sustainable development of small island developing States, and therefore call upon international institutions, including financial institutions, to pay appropriate attention to the structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

15. *Underscore* that attention should be focused on the specific trade-related and development-related needs and concerns of small island developing States to enable them to integrate fully into the multilateral trading system, in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies;

16. *Reaffirm* our commitment to conservation and the sustainable use of island and marine biodiversity as fundamental to the sustainable development of small island developing States;

17. *Recognize* that women and youth, as well as civil society, are playing an important role in promoting sustainable development activities in small island developing States, and encourage them in their efforts;

18. *Reaffirm* our commitment to create a world fit for children as called for in the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session⁷ and, in this regard, undertake to give all assistance to protect children and minimize the impacts of natural disasters and environmental degradation on them;

19. *Recognize* the importance of cultural identity of people and its importance in advancing sustainable development in small island developing States;

20. *Recognize* the increasing incidence of health issues, particularly HIV/AIDS, which impact disproportionately on women and youth in small island developing States, and commit ourselves to ensuring that the health needs of small island developing States are comprehensively addressed in all regional and global programmes;

21. *Have adopted* the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island

Developing States, taking into account new and emerging issues, and commit ourselves to the timely implementation of the Strategy;

22. *Express appreciation* for the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in helping to advance the sustainable development of small island developing States, and invite them to strengthen their support for the Strategy through enhanced coherence, coordination and appropriate monitoring;

23. *Express particular gratitude and appreciation* to the Government and people of Mauritius for hosting the International Meeting and for the facilities made available to ensure its overwhelming success.

Notes

¹ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁶ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

Annex II

Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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Preamble

1. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States¹ remains the blueprint for small island developing States and the international community to address national and regional sustainable development in small island developing States that takes into account the economic, social and environmental aspects that are the pillars of the holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development. The Programme of Action sets out basic principles as well as specific actions that are required at the national, regional and international levels to support sustainable development in small island developing States. Along with the Programme of Action, the Rio Principles, the full implementation of Agenda 21,² the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development³ (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcomes of other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴ all contribute to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

2. The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁵ provide the overarching framework for global poverty eradication and development support. Small island developing States' national development plans and strategies, including national sustainable development strategies, should include poverty reduction strategies, as appropriate, and measures to address their vulnerabilities and to build resilience, in order to contribute to the achievement of these internationally agreed goals and to be a key underpinning of donor and United Nations system support for small island developing States.

3. Small island developing States acknowledge that sustainable development is primarily a national responsibility but also that for small island developing States to succeed, given their acknowledged vulnerabilities, the Rio Principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, must be given specific expression for small island developing States. Furthermore, there is a need for strengthened cooperation and partnership in support of sustainable development of small island developing States at the national, regional and international levels. Such partnership should be broad-based and ensure the involvement and participation of relevant stakeholders.

4. Small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development by utilizing principally their own resources in the implementation of the Programme of Action, while at the same time addressing increasing obligations under international agreements. In addition, the international community has provided financing and technical assistance in sectors that were fairly new in 1994. For the most part, the efforts of small island developing States have been pursued within the constraints of limited financial resources, including an overall decline in official development assistance to small island developing States, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action.⁶ Furthermore, an analysis of the report shows an increase in ad hoc stand-alone projects, rather than a programmed or strategic approach. It is crucial to mobilize domestic resources, attract international flows, promote international trade as an engine for development, increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, make debt-

financing sustainable and provide external debt relief, and enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

5. The review of the Programme of Action has provided small island developing States with a valuable opportunity to measure progress in implementing its objectives. National assessment reports have been prepared, which in turn have informed the preparation of regional synthesis reports. These documents, together with the Programme of Action, form the basis of the review of the Programme of Action and should be read along with the present document in order to fully appreciate the work needed to ensure further progress.

6. Small island developing States are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of their peoples by the implementation of strategies that build resilience and capacity to address their unique and particular vulnerabilities. This can be facilitated by international cooperation, including through further efforts by multilateral partners, that is more responsive to the particular needs of small island developing States.

7. In order to complement national and regional development efforts for small island developing States, there is an urgent need to enhance coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, which would facilitate the participation of small island developing States in international financial decision-making processes and institutions and in the process of setting international rules, codes, norms and standards.

8. Good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development. At the domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for sustainable development. As a result of globalization, external factors have become critical in determining the success or failure of developing countries in their national efforts. The gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment that is supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, and the full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased.

9. Peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all.

10. Security for small island developing States is a multidimensional concept. Specific challenges to small island developing States include, inter alia, environmental degradation, natural disasters, food security, water scarcity, HIV/AIDS, narco-trafficking, small arms trafficking and the impact of terrorism on the economic sectors and tourism in particular. Implementation of the sustainable development agenda for small island developing States must proceed notwithstanding the current emphasis on security. In this regard, the international community acknowledges the increased financial and administrative obligation at the national level that this places on all small island developing States as part of the

global fight against terrorism, and reaffirms the importance to small island developing States of international cooperation and technical and financial support, where necessary.

11. South-South cooperation, including cooperation among small island developing States, is critical at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in strategic areas, such as information and communication technology, trade, investment, capacity-building, disaster management, environment, food, agriculture, oceans, water, energy, health and education.

12. Experience has reaffirmed that sustainable development is best achieved through the adoption of integrated and holistic approaches at all levels.

13. Small island developing States recognize the importance of culture in their sustainable development since it represents the expression and identity of their people and the foundation of the richness of their cultural diversity, traditions and customs.

14. Small island developing States recognize the integral role of youth in sustainable development and the need to further ensure their participation in programmes and activities related to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

15. Small island developing States reaffirm the importance of gender equality and promoting the full and equal access of women and men to political participation at all levels, economic opportunity, health-care services and programmes, and decision-making systems for sustainable development, and the full and equal access of girls and boys, women and men to all levels of education.

I. Climate change and sea-level rise

16. The adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the long-term effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some small island developing States. Based on the report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action⁶ and other available data, small island developing States believe that they are already experiencing major adverse effects of climate change. Adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise remains a major priority for small island developing States.

17. The international community reaffirms its commitment to achieving, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention's ultimate objective of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. Parties that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol⁷ to the Convention strongly urge all States that have not done so to ratify it in a timely manner.

18. In the context of paragraphs 16 and 17 above, the international community should:

(a) Fully implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and further promote international cooperation on climate change;

(b) Continue to take, in accordance with the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, as applicable, steps to address climate change, including through: adaptation and mitigation in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities; and the effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol by those countries that have ratified it;

(c) Promote increased energy efficiency and development and the use of renewable energy as a matter of priority, as well as advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, inter alia, through public and/or private partnerships, market-oriented approaches, as well as supportive public policies and international cooperation, and support their use in small island developing States, where appropriate and in accordance with their national policies;

(d) Implement the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures, in particular those elements that are relevant to small island developing States;

(e) Work to facilitate and promote the development, transfer and dissemination to small island developing States of appropriate technologies and practices to address climate change;

(f) Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, including in small island developing States, inter alia, through continuing support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the exchange of scientific information and data, including where relevant to small island developing States;

(g) Enhance the implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor the Earth's atmosphere, including as appropriate, strategies for integrated observations, inter alia, with the cooperation of relevant international organizations; and work with small island developing States to strengthen their involvement in monitoring and observing systems and enhance their access to and use of information.

19. Small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, including through the facilitation and improvement of access to existing resources and, where appropriate, through allocation of dedicated financial resources, will as an integral component of their national sustainable development strategies, where appropriate, develop and implement national adaptation strategies and facilitate regional and interregional cooperation, including within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

20. Small island developing States, with assistance from regional development banks and other financial institutions, as appropriate, should coordinate further, on a regional basis, to establish or strengthen national and regional climate-change coordination mechanisms.

II. Natural and environmental disasters

21. Small island developing States are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences. The tragic impacts of the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and the recent hurricane/cyclone/typhoon seasons in the Caribbean and Pacific highlight their vulnerability. Small island developing States have undertaken to strengthen their respective national frameworks for more effective disaster management and are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Strengthening the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and related small island developing States regional mechanisms as facilities to improve national disaster mitigation, preparedness and early warning capacity, increase public awareness about disaster reduction, stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, and support the mainstreaming of risk management into the national planning process;

(b) Using such opportunities as the 10-year review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,⁸ including the programme outcome for 2005-2015 of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, to consider the specific concerns of small island developing States, including issues relating to insurance and reinsurance arrangements for small island developing States;

(c) Augmenting the capacity of small island developing States to predict and respond to emergency situations, including those affecting human settlements, stemming from natural and environmental disasters.

III. Management of wastes

22. While some small island developing States have made significant progress in both planning and implementation of waste management policies, programmes and strategies, most of them have serious difficulties in terms of financial and technical capacity in dealing with waste management issues. Marine debris, ballast water, shipwrecks with potential to cause environmental hazard due to leaks and other forms of waste threaten the ecological integrity of small island developing States.

23. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Form regional partnerships to draw on best practices and develop innovative solutions to waste management, seeking international assistance in this effort;

(b) Work to strengthen the control of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, especially through the enhancement of activities under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,⁹ and, where it applies, the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the

Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention);

(c) Promote sustainable waste management, including by:

(i) Identifying cost-effective and environmentally sound waste management systems;

(ii) Exploring and engaging in innovative forms of financing of waste management infrastructure, including the creation of appropriate national environmental trust funds;

(iii) Promoting reduction, reuse and recycling of waste and waste management initiatives;

(iv) Developing projects appropriate to small island developing States for the use of waste as a resource, including for the production of energy as a waste management solution;

(d) Promote national, regional and international cooperation to reduce the quantity of waste disposed of at sea, including by working with others in the international community to strengthen regimes relating to the disposal of waste at sea, particularly those regimes established by the International Maritime Organization, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention of 1972),¹⁰ and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(e) Promote the broad participation in and early implementation of the new International Maritime Organization Convention on Ballast Water.

24. Recognizing the concern that potential oil leaks from sunken State vessels have environmental implications for the marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States and taking into account sensitivities surrounding vessels that are marine graves, small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis.

25. The international community notes that cessation of transport of radioactive materials through small island developing States regions is the ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognizes the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improving mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communications in relation to safe maritime transport of radioactive materials. States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns, including the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport.

IV. Coastal and marine resources

26. Small island developing States are defined by their historic, cultural and economic links to the oceans and seas. They continue to be heavily dependent on

their marine resources, particularly for the sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities. The management of coastal and marine resources have become integrated into broader ocean management strategies since the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.¹¹ However, for small island developing States that are States parties to the Convention, implementation continues to be impeded by financial constraints and a lack of capacity.

27. To overcome these constraints, it is important to give appropriate priority at all levels, including in national and regional sustainable development agendas, to ocean issues, including fisheries. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to enable small island developing States to, among other things:

(a) Complete the delimitation of their maritime boundaries;

(b) Submit any claims to the Continental Shelf Commission by 13 May 2009 or such later date as may be applicable in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(c) Further the work on the assessment of living and non-living seabed resources within their national jurisdiction.

28. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to build technical and financial capacities to:

(a) Establish effective monitoring, reporting and enforcement, and control of fishing vessels, including by small island developing States as flag States, to further implement international plans of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to manage fishing capacity;

(b) Strengthen or develop, where necessary, national and regional sustainable and responsible fisheries management mechanisms consistent with the 1995 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;¹²

(c) Fully implement surveillance and monitoring systems;

(d) Analyse and assess the status of fish stocks;

(e) If they have not yet done so, consider becoming parties to the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks¹³ and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas,¹⁴ as well as relevant regional agreements for the conservation and management of fisheries;

(f) Establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure and legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of, their responsibilities under international law. In this regard, until such action is undertaken small island developing States flag States are encouraged to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry.

29. Distant-water fishing nations are encouraged to provide small island developing States with adequate technical and financial support to enhance the effective and sustainable management of their fisheries resources.

30. In collaboration with other States and making use of regional mechanisms, small island developing States will work to put in place integrated policies and sound management approaches, such as marine protected areas, consistent with relevant international agreements, and develop national capacity to monitor, conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems, taking into account the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵ at its seventh session. Small island developing States should address as a priority the impacts of coastal development, coastal tourism, intensive and destructive fishing practices and pollution, as well as the unreported and illegal trade in corals, on the future health of coral reefs. To facilitate these initiatives, the international community should provide technical and financial support for:

- (a) Regional monitoring efforts and Global Ocean Observing System;
- (b) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission marine science programmes that are of particular relevance to small island developing States;
- (c) The strengthening, where appropriate, of representative networks of marine protected areas, consistent with decision VII/28¹⁶ of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (d) Activities to address the impact of coral bleaching, including enhancing resistance and recovery.

31. Small island developing States and relevant regional and international development partners should work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, drawing upon best practices from other regions, including the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, the ocean governance project involving all regions, and the establishment of related initiatives in other small island developing States regions.

32. Small island developing States and the international development partners should fully implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,¹⁷ particularly with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, by undertaking initiatives specifically addressing the vulnerability of small island developing States.

V. Freshwater resources

33. Small island developing States continue to face water management and water access challenges, caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment and storage, pollution of water resources, saline intrusion (which may be exacerbated, inter alia, by sea-level rise, the unsustainable management of water resources, and climate variability and climate change) and leakage in the delivery system. Sustained urban water supply and sanitation systems are constrained by a lack of human, institutional and financial resources. The access to safe drinking

water, the provision of sanitation and the promotion of hygiene are the foundations of human dignity, public health and economic and social development and are among the priorities for small island developing States.

34. Small island developing States in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions have demonstrated their commitment to cooperation with each other through the Joint Programme of Action for Water and Climate. The international community is invited to support the implementation of that Programme of Action, and the proposal to extend it to all small island developing States regions.

35. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support from the international community, to meet the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development 2015 targets on sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, hygiene, and the production of integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005.

36. The international community is requested to provide assistance to small island developing States for capacity-building for the development and further implementation of freshwater and sanitation programmes and the promotion of integrated water resources management, including through the Global Environment Facility focal areas, where appropriate; the World Water Assessment Programme; and support to the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and the European Union Water for Life Initiative.

37. The Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico City in March 2006, and its preparatory process will be an opportunity for the small island developing States to continue to seek international support to build self-reliance and implement their agreed priority actions as submitted to the Third World Water Forum Portfolio of Water Actions, namely, integrated water resources management (including using the Hydrological Cycle Observing System); water demand management; water quality capacity-building; water governance; regional water partnerships; and water partnerships among small island developing States.

VI. Land resources

38. The pressures on land resources that existed 10 years ago have only been exacerbated by competing uses, increased demands and land degradation. National strategies have to be elaborated on sustainable land use, which tackle such issues as land tenure and management systems, combating desertification and protecting biodiversity. These strategies should include environmental impact assessments and identify the necessary policy changes and capacity-building needs within the framework of the three pillars of sustainable development.

39. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Develop capacity to implement the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international agreements in relation to land resources;

(b) Develop capacity for sustainable land management and self-generating agro-ecosystems by building on communal tenure systems and traditional land-use planning and practices for crop, livestock and aquaculture production, taking into

account the increasing competition for land resources resulting from tourism, urbanization and other activities;

(c) Strengthen land tenure and management systems, move from primary to tertiary agricultural production and diversify agricultural production in a sustainable manner.

40. Most small island developing States face serious challenges of land degradation as a result, inter alia, of inappropriate land use and poor irrigation management systems. Since the main objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁸ is to address land degradation, and considering the designation of the Global Environment Facility as a financial mechanism of the Convention, small island developing States should fully utilize available Global Environment Facility resources to develop and implement projects to address land degradation through sustainable land management. In this regard, every effort must be made to ensure the full implementation of the Convention.

41. Faced with the challenge of competitiveness, small island developing States should seek additional opportunities for diversifying their economies and markets, especially in the agricultural sector, in order to increase their degree of food security and self-reliance. Small island developing States are committed individually and through partnerships with each other, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Create an enabling environment for sustainably enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting agricultural diversification and food security;

(b) Remove production constraints and build programmes in such areas as seed production and integrated pest management systems;

(c) Enhance food processing, marketing and product development and quality control;

(d) Promote relevant research and development and the use of appropriate modern technologies;

(e) Promote sustainable aquaculture.

42. To elaborate concrete strategies to enhance efficient and sustainable agricultural production and ensure their food security through such initiatives as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sustainable agriculture and rural development initiative, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations are urged to provide practical support to small island developing States for research into such matters as the diversification of agriculture; alternative uses for crops; improved husbandry; irrigation and water management; aquaculture; and the use of appropriate modern technologies for smallholder agriculture, including agricultural extension services.

43. The 2005 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations conference of small island developing States ministers of agriculture is urged to consider endorsing priority actions to enhance the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to small island developing States sustainable development policies, in the light of the importance of the nutrition and food security needs of small island developing States.

44. Sustainable forest management to reduce forest loss and forest degradation is crucial to small island developing States. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community and in the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and subsequent action of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Convention on Biological Diversity work programme on forest biodiversity and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to:

(a) Develop and strengthen partnerships for sustainable forest management, such as the Iwokrama rainforest programme;

(b) Increase stakeholder participation in all discussions regarding the development, management and conservation of forest and tree resources;

(c) Ensure adherence to national forest policies and legislation that have been developed to safeguard the rights of resource owners and legitimate or licensed users through the use of administrative and management mechanisms for the alienation, licence or transfer of “traditional rights” for commercial development purposes;

(d) Increase the awareness, promotion, adoption and enforcement of legislation to ensure that sustainable rotational logging practices and replanting initiatives are implemented.

45. In the mining sector, we recognize that small island developing States are committed, with the support of the international community, to improve national capacity for:

(a) Policy and legislation formulation;

(b) The development of databases and assessment of mineral and aggregate resources;

(c) Negotiations with transnational corporations, including measures to enhance the transparency of revenue flows;

(d) The evaluation of mineral sector projects, including using environmental and social impact assessment to identify opportunities and risks and ensuring compliance with mitigatory and ameliorative measures where impacts are negative, as well as dealing with mining tenement issues and raising land “owner” awareness and participation.

VII. Energy resources

46. Energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for many small island developing States, and many remote and rural small island developing States communities have little or no access to modern and affordable energy services. Modern research has produced commercially feasible options of energy supply, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, hydro- and ocean energy. Indeed, many small island developing States are particularly suited to these options because of their geographical location. However, existing technologies may not always be adaptable to the needs and circumstances of many small island developing States communities.

47. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to develop and implement integrated energy programmes. These programmes should include, inter alia, comprehensive assessments of energy resources, current and projected patterns of energy use, and ways to enhance energy efficiency in small island developing States, and promote the development and use of renewable energy as well as advanced clean energy technologies that are affordable and readily adaptable to the circumstances of small island developing States. Regional development banks have an important role in this process. Support for technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and for capacity-building are important.

48. Small island developing States are committed, with the required support of the international community, to strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts in the area of energy supply and services, including the promotion of demonstration projects. It is recognized that a renewed effort is required by all for small island developing States to achieve real and demonstrable progress in this area by the time of its review by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006, in accordance with its work programme.

49. Small island developing States and other international partners should work together to promote wider dissemination and application of technology that is appropriate to small island developing States and to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the United Nations renewable energy fund and the United Nations Development Programme thematic trust fund on energy for sustainable development, for this purpose. Cooperation among small island developing States should be further pursued in areas where success has been achieved, such as a collaborative agency for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in small island developing States.

VIII. Tourism resources

50. Tourism is an important contributor to economic growth in small island developing States. Yet it is recognized that the sector is open to many exogenous shocks. In addition, if tourism is not developed sustainably, it can damage or even destroy the natural environment that attracts tourism in the first place. There is also a continuing challenge to establish the appropriate balance between the development of tourism and that of other sectors of the economy. There is a particular challenge to make appropriate linkages to other sectors, including to local service providers so as to retain resources within the country, and in particular to create synergistic linkages between tourism and the agricultural sector by promoting island foods and beverages supply chains, rural hospitality and agro-tourism.

51. Small island developing States, with the required support of regional and international tourism organizations and other relevant stakeholders, should monitor the impacts of tourism development to ensure that tourism development and social and environmental priorities are mutually supportive at all levels. They must also facilitate the design or refinement of guidelines and best practices appropriate for assessing the carrying capacity of small island developing States, including the provision of technical and financial support to conduct these assessments. To this end, they should develop and implement appropriate partnerships. Small island developing States should also implement the guidelines on biodiversity and tourism

development adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting.¹⁹

52. Small island developing States, with the necessary support of regional and international tourism organizations, should also find effective ways and means to develop and implement sustainable tourism development plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector, and should integrate these plans into their national strategies for sustainable development. In addition, they should develop and implement community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism, and build the necessary capacities of civil society and local stakeholders, while protecting culture and traditions and effectively conserving and managing natural resources.

IX. Biodiversity resources

53. Many small island developing States have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,²⁰ and have initiated national biodiversity strategic action plans and developed national nature reserves and protected areas. The World Summit on Sustainable Development confirmed the essential links between biodiversity and livelihoods. The achievements of the targets set by the international community in relevant international conventions, in particular those of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and endorsed by the Summit, are of particular importance to small island developing States.

54. To achieve those targets in the agreed time frames, the following actions are required by small island developing States, with necessary support from the international community:

(a) Integrating biodiversity protection into national sustainable development strategies;

(b) Building effective partnerships between all relevant stakeholders essential to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources;

(c) Addressing island biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity in a manner that responds to the unique characteristics of small island developing States and to the threats related to climate change, land degradation and their particular vulnerabilities;

(d) Implementing the guidelines of the Convention on biodiversity and tourism development;

(e) Enhancing national efforts, both by Governments and other stakeholders, in the implementation of the programme of work of the Convention on protected areas, including the establishment of protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information;

(f) Controlling major pathways for potential alien invasive species in small island developing States;

(g) Developing local capacities for protecting and developing the traditional knowledge of indigenous groups for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, taking into account the Bonn Guidelines

on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization as adopted at by the Conference of Parties to the Convention at its sixth meeting;²¹

(h) Developing the capacity to promote cooperation among small island developing States for biodiversity resources, shared ecosystem management and exchange of experience, including through support for strong networks, by both Governments and other stakeholders;

(i) Participating in the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Group of the Convention on an international regime on access and benefit-sharing to elaborate and negotiate the nature, scope and elements of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing in accordance with the terms of decision VII/19 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, including, inter alia, the issue of unauthorized access to and misappropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, which is of particular concern to small island developing States;

(j) Developing human and institutional capacity at the national and regional levels in small island developing States for research in the area of biodiversity, including taxonomy;

(k) Supporting, through the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol, the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks;

(l) Supporting small island developing States efforts in building community capacity to conserve important species, sites and habitats.

X. Transport and communication

55. Transport and communications remain important lifelines linking small island developing States with the outside world. While dramatic technological breakthroughs over the last decade, such as the development of the Internet and satellite communications, have mitigated the traditional isolation of small island developing States, transport and communication nevertheless remain important challenges in the promotion and implementation of sustainable development nationally and in their regions.

56. Small island developing States, with the support of the international community, should cooperate and develop viable regional transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies.

57. While the liberalization of telecommunications in some small island developing States has presented both opportunities and challenges, in many small island developing States there are still serious access limitations to basic telecommunications. The small size of the markets has prevented the maximization of the full value of liberalization through economies of scale.

58. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to taking initiatives in such areas as access to and the use of information and communication technology (ICT); the development of community multimedia centres; ICT literacy; skills development; local content and applications in building knowledge-based societies; and bridging the digital divide, particularly in rural communities. There is also a continuing need for the maintenance of low-technology communication solutions, such as high-frequency

radio for rural and remote locations. The International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant organizations are invited to support these activities in a coordinated manner. In this regard, the World Summit on the Information Society is encouraged to consider small island developing States concerns and their participation in the Summit process.

59. Taking into account the objectives of their national policies, small island developing States are urged to consider further liberalizing their telecommunications sector as one of the possible means to address the high costs caused by existing monopoly service providers. In this regard, appropriate and adequate national communications regulatory frameworks will be required.

XI. Science and technology

60. It is recognized that the area of science and technology is a cross-cutting issue for all sectors for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Since 1994, some small island developing States have been able to strengthen the science and technology base of their economy, while others still require significant support.

61. Given the increasing importance of science and technology in building resilience in small island developing States, it is critical to target investments in science and technology capacity in a way that is appropriate for small island developing States. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Incorporate into national sustainable development strategies appropriate science and technology elements and support for science development in small island developing States, and provide promotion and protection of traditional knowledge and practices;

(b) Review science and technology activities in relation to environmentally sound technologies and sustainable development;

(c) Reduce environmental risk in the application of science and technology and in the utilization of indigenous technologies.

62. The strengthening and further development of cooperation and sharing of experience among small island developing States is crucial and should be made a priority, especially in regard to utilizing the national and regional institutions of small island developing States. An important activity in this regard is the operationalization of the small island developing States roster of experts; the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in cooperation with regional organizations and national Governments, should seek to complete the necessary work in this area by 2005.

63. The Small Island Developing States Network is a critical mechanism for supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States and needs maintenance, strengthening and further enhancement. The French-language portal is expected to be fully operational by 2005. A Spanish-language portal should be

developed by 2005, for which the Small Island Developing States Unit is requested to seek the necessary financial support.

XII. Graduation from least developed country status

64. The adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of resolutions on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries is welcomed, and they need to be fully implemented. The two States that the General Assembly recently resolved to graduate from the list of least developed countries, as well as all of the current potential candidates for graduation from least developed country status, are small island developing States. It is critical that the elaboration and implementation of smooth national transition strategies formulated with development partners take into consideration the specific vulnerabilities of graduating States and ensure that graduation does not disrupt their development plans, programmes and projects for achieving sustainable development.

65. In its recommendations concerning least developed country status, the Committee for Development Policy has made useful progress in better reflecting the vulnerability of developing countries that face special disadvantages, such as small island developing States; the Committee's ongoing work in this regard is encouraged.

XIII. Trade: globalization and trade liberalization

66. Most small island developing States, as a result of their smallness, persistent structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities, face specific difficulties in integrating into the global economy. Trade liberalization and globalization present opportunities and challenges to small island developing States, including in terms of the erosion of trade preferences. The potential benefits from trade liberalization and globalization can be best realized if the specific limitations and vulnerabilities of small island developing States are addressed at all levels.

67. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

68. The decision taken on 1 August 2004 by the World Trade Organization members, which emphasizes their resolve to conclude the negotiations launched at Doha, and the renewed commitment by World Trade Organization members to fulfilling the development dimension of the current round of World Trade Organization negotiations, which seeks to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Doha work programme, is a welcome development. We recognize the importance of intensifying efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation by small economies, notably small island developing States, in the deliberations and decision-making process of the World Trade Organization. Many small island developing States either are not represented at

World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva or are still grappling with the process of accession to World Trade Organization membership. Most small island developing States also experience serious capacity constraints in meeting World Trade Organization obligations.

69. In seeking to integrate into the global economy, there are a number of issues of special concern to small island developing States, including:

- (a) The World Trade Organization accession process;
- (b) Graduation and smooth transition from the United Nations list of least developed countries;
- (c) Capacity constraints;
- (d) Harmonized, coordinated and sustainably financed technical assistance;
- (e) Structural handicaps and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;
- (f) Erosion of preferences;
- (g) Structural adjustment;
- (h) Relationship between trade, environment and development;
- (i) Trade and food security;
- (j) Lack of adequate representation at World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva.

XIV. Sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development

70. Small island developing States continue to require support to address the serious challenges they face in capacity development in policy and strategy formulation and implementation. Small island developing States are currently seeking to address these challenges in capacity through a more integrated approach that includes civil society and the private sector, noting that within the Caribbean Community region a charter has been established for the participation of all major groups.

71. While access to education in small island developing States has developed considerably over the last decade, it is still a fundamental component of sustainable development and capacity-building for the long term. The right to education is also a human right. In this regard, education strategies and action plans that encompass the wide-ranging needs for improved access to and quality of education need to be implemented.

72. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to further education for sustainable development through:

- (a) Supporting efforts of the respective ministries of education;

(b) Promoting comprehensive and accessible universal primary education and ensuring gender equality in all small island developing States, with a major emphasis on reducing illiteracy;

(c) Promoting technical and vocational education in order to enhance skills and facilitate the entrepreneurship necessary for the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods;

(d) Strengthening distance-learning arrangements;

(e) Integrating national sustainable development strategies and environmental education within the education systems, with particular support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and regional environmental organizations and in the framework of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2015;²²

(f) Assisting with basic infrastructure, curriculum development, where appropriate, and teacher training, working towards an integrated gender perspective;

(g) Assisting with the further development of programmes for people with special needs, in particular children and youth, especially training at a regional level;

(h) Further strengthening the training and teaching of the principles and practices of good governance at all levels and the protection of human rights.

XV. Sustainable production and consumption

73. In response to the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the development of a 10-year framework of progress in support of regional and national initiatives on sustainable consumption and production, small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Considering all initiatives relating to sustainable consumption and production in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

(b) Taking appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the 10-year framework on sustainable production and consumption in a coherent manner;

(c) Assessing the need for programmes on sustainable consumption and production strategies on the basis of national priorities and best practices.

XVI. National and regional enabling environments

74. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Formulate and implement national sustainable development strategies by 2005, as agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Incorporate guiding principles of sustainable development into nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and all sectoral policies and strategies;

(c) Develop appropriate national targets and indicators for sustainable development that can be incorporated into existing national data-collection and reporting systems in order to, inter alia, respond to the requirements of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and other relevant global and regional targets;

(d) Improve legislative, administrative and institutional structures in order to develop and implement sustainable development strategies, policies and plans, mainstream sustainable development concerns into overall policy development and implementation, and facilitate the participation of civil society in all sustainable development initiatives;

(e) Create and empower sustainable development task forces, or their equivalent, to function as interdisciplinary and communally representative advisory bodies;

(f) Rationalize legislation that affects sustainable development at the national level, where appropriate, improve coordination between legislative frameworks and develop guidelines for those who must carry out legislative objectives;

(g) Develop and implement integrated planning systems and processes;

(h) Involve youth in envisioning sustainable island living.

XVII. Health

75. Health is a key determinant of sustainable development as identified through the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The strengthening and further development of cooperation and experience-sharing among small island developing States in the area of health is crucial and should be made a priority. A major concern in small island developing States is the increasing incidence of such health challenges as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, drug resistant malarial strains, dengue, severe acute respiratory syndrome, West Nile Virus, bird flu and other new and emerging diseases, and nutritional disorders, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, and their impact on sustainable development.

76. Small island developing States are also committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to addressing HIV/AIDS, which is prevalent in many countries. In addition to its impact on individuals and families, HIV/AIDS is particularly devastating for countries with small populations and limited skilled workforces, taking a severe toll on their economies as productivity declines, income levels are reduced and the social fabric is undermined. Responding effectively to HIV/AIDS is both an urgent health issue and a development imperative.

77. Other communicable and non-communicable diseases will continue to have a significant impact on the health of small island developing States communities for the foreseeable future. Further, the experience of many regions has shown that failure to effectively control such diseases as HIV/AIDS will have substantial negative impacts on future sustainable development in all small island developing States.

78. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to effectively control these diseases through:

(a) Strengthening the health management and financing systems of small island developing States to enable them to arrest the HIV/AIDS epidemic, reduce the incidence of malaria, dengue and non-communicable diseases, and promote mental health;

(b) Technical assistance, bilaterally or through multilateral cooperation agencies, to facilitate prompt access to funds from the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is a major instrument to combat these infectious diseases, thereby supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States;

(c) Enhanced accessibility to effective pharmaceutical drugs at affordable prices;

(d) The active implementation of healthy public policy and effective prevention programmes in such areas as immunization, reproductive health, mental health and health education;

(e) The development and implementation of effective surveillance initiatives at the local, national and regional levels;

(f) The facilitation of early information-sharing on possible emerging outbreaks nationally and internationally;

(g) Preparedness of countries and regional organizations to respond rapidly and effectively to outbreaks (whether naturally occurring or intentional), requiring the development and regular testing of response plans, the strengthening of response capacity and the identification of resources which can be accessed quickly;

(h) The development and implementation of modern, flexible national public health legislation;

(i) Promoting the development of traditional medicines, including medicinal plants;

(j) The implementation of targeted environmental health programmes that prevent the ill health of small island developing States populations, such as waste management, control of air pollution and improved water quality;

(k) Enhanced data collection on demographic and epidemiological trends.

XVIII. Knowledge management and information for decision-making

79. Small island developing States recognize that there are new opportunities afforded by the rapid new developments in ICT to overcome the limitations of isolation and remoteness and build their resilience. These new opportunities include such areas as e-commerce, improved early warning, tele-medicine and distance-learning.

80. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, for:

- (a) The identification and addressing of gaps in data and the characterization of information related to economic, social, environmental and cultural areas;
- (b) Developing databases, vulnerability indexes, geographic information systems and other information systems;
- (c) Establishing national and regional information and database centres, including the collection, quality control and use of metadata, analysis of data, accessibility and sharing of data and information;
- (d) The expansion and extension of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century initiative to address the concerns of small island developing States;
- (e) Addressing issues relating to cyber-security in small island developing States;
- (f) Establishing land use databases, inter alia, through training in and access to the use of geographic information systems and remote-sensing;
- (g) Strengthening and establishing, where necessary, relevant research and postgraduate programmes at regional tertiary-level institutions in small island developing States.

81. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a task force to elaborate a resilience index, supported by the international community. This work would be significantly enhanced as a result of the successful implementation of the activities outlined above.

XIX. Culture

82. Small island developing States recognize the importance of the cultural identity of people and its importance for advancing sustainable development, and they also recognize the need to develop cultural industries and initiatives that offer significant economic opportunities for national and regional development. Cultural industries and initiatives are viewed as an area in which small island developing States have comparative advantage; they have the potential to diversify small island developing States economies and build their resilience while they adjust to changes in the global economy. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

- (a) Developing and implementing national cultural policies and legislative frameworks to support the development of cultural industries and initiatives in such areas as music, art, the literary and culinary arts, fashion, festivals, theatre and film, sports and cultural tourism;
- (b) Developing measures to protect the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage and increase resources for the development and strengthening of national and regional cultural initiatives;
- (c) Improving institutional capacity for the advocacy and marketing of cultural products and the protection of intellectual property;

(d) Seeking venture capital and access to credit for small and medium-sized cultural enterprises and initiatives, including through the establishment of culture support funds in small island developing States regions.

XX. Implementation

83. Small island developing States and the international community recognize that the further implementation of the Programme of Action, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are mutually reinforcing. This will require a more focused and substantially increased effort, both by small island developing States themselves and by the rest of the international community, based on the recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, taking fully into account the Rio Principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.²³

84. To adequately address their most urgent sustainable development challenges, small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, including through the facilitation and improvement of access to existing resources and, where appropriate, through the allocation of dedicated financial resources, will, in the following key areas:

(a) **Climate change adaptation and sea-level rise:** as an integral component of their national sustainable development strategies, where appropriate, take action to develop and implement national adaptation strategies and facilitate regional and interregional cooperation, including within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change²⁴ and, inter alia, with support from the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, as appropriate;

(b) **Energy:** take action to address the energy vulnerability of small island developing States, to promote access to energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy and advanced clean energy technologies that are affordable and readily adaptable to the special circumstances of small island developing States;

(c) **Intellectual property rights and development:** take action to protect intellectual property in small island developing States, including traditional knowledge and folklore, and recognize their value;

(d) **Biodiversity:** take action to build representative systems of terrestrial and marine protected areas and to advance the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity programme of work on island biodiversity, and facilitate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization;

(e) **Culture and development:** take action to promote the development of cultural industries in small island developing States, including through cultural exchanges among small island developing States and other countries;

(f) **Natural and environmental disasters:** take action to develop partnerships to implement schemes that spread out risks, reduce insurance premiums, expand insurance coverage and thereby increase financing for post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and establish and strengthen effective early warning systems and other mitigation and response measures;

(g) **Marine resources:** take action to promote national and regional efforts in the sustainable management of marine resources of small island developing States, through appropriate assessment and management of fish stocks and effective monitoring and surveillance of fishing efforts, including appropriate enforcement measures to minimize illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overharvesting, mapping the exclusive economic zones, and improving and strengthening existing regional mechanisms, where appropriate;

(h) **Agriculture and rural development:** take action to promote agricultural competitiveness through the long-term development of efficient agricultural systems, diversification and value-added activities, and to ensure food security, inter alia, through research and development;

(i) **HIV/AIDS:** take action to urgently intensify action at all levels to prevent and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, and mitigate the impact of these diseases;

(j) **Transport and security:** take action to promote access to appropriate technology and increased technical and other assistance to further develop and manage transport infrastructure in small island developing States to meet international requirements, including those relating to security, as well as to minimize environmental impacts;

(k) **Sustainable production and consumption:** take action to develop appropriate mechanisms to address the challenges associated with the design and implementation of the sustainable production and consumption strategies of small island developing States at the national and regional levels;

(l) **Information and communication technology:** take action to enhance ICT development, including connectivity and access to affordable hardware and software.

85. To assist small island developing States in this regard will require:

(a) Substantially increasing the flow of financial and other relevant resources, both public and private, and ensuring their effective use;

(b) Improved trade opportunities;

(c) Access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional or preferential basis, as mutually agreed;

(d) Education and awareness-raising;

(e) Capacity-building and information for decision-making and scientific capabilities;

(f) National country-driven and country-owned strategies for sustainable development, including poverty reduction and resilience-building.

86. Small island developing States reaffirm their commitment to meeting the sustainable development goals and priorities contained in the Programme of Action by, inter alia, more effective utilization of available resources and reinforcing their national sustainable development strategies and mechanisms. The success of the present Strategy at the national level will depend on effective human, institutional and technical capacity development, effective monitoring and coordination, including through the support of small island developing States regional organizations. At the global level, it is essential for the international community to support these goals and assist in the implementation of actions to achieve them, particularly through the provision of financial and technical support.

A. Access to and the provision of financial resources

87. The international community reaffirms its commitment to supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States through the provision of financial resources, including, inter alia, access to existing funds and financial mechanisms, such as the relevant operational programmes of the Global Environment Facility, and underlines the crucial involvement of the donor community, including the international financial institutions and regional development banks.

88. This commitment entails the adoption of a more coherent, coordinated and collaborative approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, through, inter alia:

(a) Strengthened country-driven donor coordination for small island developing States as regional groups or through national consultative processes, using existing frameworks, where relevant;

(b) Active support for regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States, such as the small island developing States university consortium, the Caribbean-Pacific water initiative and the interregional ocean governance initiative;

(c) Broad-based partnerships that ensure involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(d) Appropriate harnessing of the potential for foreign direct investment and encouraging increased foreign direct investment flows to small island developing States;

(e) Urging developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance, and encouraging developing countries, including small island developing States, to build on progress achieved to use official development assistance effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;

(f) Targeting and coordinating this aid well, including through the harmonization of donor procedures, untying aid, increasing absorptive capacity and other such measures, which are particularly important when providing official development assistance to countries with limited capacity, such as small island developing States;

(g) Urging the Global Environment Facility, consistent with the decisions of relevant bodies, to simplify and improve access to and the effectiveness and efficiency of its support, including disbursement procedures, and those of its implementing agencies. The international community should facilitate the access of small island developing States to the Global Environment Facility.

B. Science and development and transfer of technology

89. Access to appropriate technologies remains crucial for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Small island developing States and relevant regional and international development partners should work together to:

(a) Focus on the dissemination and use of technology that helps resilience-building in order to address the growing vulnerability (economic, environmental and social) of small island developing States;

(b) Promote access to technological system licences, with due respect for the rights of licence holders, including for the management of waste as a resource, energy efficiency and renewable energy development, through such mechanisms as regional development banks;

(c) Disseminate information on the resilience-building technologies deployed in small island developing States and on the provision of technical assistance to small island developing States;

(d) Assist small island developing States in making critical technological choices, providing information on previous experience with technology in small island developing States, in partnership with the Small Islands Developing States Network, as the mechanism for dissemination, and tertiary institutions in small island developing States;

(e) Provide technical assistance to small island developing States to help them develop institutional arrangements conducive to the registration of intellectual patents and the identification of potential partners for full-scale commercialization;

(f) Promote intersectoral synergies;

(g) Continue to strengthen science and technological collaboration through North-South and South-South Cooperation;

(h) Facilitate research into new products, maximizing the use of existing small island developing States resources;

(i) Encourage the development of appropriate programmes in support of national and regional efforts to build the science and technological capacities of small island developing States;

(j) Consider the establishment of a small island developing States dedicated technology transfer and development facility.

C. Capacity development

90. The international community commits itself to continuing to support the efforts of small island developing States to develop human and institutional capacity through:

(a) Cooperation with other capacity development initiatives and existing programmes, such as the United Nations Development Programme capacity 2015 programme, to provide resources for education reform and make education systems relevant for small island developing States, including through the integration of national sustainable development strategies in education curricula;

(b) Investing in appropriate training, focusing on water and waste management, energy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, intellectual property rights, the development of cultural industries, tourism, disaster management, health care, trade facilitation and niche marketing, insurance, investment, agriculture, mining, forestry and fisheries and natural resources product development, and involving small island developing States NGOs and community groups;

(c) Supporting the small island developing States Universities Consortium, small island developing States regional organizations and NGO networks in order to improve the use of small island developing States intellectual resources and to provide the cadre of expertise that is needed in small island developing States at the national and regional levels, in particular in the areas of climate change, energy, integrated island management, trade and sustainable development, sustainable tourism development, international law, intellectual property rights and negotiating skills;

(d) The development of the capacity to monitor the state of the environment, economies and social and cultural institutions of small island developing States to define and further develop their national priorities and meet international obligations;

(e) The involvement of youth in envisioning sustainable island living and improving the capacity of civil society to enable them fully to contribute to sustainable development;

(f) The establishment and strengthening of centres of excellence for training and applied research within existing national and regional institutions;

(g) Enhancing the delivery of coordinated, effective and targeted trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for small island developing States, including taking advantage of existing and future market access opportunities and examining the relationship between trade, environment and development;

(h) Facilitating the development of human resources and institutional capacity within small island developing States for the implementation of the obligations of multilateral environmental agreements.

D. National and international governance

1. National enabling environment

91. Good governance is essential for sustainable development. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation. The following are also essential and mutually reinforcing requirements for sustainable development: freedom; peace and security; domestic stability; respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law; gender equality; market-oriented policies; and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies.

92. Small island developing States commit themselves, with the necessary support of the international community, to continue the following:

(a) Mobilizing resources at the national level to meet the sustainable development goals and priorities articulated in the Programme of Action;

(b) Developing national sustainable development strategies, including nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies and strategies;

(c) Developing and strengthening their legislative, administrative and institutional structures;

(d) Increasing the awareness and involvement of relevant stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development programmes;

(e) Promoting an enabling environment for investment and technology and the development of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, for sustainable development, through appropriate policies for regulatory frameworks and in a manner consistent with national laws and circumstances, to foster a dynamic and well functioning business sector, while recognizing that the appropriate role of government in market-oriented economies will vary from country to country;

(f) Engaging corporate and other private-sector actors to contribute to sustainable development;

(g) Promoting public/private partnerships.

2. International enabling environment

93. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance by addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries. Efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes should be ensured. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as

well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development.

94. International institutions, including financial institutions, should pay appropriate attention to the particular needs and priorities of small island developing States. In this regard, the international community recognizes the diversity of circumstances that exist within developing countries and the need to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. International organizations should operate on an integrated cross-sector-based approach in order to ensure the optimum utilization of resources across sectors.

95. The international community recognizes that all efforts undertaken in the implementation of the present Strategy must be carried out without adopting measures that hinder sustainable development and must be in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Trade and finance

96. Attention should be focused on the specific trade- and development-related needs and concerns of small island developing States to enable them to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies.

97. In order to address the concerns of small island developing States, the following considerations are of high priority:

(a) The redoubling of efforts towards the successful completion of the World Trade Organization negotiations launched at Doha on the basis of a balanced overall outcome that meets the ambition of the Doha mandate in fulfilment of the commitments ministers made at Doha;

(b) The facilitation of the accession of small island developing States, where appropriate, through enhanced technical assistance;

(c) The recognition of the importance of long-standing preferences and of the need for steps to address the issue of preference erosion;

(d) The use of appropriate long-term mechanisms to facilitate the adjustment of small island developing States to post-Doha trade liberalization and timely implementation of the trade integration mechanism for small island developing States that are members of IMF to address balance-of-payments shortfalls arising from multilateral trade liberalization;

(e) Taking into account the specific circumstances of each small island developing State when assessing the perspective of long-term debt sustainability;

(f) The implementation of programmes to facilitate remittances, encourage foreign investment and support the development of small island developing States;

(g) Developing human resources and institutional capacity to address trade-related issues that are of interest to small island developing States, as well as analysing and formulating appropriate policies and developing and providing resources for the appropriate infrastructure required to address issues relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade;

(h) Continuing the commitment of the international community to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, which provides valuable assistance to developing country members, particularly those without representation at World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva, to participate more actively in the Doha round of negotiations and the World Trade Organization more generally;

(i) Support for regional representation in the World Trade Organization to enhance the effective participation and negotiation capacity of small island developing States in the World Trade Organization;

(j) Working to ensure that, in the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, due account is taken of small island developing States, which have severe structural handicaps in integrating into the global economy within the context of the Doha work programme.

98. Furthermore, the United Nations Secretary-General is requested to consider enhancing, where appropriate, the work programmes of relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on the special problems of small island developing States, in order to provide concrete recommendations to assist small island developing States in obtaining access to and deriving greater economic opportunities and benefits from the global economy. The World Trade Organization and other relevant international organizations are encouraged to use the modalities of the integrated framework of trade-related technical assistance for least developed countries to coordinate assistance programmes, including capacity-building for more effective participation in trade negotiations, and to build on national poverty reduction strategies in order to mainstream trade into the development plans of small island developing States.

E. Monitoring and evaluation

99. The international community recognizes the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the present Strategy, including within the overall framework of the integrated and coordinated follow-up of United Nations summits and conferences.

F. Role for the United Nations in the further implementation of the Programme of Action

100. The Commission on Sustainable Development will continue to be the primary intergovernmental body responsible for the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments related to small island developing States. Other relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system also continue to have an important role within their respective areas of expertise and mandates. All organs and programmes of the United Nations system should coordinate and rationalize their work in implementing the present Strategy. In this regard, the Commission will include these issues in its work programme, in accordance with its decision at its eleventh session.

101. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional commissions, within their respective mandates,

and to further mainstream small island developing States issues to facilitate coordinated implementation of the follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, regional, subregional and global levels. The Secretary-General is requested to include information on progress in this regard in his annual report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

102. The Secretary-General is also requested to ensure that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, continues to provide substantive support and advisory services to small island developing States for the further implementation of the Programme of Action and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the United Nations Secretariat continues to mobilize international support and resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with its mandate.

103. The international community recognizes that small island developing States should have the flexibility, through simplified procedures, to report jointly on the implementation of the Programme of Action and internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to combine such reporting with other international reporting requirements.

G. Role of small island developing States regional institutions in monitoring and implementation

104. Small island developing States regional institutions should play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the present Strategy.

Notes

¹ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex 2.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁶ E/CN.17/2004/8.

⁷ FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

⁸ A/CONF.172/9, resolution 1, annex I.

⁹ United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

¹⁰ *International Legal Materials*, vol. 26, No. 6 (November 1987), p. 1550.

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- ¹¹ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.
- ¹² See *International Fisheries Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. III.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, sect. I; see also A/CONF.164/37.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁵ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.
- ¹⁶ See UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21.
- ¹⁷ See E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15.
- ¹⁸ United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
- ¹⁹ See decision VII/14 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
- ²⁰ See <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety>.
- ²¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, decision VI/24, sect. A.
- ²² See General Assembly resolution 57/254.
- ²³ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.
- ²⁴ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

Resolution 2*

Expression of thanks to the people and the Government of Mauritius

The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Having met in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005, at the invitation of the Government of Mauritius,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to Paul Raymond Bérenger, Prime Minister of Mauritius, for his outstanding contribution, as President of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government of Mauritius for having made it possible for the International Meeting to be held in Mauritius and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal;

3. *Requests* the Government of Mauritius to convey to the city of Port Louis and to the people of Mauritius the gratitude of the International Meeting for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

* Adopted at the 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January 2005; for the discussion, see chap. X.

Resolution 3*
**Credentials of representatives to the International Meeting
to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action
for the Sustainable Development of Small Island
Developing States**

*The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of
Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,*

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee¹ and the
recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

Notes

¹ A/CONF.207/9.

* Adopted at the 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January 2005; for the discussion, see chap. VIII.

Chapter II

Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and place of the International Meeting

1. In conformity with General Assembly resolutions 58/213 A and 58/213 B, the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005. The International Meeting held 5 plenary meetings.

B. Informal consultations held in preparation for the International Meeting

2. Informal consultations, open to all States invited to participate in the International Meeting, were held in Port Louis on 8 and 9 January 2005 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. The informal consultations were conducted under the chairmanship of Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations. The report on the consultations (A/CONF.207/L.2) was submitted to the International Meeting and the recommendations contained in it were accepted as the basis for the organization of work of the International Meeting.

C. Attendance

3. The following States and regional economic integration organizations were represented at the International Meeting:

Algeria	Cook Islands
Angola	Croatia
Antigua and Barbuda	Cuba
Australia	Cyprus
Austria	Czech Republic
Azerbaijan	Denmark
Bahamas	Dominica
Bahrain	Dominican Republic
Barbados	Ecuador
Belarus	Egypt
Belgium	Equatorial Guinea
Belize	European Community
Brazil	Fiji
Brunei Darussalam	Finland
Bulgaria	France
Burkina Faso	Gabon
Cambodia	Gambia
Canada	Germany
Cape Verde	Greece
Chile	Grenada
China	Guatemala
Comoros	Guinea-Bissau

Guyana	Philippines
Haiti	Portugal
Holy See	Qatar
Iceland	Republic of Korea
India	Russian Federation
Indonesia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Ireland	Saint Lucia
Italy	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Jamaica	Samoa
Japan	Sao Tome and Principe
Kenya	Saudi Arabia
Kiribati	Senegal
Kuwait	Seychelles
Lebanon	Singapore
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Solomon Islands
Lithuania	South Africa
Luxembourg	Spain
Madagascar	Sri Lanka
Malaysia	Sudan
Maldives	Suriname
Malta	Swaziland
Marshall Islands	Switzerland
Mauritius	Thailand
Mexico	Timor-Leste
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Tonga
Monaco	Trinidad and Tobago
Morocco	Tunisia
Mozambique	Turkey
Namibia	Tuvalu
Nauru	Ukraine
Netherlands	United Arab Emirates
New Zealand	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Nigeria	United Republic of Tanzania
Niue	United States of America
Norway	Vanuatu
Pakistan	Yemen
Palau	Zimbabwe
Papua New Guinea	
Peru	

4. The following associate members of the regional commissions were represented by observers:

- Anguilla
- Aruba
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles

New Caledonia

Puerto Rico

United States Virgin Islands

5. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

6. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

International Narcotics Control Board

Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries

Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

United Nations Population Fund

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

United Nations University

7. The secretariats of the following conventions were represented:

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

8. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Civil Aviation Organization

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Labour Organization

International Monetary Fund
International Telecommunication Union
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Bank
World Health Organization
World Meteorological Organization
World Tourism Organization
World Trade Organization

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank
African Union
Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee
Asian Development Bank
Asian and Pacific Coconut Community
Association of Caribbean States
Basel Convention (Caribbean) Regional Centre
Caribbean Community
Caribbean Development Bank
Common Fund for Commodities
Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International
Commonwealth Secretariat
Global Environment Facility
International Hydrographic Organization
International Organization of la Francophonie
International Organization for Migration
Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
South African Development Community
South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission

10. A large number of non-governmental organizations attended the International Meeting. The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee of the International Meeting and the International Meeting itself accredited non-governmental organizations (see E/CN.17/2004/9; A/59/409 and Corr.1; and annex V, sect. A).

11. Having received a standing invitation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participated as an observer.

D. Opening of the International Meeting

12. The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was opened on 10 January 2005 by Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Secretary-General of the International Meeting. Paul Raymond Bérenger, Prime Minister of Mauritius and President of the International Meeting, delivered an opening statement; a statement was also made by the Secretary-General of the International Meeting (see annex II).

E. Election of the President and other officers

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting elected the following officers:

President

Paul Raymond Bérenger, Prime Minister of Mauritius (elected by acclamation)

Vice-Presidents

<i>African States:</i>	Cape Verde, Mauritius, Morocco
<i>Eastern European States:</i>	Croatia, Czech Republic, Lithuania
<i>Latin American and Caribbean States:</i>	Bahamas, Barbados, Belize
<i>Western European and other States:</i>	Belgium, Italy, New Zealand
<i>Asian States:</i>	Nauru, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu

Vice-President ex officio

Pravin Kumar Jugnauth, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Mauritius (elected by acclamation)

Rapporteur-General

Christopher Fitzherbert Hackett, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations (elected by acclamation)

Chairman of the Main Committee

Don MacKay, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations (elected by acclamation)

F. Adoption of the rules of procedure

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting adopted the rules of procedure (see A/CONF.207/2).

G. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

15. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document A/CONF.207/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Opening of the International Meeting.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Election of officers other than the President.
5. Adoption of the agenda: accreditation of intergovernmental organizations and major groups.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee.
7. Credentials of representatives to the International Meeting:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. Comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
9. Adoption of the final outcomes of the International Meeting.
10. Adoption of the report of the International Meeting.
11. Closure of the International Meeting.

H. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

16. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting, in accordance with document A/CONF.207/6 and Add.1, approved the accreditation of the following two intergovernmental organizations: the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission and Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International.

I. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee

17. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January 2005, the International Meeting approved the organization of work as contained in document A/CONF.207/4.

18. At the same meeting, the International Meeting approved the proposed timetable of work for the International Meeting and the Main Committee as contained in the annex to document A/CONF.207/4.

J. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting endorsed the recommendation that rule 51.2 of the rules of procedure be suspended in order that the Credentials Committee be convoked with the following members present: China, the Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America.

K. Documentation

20. The list of documents before the International Meeting is contained in annex I to the present report.

Chapter III

Panels

1. In accordance with a decision taken at its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting convened five panels under agenda item 8, “Comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, from 10 to 12 January 2005. Summaries of panel discussions are contained in annex III. An account of the panel proceedings is set out below.

Panel one

Environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States

2. The secretariat of the International Meeting prepared a background document containing questions relevant to the topic (A/CONF.207/CRP.1).

3. On 10 January, panel one (Environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States) was convened under the co-chairmanship of Tagaloa Tuala Sale Tagaloa, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa and Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Official Development Assistance) of New Zealand, who made opening statements.

4. The Moderator of panel one, Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also made a statement and opened the floor for discussion.

5. The following panellists made introductory statements: Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Theophilus Ferguson John, Minister for Physical Development, Environment and Housing, Saint Lucia; Salvano Briceño, Director, Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; and Kenrick Leslie, Director, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Belize.

6. The Co-chairpersons and panellists held an interactive discussion on the topic with the representatives of Belize, Mauritius, Croatia, Guyana, the Marshall Islands, Maldives (the representative read out a message from the President of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom), Egypt, Cape Verde, France, Comoros, the United States of America, Grenada, Iceland, Barbados, Indonesia, Kuwait and Tonga, as well as the representatives of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Narcotics Control Board and CAB International.

7. The representatives of the following major groups also participated in the discussion: the scientific and technological community; indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations.

8. The panellists reacted to comments made by the participants.

9. The summary of discussion is contained in annex III.

Panel two

Special challenges facing small island developing States in the area of trade and economic development

10. The secretariat of the International Meeting prepared a background document containing questions relevant to the topic (A/CONF.207/CRP.2).
11. On 11 January, panel two (special challenges facing small island developing States in the area of trade and economic development) was convened by Jaya Cuttaree, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Mauritius, who made an opening statement.
12. The Moderator of panel two, Habib Ouane, Director of the Special Programme for Least Developed Landlocked and Island Developing Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), made a statement and opened the floor for the discussion.
13. The following panellists made introductory statements: Anthony Severin, Ambassador in the Office of the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia and Ambassador to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Mohamed Latheef, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations; Hans-Peter Werner, Counsellor, Development Division, World Trade Organization (WTO); Sivaramen Palayathan, Trade Adviser, Permanent Mission of Mauritius to WTO; and Deep Forde, Senior Trade Adviser, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
14. The Chairman and panellists held an interactive discussion on the topic with the representatives of Egypt, Comoros, Singapore, Dominica, Cape Verde, the European Community, Cuba and Mauritius, as well as the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and CARICOM.
15. The representatives of the following major groups also participated in the discussion: trade unions, and business and industry.
16. The panellists reacted to comments made by the participants.
17. The summary of discussion is contained in annex III.

Panel three

Role of culture in the sustainable development of small island developing States

18. The secretariat of the International Meeting prepared a background document containing questions relevant to the topic (A/CONF.207/CRP.3).
19. On 11 January, panel three (Role of culture in the sustainable development of small island developing States) was convened by Rachmat Witoelar, Minister of State for the Environment of Indonesia, who made an opening statement.
20. The Moderator of panel three, Pearlette Louisy, Governor-General of Saint Lucia, made a statement and opened the floor for the discussion.
21. The following panellists made introductory statements: Philippe de la Hausse Lalouvière, President of the Historical Society of Mauritius and Chairman of the National Heritage Fund Board; Adi Meretui Ratunabuabua, Principal Cultural Development Officer, Ministry of Culture of Fiji; Ralph Regenvanu, Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre; Keith Nurse, University of the West Indies; and Sydney Bartley, Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture of Jamaica.

22. The Chairman and panellists held an interactive discussion on the topic with the representatives of Cook Islands, France, Fiji, Mauritius, Jamaica, Barbados and Morocco, as well as the representative of the Caribbean Development Bank.
23. The representatives of the following major groups also participated in the discussion: women and children, and youth.
24. The panellists reacted to comments made by the participants.
25. The summary of discussion is contained in annex III.

Panel four

Addressing emerging trends and social challenges for the sustainable development of small island developing States

26. The secretariat of the International Meeting prepared a background document containing questions relevant to the topic (A/CONF.207/CRP.4).
27. On 11 January, panel four (Addressing emerging trends and social challenges for the sustainable development of small island developing States) was convened by Marcus Bethel, Minister of Health and the Environment of the Bahamas, and Bruce Billson, Parliamentary Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Australia, who made opening statements.
28. The Moderator of panel four, Len Ishmael, Director-General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, also made a statement and opened the floor for the discussion.
29. The following panellists made introductory statements: Greg Urwin, Secretary-General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat; Sonia Elliott, United Nations Liaison with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Curtis Ward, Adviser to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council; and Rex Nettleford, Professor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies.
30. The Co-Chairmen and panellists held an interactive discussion on the topic with the representatives of Mauritius, Cuba, France, Puerto Rico, Samoa and Haiti.
31. The representatives of the following major groups also participated in the discussion: women, children and youth, non-governmental organizations, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers.
32. The summary of discussion is contained in annex III.

Panel five

Resilience-building in sustainable development of small island developing States

33. The secretariat of the International Meeting prepared a background document containing questions relevant to the topic (A/CONF.207/CRP.5).
34. On 12 January, panel five (Resilience-building for the sustainable development of small island developing States) was convened by Maria Madalena Brito Neves, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries of Cape Verde, who made an opening statement.

35. The Moderator of panel five, Albert Henry Binger, Director, Center for Environment and Development, University of the West Indies and Coordinator of the UNDP expert group on small island developing States also made a statement and opened the floor for discussion.

36. The following panellists made introductory statements: Toke Talagi, Deputy Prime Minister of the Environment of Niue; Michael Witter, University of the West Indies; Teresa Manarangi-Trott, Cook Islands; Siv Jensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Norwegian Parliament; and Kim Hak Su, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

37. The Chairperson and panellists held an interactive discussion on the topic with the representatives of Senegal, France, Vanuatu and Guyana, as well as the representative of the Caribbean Development Bank.

38. The representative of farmers and local authorities, major groups, also participated in the discussion.

39. The panellists reacted to comments made by the participants.

40. The summary of discussion is contained in annex III.

Chapter IV

Comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

A. Statements by representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, organizations and programmes and of intergovernmental organizations, and report of the Civil Society Forum

1. At its 1st meeting on 10 January, the International Meeting began its consideration of agenda item 8 and heard statements by representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the United Nations Population Fund; Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius (joint statement); the United Nations Children's Fund; UNAIDS; UNIDO; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Unit for Least Developed Countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); FAO; and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

2. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International, the International Hydrographic Organization, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and the Southern African Development Community.

3. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Centre for Documentation, Research and Training for the South West Indian Ocean; the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre; the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development; Nature Seychelles; and the Caribbean Policy Development Centre.

B. Handing-over ceremony

4. On 13 January, the International Meeting held a handing-over ceremony of the custodianship of the small island developing States process from Barbados to Mauritius and heard statements by Owen S. Arthur, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of Barbados, and Paul Raymond Bérenger, Prime Minister of Mauritius.

C. Opening of the high-level segment: general debate

5. The high-level segment of the International Meeting was held on 13 and 14 January.

6. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 January, Paul Raymond Bérenger, Prime Minister of Mauritius and President of the International Meeting, declared open the high-level segment and made a statement.

7. At the same meeting, Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, Jean Ping, President of the General Assembly, made a statement.

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by Owen S. Arthur, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of Barbados; Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Jean-Louis Schiltz, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union and the candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey; and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro); James A. Michel, President of Seychelles; Azali Assoumani, President of the Comoros; Ludwig Scotty, President of Nauru; Anote Tong, President of Kiribati; Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea; Denzil L. Douglas, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis; Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Samoa; Maatia Toafa, Prime Minister of Tuvalu; Jim Marurai, Prime Minister of Cook Islands; Mari Alkatiri, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste; Prince `Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister and Minister for Civil Aviation of Tonga; John Briceño, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance of Belize; Toke Talagi, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment of Niue; Jacob G. Zuma, Deputy President of South Africa; Rahmat Witoelar, State Minister for Environment of Indonesia; Ferguson John, Minister for Physical Development, Environment and Housing of Saint Lucia; E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs of India; Douglas Slater, Minister of Health and Environment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Official Development Assistance) of New Zealand; and Errol Cort, Minister for Finance and the Economy of Antigua and Barbuda.

10. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 13 January, statements were made by Kessai H. Note, President of the Marshall Islands; Allan Kemakeza, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands; Shaikh Salman Bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Special Envoy of the Government of Bahrain; Marcel Ranjeva, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Madagascar; Li Zhaoxing, Special Envoy of the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China; Ann Antoine, Minister for Health, the Environment and Ecclesiastic Affairs of Grenada; Clifford Marica, Minister for Labour, Technological Development and Environment of Suriname; Mohammed El Yazghi, Minister for Territory Planning, Water and Environment of Morocco; Ovideo Manuel Barbosa Pequeno, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Community of Sao Tome and Principe; Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, Minister of Government of Cuba; Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Francis O. Riviere, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Marketing of Dominica; Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji; Conor Lenihan, Minister of State, Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Development and Human Rights of Ireland; Uschi Eid, Parliamentary State Secretary and Deputy Minister, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany; Han Myeong-sook, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea; Bruce Billson, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Australia; Maria Madalena Brito Neves, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries of Cape Verde; Yves André Wainwright, Minister for the Environment of Haiti; Penelope Beckles, Minister for Public Utilities and the Environment of Trinidad and Tobago; Dean Peart, Minister of Land and Environment of Jamaica; Abdelkader

Messahel, Minister in charge of Magrebines and African Affairs of Algeria; Alfredo Luigi Mantica, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy; and Sorajak Kasemsuvan, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

11. At the same meeting, statements were also made by Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO; Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorology Organization (WMO); Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Ian Goldin, Vice-President for External Affairs, Communication and United Nations Affairs of the World Bank; and Abdulie Janneh, Assistant Secretary-General of the UNDP, Regional Bureau for Africa.

12. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 14 January, statements were made by Joseph J. Urusemal, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; Camsek Elias Chin, Vice-President of Palau; Sato Kilman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu; Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya; John Kachamila, Minister for Coordination of Environment Affairs of Mozambique; Issa Mohammad Al-Own, Under-Secretary for Energy of Kuwait; Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the European Community; Yaacob bin Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore; Marcus Bethel, Minister for Health and Environment of the Bahamas; Xavier Darcos, Minister for Development, Cooperation and Francophonie of France; Maged Georges Ilias Ghattas, Minister of State for Environment Affairs of Egypt; Arcado Ntagazwa, Minister of State (Environment and Union Matters) of the United Republic of Tanzania; Mamidou Sidibe, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development of Senegal; Ole E. Moesby, Under-Secretary of State for Multilateral Affairs of Denmark; Navin Chandernal, Special Envoy of the President of Guyana on environment and sustainable development; Yoriko Kawaguchi, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan; Eiripidis Steelianidis, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece; Drazen Margeta, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia; Zainal Abidin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; Patricia Olamendi Torres, Under-Secretary for Multilateral and Human Rights Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Sandelle Scrimshaw, High Commissioner for Canada to Mauritius and Special Envoy of the Minister of International Cooperation to the International Meeting; Petko Draganov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria; José Iglésias Soares, head of delegation of Portugal and President of the Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance; Mohamed Latheef, head of delegation, Maldives; O.Y. Ivanova, head of delegation, Russian Federation; Aminu Bashir Wali, head of delegation, Nigeria; Harald Neple, head of delegation, Norway; Bashir Abu Sita, head of delegation, Sudan; Oswaldo de Rivero Barreto, head of delegation, Peru; Sichan Siv, alternate head of delegation, United States of America; Ulrich Lehner, head of delegation, Switzerland; Hjálmar W. Hannesson, head of delegation, Iceland; Maritza Amalia Guerrero, alternate head of delegation, Dominican Republic; Gerhard Pfanzelter, head of delegation, Austria; and Abdulaziz Nasser R. Al-Shamsi, head of delegation, United Arab Emirates.

13. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January, statements were made by Moi Avei, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Minister for Petroleum and Energy and Acting Minister for National Planning and Rural Development of Papua New Guinea; Jaroslav Siro, head of delegation, Czech Republic; Mykhailo Skuratovsskyi, head of

delegation, Ukraine; Syed Hassan Javed, head of delegation, Pakistan; Ali Goutali, head of delegation, Tunisia; Carlos Sérgio Sobral Duarte, head of delegation, Brazil; Claudio Rojas, head of delegation, Chile; Carlyle G. Corbin, Minister of State for External Affairs of the United States Virgin Islands; Joseph Manaute, head of delegation, New Caledonia; Roland Antonius, head of delegation, Netherlands Antilles.

14. At the same meeting, statements were also made by Don McKinnon, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat; Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community; Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director-General, International Organization for Migration; Raymond Forde, Member of the Governing Board and President, Barbados Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union; Leonard Good, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of GEF; Paul Verges, Member of the Indian Ocean Commission Council of Ministers; Sékou Touré, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements; Chrishna Nand Bissonauthsing, World Health Organization; Jurgen T. Reitmaier, Senior Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund; Hak-Su Kim, Executive Secretary of ESCAP; Sachiko Kuwabara Yamamoto, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (circulated statement).

Chapter V

Round tables

1. In accordance with a decision taken at its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting convened two round-table discussions under agenda item 8, “Comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, on 13 and 14 January 2005. The round tables had as the basis for their discussion the summaries of the panel discussions contained in documents A/CONF.207/7/Add.1 to 5 (for the panel proceedings, see chap. III; for the summaries of panel discussions, see annex III).

2. Summaries of the round-table discussions are contained in annex IV. An account of the round-table proceedings is contained below.

Round table one

The way forward: mobilizing resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

3. On 13 January 2005, round table one (Mobilizing resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action) was convened and co-chaired by Owen S. Arthur, Prime Minister, Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs of Barbados, and Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the European Community. Mr. Arthur made an opening statement.

4. The Moderator and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs also made a statement and opened the discussion.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of Grenada, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the United States, Dominica, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Marshall Islands, France, Cuba, Cape Verde, Samoa, Finland, Malaysia, Comoros, Tunisia, Mauritius and the Federated States of Micronesia, as well as representatives of UNCTAD, ESCAP and CARICOM.

6. The representatives of major groups from the Caribbean and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas regions also participated in the round-table discussion.

7. The Co-Chairmen reacted to comments made by the participants.

8. The Co-Chairman, Mr. Michel, prepared a summary for discussion (see annex IV).

Round table two

The way forward: building capacity for sustainable development in small island developing States

9. On 13 January, round table two (Building capacity for sustainable development in small island developing States) was convened and co-chaired by Kessai H. Note, President of the Marshall Islands, and Jacob Zuma, Deputy President of South Africa. Kessai H. Note, President of the Marshall Islands, made an opening statement.

10. The Moderator, Leonard Good, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of GEF, also made a statement and opened the discussion.

11. Statements were made by the representatives of Grenada, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, India, Belize, Iceland, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, the United States, Samoa, Tuvalu, Cuba, Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, France, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Tunisia, Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas, as well as by the representatives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and UNDP.

12. The following representatives of major groups also participated in the round-table discussion: Pacific Region and the International Networks.

13. The Co-Chairpersons reacted to comments made by the participants.

14. The Co-Chairperson, Mr. Zuma, prepared a summary of the discussion (see annex IV).

Chapter VI

Report of the Main Committee

A. Organizational matters

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting, after approving the agenda and organization of its work as set out in document A/CONF.207/1, decided to allocate agenda item 9 (Adoption of the final outcomes of the International Meeting) to the Main Committee, which was to submit its recommendations to the International Meeting.
2. The Main Committee held two meetings, on 10 and 13 January; it also held a number of informal meetings.
3. The Main Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.207/L.1);
 - (b) Draft report of the Main Committee (A/CONF.207/L.4 and Add.1-8).
4. The Chairman of the Main Committee was Don MacKay (New Zealand), who was elected by acclamation at the 1st plenary meeting of the International Meeting, on 10 January.
5. At its 1st meeting, the Main Committee elected by acclamation Perina J. Sila (Samoa) as Rapporteur.

B. Consideration of the draft strategy

6. At its 1st meeting, on 10 January, the Main Committee heard a statement by its Chairman.
7. At the same meeting, the Main Committee heard statements by the representatives of Brazil and Mauritius.
8. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 January, following a statement by its Chairman, the Committee proceeded to approve the draft strategy as contained in document A/CONF.207/CRP.7, chapter by chapter.
9. At the same meeting, before the approval of chapter III (Management of waste) of the draft strategy, a statement was made by the representative of Japan.
10. Also at the same meeting, before the approval of the draft strategy as a whole, the representative of Nauru proposed amending the title of the draft strategy to read: "Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".
11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the amendment to the title of the draft strategy, and decided to approve the draft strategy as a whole, for transmittal to the International Meeting for adoption.

C. Adoption of the report of the Main Committee

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 January, the Committee adopted its draft report as contained in documents A/CONF.207/L.4 and Add.1 through 8 and A/CONF.207/CRP.7.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mauritius and Luxembourg, after which the Chairman made a closing statement.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the draft declaration and draft strategy

A. Draft political declaration

1. At its 5th meeting, on 14 January, on the recommendation of its President, the International Meeting considered a draft political declaration entitled “Mauritius Declaration”, which was transmitted to it in document A/CONF. 207/L.6 and Corr.1.
2. At the same meeting, on 14 January, the International Meeting adopted the draft declaration (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 1, annex I).

B. Draft strategy

3. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January, the Rapporteur of the Main Committee reported on the outcome of the discussions of the Main Committee on a draft strategy entitled “Mauritius strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as contained in documents A/CONF.207/L.4 and Add.1 to 7 and A/CONF.207/CRP.7.
4. At the same meeting, the International Meeting, on the recommendation of the Main Committee, adopted the draft strategy and recommended its endorsement by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 1, annex II).

Chapter VIII

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. Rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States provides as follows:

“A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the International Meeting. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-ninth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the International Meeting without delay.”

2. At its first plenary meeting, on 10 January, the International Meeting was informed that of the nine members which compose the Credentials Committee for the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, five countries, namely, Benin, Bhutan, Ghana, Liechtenstein and Uruguay, had indicated that they would not attend the International Meeting. The International Meeting decided that rule 51.2 of the rules of procedure would be suspended in order that the Credentials Committee be convoked with the following four members present: China, the Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.

3. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 12 January.

4. Anthony David Edghill (Trinidad and Tobago) was unanimously elected Chairman of the International Meeting.

5. The Credentials Committee had before it a memorandum by the secretariat of the International Meeting, dated 12 January, concerning the credentials of representatives of States and of the European Community to the International Meeting. The representative of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations made a statement relating to the memorandum by the secretariat of the International Meeting.

6. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, formal credentials of representatives to the International Meeting, in the form required by rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the International Meeting, had been received as at the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee from the following 51 States and the European Community: Bahrain, Belize, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, China, Cook Islands, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, the Holy See, India, Kenya, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Nauru, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, information concerning the appointment of the representatives of States to the International Meeting had been communicated to the secretariat of the International Meeting, as at the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, by means of a cable or a telefax from the Head of State or Government or the

Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the ministries, embassies or permanent missions concerned, by the following 49 States: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Sudan, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

8. The Chairman recommended that the Credentials Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of all States and of the European Community mentioned in the memorandum of the secretariat of the International Meeting, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 6 above would be communicated to the secretariat of the International Meeting as soon as possible.

9. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Credentials Committee adopted the following draft resolution without a vote:

“The Credentials Committee,

“Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States referred to in the memorandum of the secretariat of the International Meeting dated 12 January 2005,

“Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the States and of the European Community referred to in the above-mentioned memorandum.”

10. On the proposal of its Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the International Meeting the adoption of a draft resolution approving the report of the Committee.

Action taken by the International Meeting

11. At its 5th meeting, on 14 January, the International Meeting began consideration of sub-item 7 (b) and considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.207/9).

12. At the same meeting, the International Meeting adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in its report (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 3).

Chapter IX

Adoption of the report of the International Meeting

1. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January, the Rapporteur-General introduced the report of the International Meeting (A/CONF.207/L.3 and Add.1 and 2).
2. At the same meeting, the International Meeting adopted the draft report and authorized the Rapporteur-General to finalize the report, in conformity with the standard practice of the United Nations, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Chapter X

Closure of the International Meeting

1. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January, the representative of Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) introduced a draft resolution expressing the International Meeting's gratitude and thanks to the people and the Government of Mauritius (A/CONF.207/L.5).
2. At the same meeting, the International Meeting unanimously adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 2).
3. Also at the same meeting, on 14 January, the President of the International Meeting made a statement.
4. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the International Meeting made a statement.
5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union) and Canada (on behalf of JUSCANZ).
6. At the same meeting, the President of the International Meeting declared the International Meeting closed.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
A/CONF.207/1	5	Provisional agenda and annotations
A/CONF.207/2	3	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting
A/CONF.207/3		Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory meeting for the International Meeting
A/CONF.207/4	6	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee
A/CONF.207/5	8	Letter dated 7 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
A/CONF.207/6 and Add.1	5	Accreditation of an intergovernmental organization to the International Meeting
A/CONF.207/7 and Add.1-5	8	Summaries of panel discussions
A/CONF.207/8 and Add.1 and 2	8	Summaries of round tables
A/CONF.207/9	7	Report of the Credentials Committee
A/CONF.207/10	8	Note verbale dated 19 January 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations address to the Secretary-General
A/CONF.207/L.1	9	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the draft strategy
A/CONF.207/L.2		Report on the informal consultations held in preparation for the International Meeting
A/CONF.207/L.3 and Add.1 and 2		Draft report of the International Meeting
A/CONF.207/L.4 and Add.1-8		Draft report of the Main Committee
A/CONF.207/L.5	10	Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Mauritius: draft resolution submitted by Qatar on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China
A/CONF.207/L.6 and Corr.1	9	Draft political declaration
A/CONF.207/CRP.1	8	Background paper for panel one
A/CONF.207/CRP.2	8	Background paper for panel two
A/CONF.207/CRP.3	8	Background paper for panel three
A/CONF.207/CRP.4	8	Background paper for panel four
A/CONF.207/CRP.5	8	Background paper for panel five
A/CONF.207/CRP.6	8	Background paper for round tables one and two
A/CONF.207/CRP.7 (English only)		Draft strategy
A/CONF.207/INF/1		Information for participants
A/CONF.207/INF/2 (Part I) and Rev.1		List of delegations

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
A/59/409 and Corr.1		Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the International Meeting
E/CN.17/2004/9		Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the International Meeting and its preparatory meeting

Annex II

Opening statements

Statement by Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Secretary-General of the International Meeting

I have the honour and pleasure to declare open the International Meeting for the 10-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, taking place in this new and magnificent Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre.

We meet here in Mauritius at a time of terrible death and destruction caused by the Asian tsunami two weeks ago. Under the leadership and guidance of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the United Nations immediately mobilized its energy and resources and is taking every possible step, in cooperation with the rest of the international community, to cope with the calamity brought by this unprecedented disaster.

Allow me to congratulate the Republic of Mauritius for hosting this United Nations International Meeting, and for spearheading the preparatory phase as the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States. I have every confidence that under the leadership of Mauritius, the meeting will be successful, and we will turn a new chapter in our efforts to achieve the objectives of the Programme of Action.

I also congratulate you, Mr. Prime Minister, and your Government, for providing this beautiful and well-functioning convention centre. It symbolizes your country's resolve to play a greater international role and build effective partnerships for the benefit of all.

As Secretary-General of this International Meeting, I thank the Government and people of Mauritius for the excellent cooperation extended to the United Nations in organizing this major event. We have indeed come a long way since the start of the preparatory process over a year ago, from both the organizational and substantive points of view.

The task before the International Meeting is a critical one for small island developing States.

Despite the efforts made by small island developing States, the expectations for international support and cooperation for the implementation of the Programme of Action have not materialized.

Against this sombre backdrop, I am happy to note that many small island developing States have introduced domestic reforms in macroeconomic policies to facilitate their integration into the global economy. At the regional level, small island developing States have made advances in putting into place appropriate arrangements to integrate their economic, social and environmental approaches to achieve sustainable development. These actions will undoubtedly help them to maximize the opportunities available to them and move forward after the International Meeting.

However, the smallness and remoteness of small island developing States continue to pose serious problems in providing international aid and enhancing

foreign investments. Projects and programmes in many cases are not viable when targeted for specific countries. On the other hand, when small island developing States band together to integrate their economies and meet common challenges, many of the social, economic and human development projects and programmes could be proved viable and yield better results. I therefore urge the small island developing countries to increase their efforts to hasten the pace of regional economic integration.

Let me also add here that increased South-South cooperation, particularly among small island developing States themselves, has the potential to enhance their sustainable development efforts — an opportunity that curiously did not find any mention in the Programme of Action.

Besides the sustainable development issues in the context of Barbados, several new and emerging issues, relating in particular to trade, security and HIV/AIDS, have surfaced and will receive the much deserved attention of the international community represented here.

In addition to the interactive panels on five major areas of interest, a very special feature of this conference will be the two round tables during the two-day high-level segment that will focus on the way forward — the practical and concrete ways and means of implementing the very outcome that the leaders are going to adopt on the final day of this conference. This is very unique for any conference to begin discussing the modalities of implementation of its final outcome while participants are still at the conference venue.

The decisions articulated at the International Meeting will greatly facilitate all stakeholders in charting the course of multilateral cooperation for implementing the priorities set out here in Mauritius. But if we are to make meaningful headway with the Programme of Action, if we are to tackle the new and emerging issues that now confront small island developing States and if we are determined to put these most vulnerable countries on a surer path to sustainable development — then the priorities that are set in Mauritius must not only be realistic and achievable but should command the full and genuine support of the international community.

During the past decade, a striking feature for the lack of implementation of the Programme of Action has been the decline in international support and resources. In this context, we all realize that the international community has a host of other issues that preoccupy or divert its attention as well as resources. Hence I urge the International Meeting to bear in mind the importance of continuous advocacy to implement its outcomes. Advocacy from the highest levels of the United Nations is essential in raising awareness of small island developing States issues and in keeping these high on the international agenda.

In the true spirit of collaborative partnership that we are envisaging here, donor countries, development partners, civil society, the private sector, United Nations agencies and the small island developing States themselves will all be involved in implementing the decisions of the International Meeting. Here it is essential to bear in mind that national efforts require staunch support from the international community. In this process, the role of international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the regional development banks, will be critical. In this context, I urge development partners particularly to increase their official development assistance to these vulnerable countries.

At the national level, Governments must also adopt policies promoting the establishment of an enabling environment, and coordinate and bring together the efforts and resources of all to meet the objectives that are set.

At the regional level, I urge that for purposes of coordination and monitoring, regional organizations and especially intergovernmental regional organizations, with the support of the United Nations system, should expand and enrich their role. These regional bodies know their respective regions perhaps better than any other international organization. They know the potentials, the problems and the stakes involved in their regions. They can contribute meaningfully to implementation by initiating programmes and projects, coordinating the flow of international resources and monitoring results.

I call upon this International Meeting to come up with concrete measures to enhance implementation of priorities identified here in Mauritius. For its part, the United Nations system will continue to be a true partner of small island developing States.

For my part, as the Secretary-General of the International Meeting and as the United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, I will continue to give the best possible support, advice and guidance to the international community in a manner that will help meet the aspirations of the peoples of small island developing States.

Statement by Paul Raymond Bérenger, Prime Minister of Mauritius and President of the International Meeting

Mauritius is indeed honoured to accept the custodianship of the small island developing States process and hereby solemnly commits itself to uphold, defend and promote on all occasions the interests of small island developing States. We are most grateful to the Government and people of Barbados for their outstanding stewardship during the past 10 years.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all of you to the high-level segment of the International Meeting. I would like to extend a very special welcome to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has honoured us with his distinguished presence today.

Small island developing States are at a crossroads. In 1994, 111 countries met in Barbados to adopt the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, mapping a path for their sustainable development based on the premise that because of their inherent vulnerabilities, small island developing States represented a special case for environment and sustainable development. The Programme of Action was hailed as a major achievement. Today, more than 10 years later, as we meet to review its implementation, we find that the progress made can at best be described as mixed. In fact, in most small island developing States, the results have been unsatisfactory, and those who have been able to do better have generally done so through their own efforts. This failure can be attributed to several factors, the most important one being the absence of resources as promised by the international community. To further complicate matters, new and emerging issues, such as globalization, HIV/AIDS and security

concerns, have accentuated the inability of these countries to implement the agreed Programme of Action.

The unprecedented earthquake of 26 December 2004 and the associated tsunami in the Indian Ocean and the recent hurricane seasons in the Caribbean and Pacific regions provide us with a most sobering opportunity to reflect anew on the vulnerability of small island developing States, and the reality is that this vulnerability continues to grow.

It is within the context of this overall vulnerability that I invite you to reflect on some fundamental realities of the past several decades, during which period most small island developing States have gained independence.

During the United Nations Development Decade of the 1960s, newly independent small island developing States were urged to seek capital for investment but they met with little success. In the 1970s, many small island developing States attempted to build new institutions and international relations, but their efforts were stifled in a world that did not encourage diversity in development strategies. During the 1980s, many small island developing States and developing countries in general were required to undertake structural adjustment programmes that reversed many of the progressive social policy initiatives that had been necessitated by years of historical neglect. In the 1990s, the Washington consensus called for private-sector-led export promotion, but the liberalization of international trade regimes eroded the traditional preferential access to markets enjoyed by small island developing States. This advice, though logical, remains difficult to implement. Not only has market access become more difficult but also the investment required for diversification and for new industries to support the economic growth of small island developing States has not materialized.

None of these nostrums actually worked to full satisfaction.

At the start of the new millennium, small island developing States joined the international community in adopting the Millennium Development Goals to add to the already agreed international development goals and targets. Two years later, further commitments were made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

These goals are consistent with the Programme of Action that was agreed to in 1994 and they further reinforce them. It is to be feared, however, that unless concrete measures are taken within an appropriate enabling environment, in respect of access and mobilization of resources, access to technology and capacity-building, the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the achievement of the targets will continue to be elusive.

The decrease in overseas development assistance by about 50 per cent over the last 10 years and scarce resources within small island developing States have considerably limited their development. Isolation, small domestic market size and poor resilience to external shocks, compounded by extreme exposure to natural calamities and global environmental problems, such as climate change, sea-level rise, ozone depletion and deforestation, significantly hamper their development efforts.

In an attempt to generate income and create employment and economic growth, small island developing States have often had to resort to overexploitation

of their natural resources and this has led to environmental degradation, in some cases compromising the scope for sustainable development. While it is imperative for small island developing States to improve current socio-economic conditions, this should be done without further damage to key ecosystems.

Historically, small island developing States have been traditional suppliers of goods and commodities to former colonial powers under preferential trade arrangements which could actually be described as “supply arrangements” rather than trading arrangements. These arrangements continued after political independence and represented an important source of revenue for them, while at the same time causing a fair amount of dependency.

Since the Barbados Conference, a new trade regime has further complicated the global environment in which small island developing States have to operate.

Many small island developing States are unable to face merciless competition and encounter much difficulty in undergoing the painful adjustment process called for. In spite of all their strenuous efforts to withstand global competition, they run the risk of further marginalization. Unless they are given the necessary support and policy space at this critical juncture, it would be impossible for them to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

The truth is that without renewed international support, small island developing States will continue to face an uncertain future, with very little possibility of meeting the Millennium Development Goals and consolidating social and economic gains.

No doubt we have to continue with our sustained national efforts for our economic growth and social and environmental development. But this is not enough. The international community must support small island developing States in the creation of an enabling environment to facilitate trade, investment, capacity-building and resilience-building, and preparedness to face natural calamities and other disasters.

In addition, more emphasis needs to be placed on regional cooperation and partnership among small island developing States, for it is clear that a number of problems can be more effectively addressed through regional and cross-border initiatives.

A major challenge for small island developing States in the area of resilience-building is to adopt a new mindset towards energy policy. Energy shocks are among the most frequent and disruptive external factors experienced by small island developing States. Heavy reliance of small island developing States on imports of energy gives rise to substantial foreign-exchange outflows. The volatile nature of the global energy market in relatively short periods is responsible for derailing economic growth and fuelling inflation in many small island developing States. Yet it has been established that small island developing States have a large endowment of renewable energy sources from the sun and the oceans. Small island developing States, therefore, have a double vested interest in developing these sources of energy.

While the exclusive economic zones of small island developing States are host to over 80 per cent of the world’s biodiversity, small island developing States have very little control over that space. Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing

activities are taking place in small island developing States exclusive economic zones, mostly due to their lack of surveillance capability. Small island developing States therefore urgently require assistance and provisions of vessel monitoring surveillance systems, as well as technical training, to be able to fully and sustainably manage their marine resources.

At the level of the World Trade Organization, special efforts must be made to enable small island developing States to better integrate into the new multilateral trading system. Side by side with secure, predictable and preferential market access, there is an urgent need to build the supply-side capacity of small island developing States. These warrant enabling international rules to compensate for their inherent weaknesses, structural handicaps and severe vulnerabilities. Thus, the ongoing negotiations of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations must come up with solutions to respond to the trade-related problems of small island developing States.

All these initiatives should enhance the resilience of small island developing States. However, it is a must for all small island developing States to speak with one voice to ensure that their concerns are fully taken on board in all international forums. Simultaneously, the United Nations reform process should provide for a monitoring mechanism that would ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. To this effect, clear mandates should be given to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to regularly monitor the implementation of the outcomes of the International Meeting.

The tsunami aftermath compels us to think anew of early warning systems in all regions of the world. So far, we have focused on preparedness at the national level for disaster management. Now we have no choice but to go for regional and even global initiatives. In this regard, priority of consideration should be given to the setting up of a special trust fund to operate early warning systems and develop disaster preparedness. It is equally important to invest in disaster reduction through education, information dissemination and awareness creation.

Finally, I wish to record that the themes for the two round-table discussions, namely, mobilizing resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action and building capacity for the sustainable development of small island developing States, have been well chosen. I rejoice at the fact that we, at the level of Heads of State and Government, are discussing both the way forward and implementation issues. This shows firm commitment at the highest level of the international community.

Let me reiterate here my earnest wish to see concrete and realistic actions emanating from the International Meeting; the full and effective implementation of such actions will need to receive the same commitment from our development partners, the private sector, NGOs and civil society.

This year promises to be a very important year for the United Nations and multilateralism. Next week's meeting in Kobe, Japan, will be critical for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. After that, the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change is expected to lead to some very important outcomes at the special summit of the General Assembly to be held in September 2005. Let this also be the year for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and in this regard it is imperative that specific small island

developing States issues find their rightful place in the outcomes of the above-mentioned process.

Yes, indeed, the small island developing States are at a crossroads and this is truly a defining moment for their future.

Nous, Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement, ministres et chefs de délégation, ici présents, tenons en vérité entre nos mains, en ce jour et demain, l'avenir même des petits états insulaires en développement.

Qu'il me soit permis de le répéter, nous n'avons pas droit à l'erreur, et les générations à venir ne nous le pardonneraient pas si nous laissons s'échapper un succès tant mérité qui est à notre portée en ce moment historique.

The small island developing States and their development partners have worked hard, very hard, for what we can and must achieve today and tomorrow here in Mauritius.

We deserve and have a duty to succeed, and we shall.

Statement by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

I would like to thank Prime Minister Bérenger and the people of Mauritius for the great skill with which they have prepared and hosted this meeting, which has taken on even greater relevance in the wake of the tsunami that struck the region with such fury just 18 days ago.

With the exception of storm surges not far from this capital, Mauritius was spared the destructive force of the tsunamis. Too many other men, women and children, from Asia to Africa, were not so fortunate.

I have just visited some of the places that were hit the hardest. I have seen some of the terrible destruction — vast, lifeless swathes where once there were vibrant communities. I have met with displaced families, and listened to stories of unimaginable sadness. And I have seen relief workers on the move night and day to deliver aid.

What I witnessed was just a tiny sampling of what took place. Such suffering, such devastation, is shocking in both its magnitude and the speed with which it occurred. We human beings have been humbled yet again by the power of nature to alter, in an instant, our lives and the very face of the earth. But my time in the region also showed me something else that nature cannot extinguish: the human will, in this case the determination to rebuild and, most inspiring of all, to join together in that effort.

Let us declare our enduring solidarity with the survivors. The outpouring of assistance has come from everywhere, including countries with limited means or struggling through crises of their own. The United Nations will continue to do its part, sparing no effort to ensure that help reaches those who need it, quickly and effectively. That means now, in the emergency phase, to provide clean water, sanitation, food and medical care. And it means over the long term, as we look to reconstruction and long-term development. Should disaster strike again, and it will, in some part of the world, we must be able to say that we did everything humanly possible to build resilient societies.

This tragedy has taught us once again the need for prevention and early warning. Last week's meeting in Jakarta called for the establishment of a regional early warning system for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia. But we should do even more. We need a global warning system — and one that covers not just tsunamis but all other threats, such as storm surges and cyclones. In such an endeavour, no part of the world should be ignored. We must think globally and consider measures equal to the task.

We must also be ready to take decisive measures to address climate change. It is no longer so hard to imagine what might happen from the rising sea levels that the world's top scientists are telling us will accompany global warming. Who can claim that we are doing enough?

The events of the past 18 days have also cast into sharp relief other issues facing the world's small island developing States.

Small island nations are a diverse group. But they face common threats — not only climate change and a unique vulnerability to natural disasters but also degradation of key ecosystems, such as coral reefs and mangroves, which also suffered grievously from the tsunami. They face built-in constraints, such as small economies and limited freshwater, land and other natural resources. Waste disposal is a growing problem. Energy costs are high, meaning that more must be done to promote renewable sources. And they are handicapped by the protectionism of other countries, both developed and developing. Barely above sea level and remote from world markets, many small island States occupy the margins of our global community. For some, their very existence is in jeopardy.

United Nations conferences from Rio to Johannesburg and Monterrey, and above all 10 years ago in Barbados, have sought to rally the world behind the cause of small island developing states. There has been progress. Some small islands have carved out new market niches, in particular in such services as finance, tourism and information technologies. The latter in particular have helped to ease their isolation.

But major economic challenges remain. On the whole, implementation of what was agreed and promised at Barbados remains disappointing at best. And in the meantime, new challenges have emerged. The AIDS epidemic has made deep inroads, especially in the Caribbean, which now ranks second to sub-Saharan Africa in the proportion of its adult population that is infected by the disease.

So what was, a decade ago, an already pressing small islands agenda, has become even more urgent and daunting. Good progress is possible here in Mauritius. Partnerships with regional organizations and civil society will be crucial. The private sector's involvement is essential. The United Nations system will continue to do its part, including through advocacy aimed at keeping the issues of concern to small islands prominent on the international agenda.

I am encouraged that so many leaders have attended and that this high-level segment is focusing so intently on implementation. That should enable you to come out of here with a strong political consensus and a plan that can be implemented. Perhaps most crucially, we must recognize that what happens in small island developing States concerns us all.

That very interconnectedness — of States, of threats, of development and security — is one of the key messages of the report issued last month by the High-

level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. I want to say a few words about the Panel's report, because it is central to the development agenda.

The Panel has put forth a new and comprehensive vision of collective security that places great emphasis on prevention, and on building up the capacities of States to address threats and fulfil their responsibilities. The Panel has stated clearly that addressing development challenges such as extreme poverty, climate change and the spread of such infectious diseases as AIDS and malaria, is indispensable for our collective security. It has stressed the devastating impact that terrorism, conflict and organized crime have on development. And it has given us both wide-ranging policy recommendations and suggestions for significant changes in our multilateral institutions, including the United Nations.

The burden now falls on Member States to take up the challenge of change. Four days from now brings another landmark on the way to the summit of the General Assembly to be held in September 2005: the report of the Millennium Project. That report will describe how the Millennium Development Goals can be met by the target date of 2015. But it will take more than business as usual. Indeed, it will emphasize the need for a major worldwide scaling-up of investments. And it will call for wide-ranging country-level and international actions on aid, debt relief, trade and science and technology.

I shall draw on both reports for the preparation of my own report, to be issued in March 2005, on all aspects of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. With these documents in hand and with your discussions well advanced, September 2005 should be a time for far-reaching decisions on our common future.

We are all inhabitants of the global island. All of us, rich and poor, weak and strong, whether citizens of great power or tiny atoll, are linked in webs of opportunity and vulnerability.

We should have known this already, but it has taken a tsunami to press the point home. The question now is whether we will act over the long term, not just in small islands but everywhere, in the same spirit of unity that characterizes the current moment.

If any good should come from the upheaval caused by the tsunami, I hope it will be to have proven, once and for all, the need to heed the warning signs, come together well in advance of calamity, and sustain a collective effort to end human misery and build strong foundations for development and peace.

I wish you every success for the International Meeting. And I look forward to working with you to ease today's suffering and to make the most of the unique opportunity that awaits us in the year ahead.

Statement by Mr. Jean Ping, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations

Allow me to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Mauritius for the warm welcome extended to us upon our arrival in this beautiful and historic city of Port-Louis, a welcome that is a reflection of the legendary hospitality of island States.

As we meet here today, my first thoughts are with the countless victims of one of the most devastating earthquakes in history. I wish to take this opportunity to formally convey to the countries and peoples so cruelly afflicted by this terrible tragedy the heartfelt sympathy and support of the United Nations General Assembly.

History follows its own course. Although that course is often difficult to understand, it never fails to give us cause for reflection. The violence of the earthquake and tsunami that rocked South-East Asia and part of Africa's Indian Ocean coastline give special resonance to our Meeting.

This unprecedented tragedy casts a harsh spotlight upon our deliberations and provides a stark reminder of the daily reality of life in small island developing States, which have been so cruelly undermined by environmental degradation and which are permanently exposed to the hazards of nature.

The devastating consequences of the other violent cyclones and tidal waves which last year took many human lives and caused widespread material damage in the Caribbean, the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean offer further evidence of this precarious situation.

All such tragedies, including those that afflict the daily lives of most of mankind — hunger, disease and poverty — remind us that the earth is our common heritage. The threats and dangers that confront us the world over are challenges for all mankind.

In this regard I should like to pay tribute to the extraordinary spirit of solidarity shown by the international community in rushing to the aid of the people and countries affected by the natural disaster that occurred in the Indian Ocean. I welcome in particular the key role played by the United Nations in coordinating the humanitarian aid effort.

As soon as it resumes its work on 18 January 2005, the General Assembly will devote an entire meeting to consideration of the best ways to address the consequences of this disaster.

In view of the increasing number and frequency of natural disasters, we must intensify our efforts to equip the United Nations with a more reliable system for coordinating the international community's actions with respect to early warning systems, risk reduction and disaster management.

It is my firm belief that, with the support of national and regional agencies, such a system would also strengthen our ability to provide short- and long-term assistance to affected countries, particularly developing countries and small island States.

It is my hope that the Second World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which is due to begin in a few days in Kobe, Japan, will enable us to achieve a global consensus on this urgent matter.

Ten years after the adoption of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and five years after its five-year review by the General Assembly of the United Nations, we have gathered here to evaluate its implementation.

In addition to those already taken, we must take even more effective measures to ensure the full implementation of the 14 priority areas of the Programme of Action.

This mechanism should ultimately help not only to increase the human, material, technical and financial resources of small island States but also to further reduce the risks associated with the old and new threats and challenges with which our countries are confronted, particularly those relating to obstacles to international trade, security, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The International Meeting thus offers the international community a unique opportunity to adopt a range of concrete measures aimed at promoting the sustainable development of small island States.

In this regard, the draft strategy elaborated in the fruitful consultations held during the preparatory process represents a promising starting point.

At this juncture, I should like to congratulate the Secretary-General of the International Meeting for his commitment to the cause of small island States and to encourage him to intensify his efforts to mobilize the assistance and resources required to implement the outcome of our Meeting.

I would like to emphasize the important role that can be played by regional organizations of small island States in the coordination and implementation of the Programme of Action. Because of their knowledge of the local situation, they are the ideal interlocutors for potential investors and partners.

Over the long term, the efforts of developing island States will require the unwavering commitment of development partners and the international community as a whole.

This commitment must be viewed as part of the broader effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

As you are aware, one of the main goals of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in New York in September 2005 is to evaluate the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

With this in mind, we must ensure that the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly considers the recommendations of the International Meeting and takes the necessary steps to ensure their effective implementation.

The extraordinary progress achieved by many nations in the second half of the twentieth century offers abundant proof that underdevelopment is by no means destiny.

As citizens of our shared planet, it is incumbent upon us to act with resolve to vanquish the ills that afflict mankind. This is our shared responsibility.

Our world has never been better equipped technically or financially to overcome poverty, disease and all the other varied challenges that confront us.

We must, however, remain vigilant and redouble our efforts to ensure that these vast resources are used to build a world that is more prosperous, more united, more peaceful and more free.

Annex III

Summaries of panel discussions

Panel one

Environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States

Introduction

1. Panel one addressed the topic of the environmental vulnerabilities facing small island developing States. The panel was co-chaired by Tagaloa Tuala Tagaloa, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa, and Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Official Development Assistance) of New Zealand. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, moderated the discussion. The four panellists were: Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change; Theophilus Ferguson John, Minister for Physical Development, Environment and Housing of Saint Lucia; Salvano Briceño, Director of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; and Kenrick Leslie, Director of the CARICOM Climate Change Centre.

2. All panellists and speakers expressed their deepest sympathy to the Governments and people affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean, which resulted in at least 160,000 deaths and widespread destruction of livelihoods and habitats in 13 countries on two continents. In this respect, a message from the President of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, was read to the meeting, calling for unity and global partnership to create mechanisms to deal with future environmental calamities (see appendix).

3. The panellists' presentations elicited an interactive dialogue with the Co-Chairs and more than 20 speakers from the floor, including representatives of both small island developing States and non-small island developing States Governments, organizations and civil society. The panel's recommendations were submitted to the high-level round tables of the International Meeting (see annex IV) to stimulate the intergovernmental dialogue on practical measures to advance the small island developing States agenda.

4. Discussion focused on assessing and strengthening the capacities of small island developing States to manage their environmental vulnerabilities and build their resilience in specific areas, including adaptation to climate change, preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters, promotion of integrated waste management strategies and the development of renewable energy sources. The issues raised and recommendations proposed can be grouped under three main headings, as set out below, along with actions for further consideration.

Environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States

5. Though diverse in many respects, small island developing States share several common characteristics. Limited physical size, high population density, poor infrastructure and a lack of natural resources, especially freshwater resources, have not only geophysical but also economic and social impacts which are made worse by climate variability and extreme weather events. Coastal populations in all low-lying countries face the risks of sea-level rise, hurricanes, floods and tsunamis;

however, in small island developing States these threats are magnified as there is little space or opportunity to relocate people affected or provide alternative livelihoods.

6. The unique features of island ecosystems, including fisheries, coral reefs and mangroves, also face increasing threats from climate changes, natural disasters and unplanned economic growth. This has potentially harmful implications for economic sectors, such as tourism and agriculture, as well as food security and nutrition. A special concern in the Caribbean is the threat of underwater volcanoes in the vicinity of Grenada, as well as the fact that six months of the year the region is susceptible to hurricanes.

7. Many small island developing States are also especially vulnerable to the risk of oil spills because of their proximity to shipping routes carrying large oil tankers and other vessels. Cape Verde and the Comoros, in particular, highlight this problem. Cruise ship discharges are also a threat to beaches and coastal areas as well as fragile ecosystems and coral reefs.

Adapting to vulnerability

8. Many participants emphasized that the vulnerability of small island developing States is not just an environmental issue but has immense social and economic implications, as exemplified by the devastating consequences of many natural disasters that have occurred in the developing world, including the latest tsunami in East Asia. By the same token, the threat of climate change is not only geophysical but also poses grave risks to the social and economic viability of small island developing States.

9. Adaptation to environmental vulnerability and climate change is vital but will force difficult choices and tradeoffs in policy-making, involving, for example, further intensive coastal development or its possible limitation or restriction. In some small island developing States, there is no hinterland and the coast cannot be avoided. The choice is limited to remaining on the island/atoll or not.

10. Even as natural hazards are on the rise, vulnerability is also increasing due to higher poverty levels, unplanned urbanization and environmental degradation. As one speaker observed, “natural hazards are inevitable, but disasters are not”. Issues of deforestation and land use in exposing small island developing States to greater natural hazard risks should be considered.

11. The importance of disaster risk-reduction strategies was highlighted. The need to move from post-disaster reaction to building the capacity for prevention was emphasized. A number of participants called for the establishment of early warning and information systems, including at regional and subregional levels. The need for setting up regional climate observation systems to better enable monitoring of climate variations was also mentioned. It was noted that the tsunami that struck East Asia has united the world and created a political momentum that should be used to further expand international cooperation for the development of early warning and information systems within the context of broader disaster prevention efforts. But any such system must be sensitive enough to meet the needs of small States, especially small island developing States.

12. The importance of conserving biodiversity was highlighted. Natural resources accounting systems should be developed, with the assistance of the United Nations

system, to address the economic, social and environmental values of ecosystems in an integrated manner.

13. Many participants stressed the importance of partnerships for sharing experience and best practices, the development of technologies and the building of management capacities for vulnerability reduction and disaster management. Small island developing States need the assistance of the international community in building such partnerships and engaging in the development of technologies.

Reducing vulnerability by harnessing renewable energy

14. It was noted that many small island developing States are heavily reliant on imported fossil fuels and that there is a need to develop a range of energy options. There is significant potential for small island developing States to expand the use of renewable energy, selecting those sources that are suited to circumstances of the States concerned. It was also noted that in developing energy options, the limited markets of small island developing States need to be taken into consideration.

15. While a range of renewable energy technologies have been adopted by some small island developing States, further action is required with respect to establishing appropriate and supportive regulatory frameworks and to facilitate the transfer of technology. It was noted that traditional attitudes in the use of energy are a barrier to be overcome in the introduction of renewable energy technologies in small island developing States.

16. Though the share of renewable energy in the overall energy production has increased in many small island developing States, there is still a need to mobilize political support for their further development as an important means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and harnessing the potential of natural resources for energy production and the reduction of the high cost of importing energy/fuel. The importance of partnerships between small island developing States in the area of renewable energy was highlighted, as was the scope for cooperation and partnerships in the development of renewable energy technology and the building of the relevant financial, human and institutional capacity of small island developing States.

17. A number of examples were given of renewable energy technologies adopted in small island developing States. In Mauritius, the use of bagasse, long employed by the sugar industry for co-generation, has been expanded to co-fire coal power plants, displacing the use of fossil fuel. The Government of Barbados created incentives to successfully promote the installation of solar hot water systems.

Recommended actions for further consideration

18. Panel one recommends the following actions for further consideration:

- Establish and/or strengthen regional and subregional early warning and information systems.
- Harness the potential of renewable energy as a source of reducing greenhouse gases and meeting the increasing energy demands of small island developing States in a more sustainable manner.

- Build the human, technical and managerial capacities of small island developing States for disaster reduction and prevention, including through international cooperation and partnerships.
- Commit to linking humanitarian and disaster reduction efforts and resources.
- Give special attention to the vulnerability of small island developing States in the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 20 January 2005.
- Address the specific needs of small island developing States in the area of vulnerability and natural disasters in order to achieve the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- Integrate disaster-reduction issues into the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its thirteenth session, on water, sanitation and human settlements.

Appendix

Message to panel one of the International Meeting dated 10 January 2005 from the President of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

1. On 26 December 2004, we woke up to witness the terrible reality of our environmental fragility. The tsunami created by the Sumatra earthquake that morning swept through the entire archipelago of the Maldives with awesome fury, taking lives, devastating infrastructure, crippling our economy and washing away decades of hard work and toil of our people. This tsunami disaster was indeed, unprecedented — the worst natural calamity and the first of its kind ever experienced in the Maldives.

2. We have now embarked on the formidable tasks of providing emergency relief, rebuilding our lives and livelihoods and reconstructing our nation. These are daunting challenges indeed: 82 people are known to have died and 26 are still missing, and 13 islands had to be completely evacuated. Over 15,000 people have been left homeless and many people are facing food and water shortages. Our tourism and fishing industries have been crippled. Of the 87 resorts, 19 had to be closed. These resorts need major reconstruction to operate again. Many islands lost their fishing boats, ruining their primary livelihood asset. The total damage is estimated at well over one billion United States dollars. As our current focus is on relief and rehabilitation, we have not had the opportunity to assess the impact of the disaster on our fragile environment. The signs, however, are ominous. Our island vegetation is gradually dying as a result of the flooding and intrusion of salt water into the groundwater. This loss of vegetation would further increase the environmental vulnerability of our tiny islands. More importantly, according to scientists, the fresh groundwater reservoirs of our small islands may require several years of rain to recover, replenish and be drinkable.

3. The tsunami disaster is an opportunity for us to reflect on the fragility of small island States and other low-lying coastal areas. It is also a time to make important decisions to avert such catastrophes or minimize the losses of natural disasters in the future. On 26 December, the tsunami waves receded within hours. However, the waves and flooding from sea-level rise triggered by global warming will not recede. The damage then will be unspeakable and we will all become environmental refugees.

4. The Kyoto Protocol will enter into force on 16 February 2005, enabling us to enhance environmental cooperation and achieve targets established for the reduction of greenhouse gases. We need to do more towards the protection of our global environment. The Kyoto Protocol alone is not sufficient to deal with what is a bleak environmental future for our countries.

5. The tsunami disaster has united the world in a way we have not witnessed for a long time. This unity should be harnessed to create mechanisms to deal with future environmental calamities. The calamity has also shown that ecological catastrophes do not stop at national borders and that they are more damaging to small island States. Thirteen countries on two continents were directly affected by the tsunami, and a number of other nations lost their citizens in the disaster.

6. At this time of global mourning, let us be more strident in forging a global partnership in dealing with our common environment. I wish the International Meeting success, and hope that the review of the Programme of Action will provide us a blueprint to address the concerns and needs of small island States in the twenty-first century.

Panel two

Special challenges facing small island developing States in the area of trade and economic development

Introduction

1. Panel two addressed the topic of the special challenges facing small island developing States in trade and economic development. The panel was chaired by Jaya Krishna Cuttaree, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius. Habib Ouane, Director of the UNCTAD Special Programme on the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, was the Moderator. The five panellists were Anthony Severin, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary in the Office of the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia and Saint Lucia's Ambassador to the Caribbean Community; Mohamed Latheef, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations; Hans-Peter Werner, Counsellor, Development Division of WTO; Sivaramen Palayathan, Trade Adviser, Permanent Mission of Mauritius to WTO; and Deep Ford, Senior Trade Adviser, FAO Commodities and Trade Division.
2. The panellists' presentations were followed by an interactive debate. The panel's recommendations were submitted to the high-level round tables of the International Meeting (see annex IV) to stimulate the intergovernmental dialogue on concrete measures to advance the small island developing States agenda.
3. The panel covered three main topics, including economic vulnerability, trade issues as they relate to small island developing States and the institutional responses to address these challenges. The panel recommended actions for further consideration.

Economic vulnerability issues

4. Small island developing States have open, small-scale economies with limited resources, and are highly dependent on external markets and resources. In addition, they suffer from many structural and competitive disadvantages. Most small island developing States specialize in a narrow range of products and have a limited domestic market. Several are single commodity exporters and rely heavily on export earnings. This external dependence increases their vulnerability to external economic threats and shocks. There was an urgent call by participants for action to avoid further marginalization of small island developing States.
5. It was noted that issues of diseconomies of scale are directly related to high-unit costs of producing goods and services, which result in non-competitive prices. This is exacerbated by high transportation costs due to the geographical remoteness of small island developing States. In addition, small island developing States commonly have difficulties to access capital, including from multilateral financial institutions. Globalization has further marginalized small island developing States in the global market.
6. Several speakers emphasized that the current rule for graduation from least developed country status, an issue of critical importance to small island developing States, requires re-examination. Small island developing States that would graduate from least developed country status would become, in a relatively short time, ineligible for concessionary or preferential treatment, which would severely restrict

their ability to recover, for example, from natural disasters and economic shocks to which they are particularly vulnerable. This issue was illustrated by the example of Maldives, which recently faced the consequences of a tsunami disaster. Special support measures would be necessary to allow small island developing States to adapt to the circumstances that would follow graduation.

Trade-related issues

7. Participants noted that consideration of small island developing States is a relatively new feature in international trade negotiations. It was stressed that the rule-based multilateral trading system ought to take into consideration the special economic disadvantages of small island developing States. The latter are often weak trading partners and face serious difficulties in competing in international trade. The European Union (EU) trading system was cited as a successful model with regard to granting special and differential treatment to weaker and smaller economies. This has allowed such countries as Greece and Portugal to make structural adjustment to the global economy and fully integrate into the multilateral trading system.

8. Future trade negotiations should make the multilateral trading system more equitable through recognition of the particular disadvantages of small island developing States. This would allow small island developing States to engage on a more equal footing in international trade, gain more secure access to external markets and participate as equal partners in WTO negotiations. Mauritius illustrated the need for a preferential and differentiated treatment of small island developing States that export commodities. The example of the recent EU reform concerning sugar was cited. That reform brought down the prices of sugar by about 37 per cent, and could lead to the demise of the sugar sector in Mauritius.

9. It was noted that international trade negotiations in WTO are pursued under the Doha development agenda, which includes specific provisions concerning trade-related issues relevant to small and vulnerable economies. It was also noted that negotiations, particularly those relating to the preferential treatment of small island developing States, access to markets and agricultural subsidies, have not advanced in the manner that was hoped for at the time of the adoption of the Doha ministerial declaration in 2001.

Institutional responses to relevant issues

10. Participants generally took the view that small island developing States will not be able to build economic resilience and competitive economies without the support of their development partners. Increased aid flows from bilateral development partners and multilateral financial institutions are essential for enhancing resilience capacities. There is also a need to intensify economic cooperation within small island developing States regions, including through the pooling of resources. United Nations agencies should continue to help in this regard.

11. Institutional capacity-building is of critical importance to small island developing States. Several small island developing States have made strides in developing their capacity to trade, but economic vulnerabilities remain high and special efforts should be made by the international community to strengthen the resilience of these countries. It is important to identify practical ways for capacity-building and regional approaches and strategies for supporting the economic

development of small island developing States, with the assistance of international development partners.

12. The complexity of trade negotiations and the related challenges faced by small island developing States justify the efforts to develop the negotiating capacities of small island developing States. They also imply innovative approaches on the part of small island developing States. It was noted that the fear that a special treatment of small island developing States might undermine the multilateral trading system was unfounded.

Recommended actions for further consideration

- Assist small island developing States in enhancing their competitiveness in international markets.
- Ensure that the rule-based multilateral trading system properly takes into consideration the economic vulnerabilities of small island developing States.
- Implement the provisions of the Doha ministerial declaration that are relevant to the differential and preferential treatment of small island developing States, particularly those regarding access to external markets.
- Set up innovative financial mechanisms to respond to the structural disadvantages of small island developing States.
- Improve the capacity of small island developing States to effectively participate in WTO negotiations.
- Strengthen the institutional capacities of small island developing States, including their capacity to develop trade-related policies and relevant regulatory measures.
- Make success stories of small island developing States in economic development and capacity-building available for learning purposes.
- Strengthen South-South cooperation relevant to small island developing States through regional entities, with the support of developed countries and international organizations.
- Re-examine the rule for graduation from least developed country status in the light of the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States.
- Increase the scope for acceptance of small island developing States as a case for special treatment in WTO.
- Invite relevant United Nations bodies to give the United Nations list of small island developing States formal status for the purposes of special treatment.

Panel three

Role of culture in the sustainable development of small island developing States

Introduction

1. Panel three discussed the role of culture in the sustainable development of small island developing States. The Panel was chaired by Rachmat Witoelar, State Minister for Environment of Indonesia, and moderated by Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor-General of Saint Lucia. To facilitate the intergovernmental dialogue, the Panel heard a number of speakers on special themes, as follows: Philippe de la Hausse de Lalouvière, Chairperson of the National Heritage Fund Board of Mauritius, on the theme “Integrating cultural heritage into sustainable development in small island developing States”; Adi Meretui Ratunabuabua, Principal Cultural Development Officer, Department of Culture and Heritage at the Ministry of Fijian Affairs, on the theme “How to safeguard, enhance and promote small islands’ tangible and intangible cultural heritage”; Ralph Regenvanu, Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, on the theme “Community management of cultural heritage, resources and education”; Keith Nurse, Senior Lecturer at the Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, on the theme “The cultural industries and sustainable development in small island developing States”; and Sidney Bartley, Director of Culture at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture of Jamaica, on the theme “Aligning culture with trade and other public policies for sustainable development”.

2. There was general agreement that culture has emerged as a key issue in the follow-up to the Programme of Action and sustainable development in general. Culture was in fact identified as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. It was recognized that island culture and heritage provide important pathways to sustainable development through such things as sustainable tourism, traditional knowledge, music and festivals. Cultural identity and cultural heritage are fundamental in advancing sustainable development in small island developing States; indeed, development can only be truly sustainable if it is based on and grows out of cultural identity.

3. There was broad support among delegations for a new international convention on cultural diversity. It was noted that cultural exchanges nourish and develop cultural diversity and cultural identity; they also combat misunderstanding and prevent extremism.

4. Many delegations supported the protection of cultural heritage and cultural diversity, and additional resources for the strengthening of national and regional initiatives that have this aim. A number of delegations and major groups called for the preservation of indigenous and local languages and the teaching of culture and traditions in national education systems. Moreover, it was felt that small island developing States need to influence the content of broadcast media so that positive images of small island developing States cultures are portrayed. It was noted that the transmission of cultural traditions to youth helps build a resilient society.

5. Some delegations called for national cultural policies and legislative frameworks to support the development of cultural industries and initiatives in such areas as music, art, festivals, theatre, film and cultural tourism. Viable commercial cultural industries can nurture social cohesion and reinforce national identity. There

is a need to strengthen cultural institutions and industries in small island developing States for national and regional development and to achieve international competitiveness. Such institutions and industries are viewed as areas in which small island developing States have a comparative advantage and which can be used to build up social and economic resilience. Culture is a major source of protection for small island developing States to absorb the external shocks of globalization.

6. Participants identified the following areas for priority for action:

- Involve communities in policy-making to safeguard their cultural heritage, including identifying what deserves protection and who owns it.
- Improve the management of cultural and natural heritage sites and ensure the accessibility of such heritage to all and its cost-effective maintenance.
- Develop partnerships between Governments and civil society for sustainable heritage management.
- Support and strengthen community capacities in resource management and governance.
- Develop programmes to record traditional knowledge and preserve customary cultural values, traditions and practices.
- Teach and transmit traditional community values and associated local and indigenous knowledge in basic education.
- Record and document indigenous languages as a means to support their systematic incorporation into school curricula and encourage publishing in indigenous languages.
- Build capacities in cultural areas through education and training in the arts, arts administration, heritage management and cultural entrepreneurship.
- Invest in cultural industries to generate new and indigenous forms of employment and exports, to aid in the diversification of economics, and to reinforce and expand cultural confidence and ties with overseas communities.
- Strengthen consultations between Governments and cultural industries in order to align government policy on culture and trade, industry, tourism, education, intellectual property protection and other sectors.
- Protect the intellectual property of small island developing States against piracy in the music, publishing and other creative industries, and build the capacity for rights management and patents, trademarks and copyright administration in small island developing States to protect all forms of creative innovation and raise public awareness of those issues.
- Improve institutional capacity for the advocacy, promotion and marketing of cultural products, services and intellectual property, including copyrights.
- Improve access to capital and credit, in particular in the areas of development financing and market development grants for small and medium-sized enterprises and the establishment of culture support funds in small island developing States regions.

Panel four

Addressing emerging trends and social challenges for the sustainable development of small island developing States

Introduction

1. Panel four addressed the topic of emerging trends and social challenges for the sustainable development of small island developing States. The panel was co-chaired by Marcus Bethel, Senator and Minister of Environment and Health of the Bahamas and Bruce Billson, Parliamentary Secretary, Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia. Len Ishmael, Director General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, moderated the discussion. The four panellists were Greg Urwin, Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum; Sonia Elliott, Liaison Officer of the New York Office of UNAIDS, representing the Director of that Office, Desmond Johns; Curtis Ward, Adviser, Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee; and Rex Nettleford, Professor Emeritus, University of the West Indies.
2. The panellists' presentations elicited an interactive dialogue among representatives from Governments, organizations and civil society of both small island developing States, and other States. The panel's recommendations were submitted to the high-level round tables of the International Meeting (see annex IV) to stimulate the intergovernmental dialogue on practical measures to advance the small island developing States agenda.
3. The panel discussion focused on a number of social challenges and emerging trends for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Participants emphasized that the Programme of Action is as relevant as ever in the context of those emerging trends.
4. Poverty alleviation continues to be a central challenge to the sustainable development of small island developing States even as progress is being made towards the goal to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than \$1 per day. Small island developing States have a high proportion of young people, are increasingly urbanized and are characterized by high population density relative to the availability of natural resources. Limited employment and tertiary education options, particularly for youth, continue to challenge small island developing States. The combination of high unemployment and urbanization is overwhelming service provision, and informal housing sectors and the incidence of real poverty are increasing.
5. Participants noted that the social impacts of globalization and trade liberalization are particularly apparent in small island developing States, as trade policies and tax regimes that do not take account of their special circumstances negatively affect the economy of local communities. Many small island developing States are facing the challenge of integrating local cultural norms and practices into governance frameworks and institutions inherited from the colonial period. International policies and regimes have forced many small island developing States to move from traditional resource economies to service economies. This change has had major transitional impacts on communities, labour and employment that should not be underestimated. Global markets do not accommodate social welfare, and small island developing States have had difficulty in providing adequate social safety nets. While local land ownership and access are fundamental to small island developing States' societies, global trading regimes make it increasingly difficult for

them to restrict foreign ownership. In some cases, foreign direct investment, notably in the tourism sector, has increased the foreign ownership of land and further contributed to the erosion of community access to land ownership and natural resources. These factors compound the challenges faced by small island developing States in ensuring self-sufficiency and self-determination.

6. Short-sighted development plans that are not designed to protect the environment and natural resource base can also compromise the ability of small island developing States to protect the health and welfare of their communities. Small island developing States need to concentrate on developing niche markets. People, rather than the private sector, will be the engine of growth for small island developing States if they are adequately supported and resourced. The Governments of small island developing States should reflect this in policies and programmes, in a way that promotes the unique cultural assets of their communities and draws on self-determined needs rather than those imposed from the outside.

7. While HIV/AIDS is not an emerging trend, it was inadequately recognized as a development challenge 10 years ago. Nonetheless, HIV/AIDS is a grave and growing threat which is compounded by the frequent movement of people and persistent cultural taboos on the open discussion of sexual practices. HIV/AIDS is more than just a health concern; its impacts are all-pervasive and pose a continuing development challenge. Lack of education and economic opportunities contributes to poor health behaviour and choices.

8. HIV/AIDS increasingly threatens the productive workforce of small island developing States and places further strains on already stretched health services. The younger, urban and most economically active age group is especially hard hit, with young women at particular risk. The Caribbean is the second-worst-affected region in the world. Vulnerability increases with a culture of denial, lack of access to health services and education, and high levels of poverty. Strong political commitment and leadership, coupled with a well-defined planning and delivery system, are critical. Solutions need to be targeted within national, regional and cultural contexts and properly funded.

9. HIV/AIDS is not the only major health issue facing small island developing States. Other chronic diseases and health conditions, such as diabetes, obesity, tuberculosis and malaria, are also of major concern and require similarly coordinated and integrated solutions.

10. Post-11 September 2001, the need to combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism has placed new demands on law enforcement institutions, resources and infrastructure. While small island developing States are willing partners in the international effort to improve global security and address terrorism, they face an uphill struggle to prioritize these issues over other pressing issues such as poverty alleviation, environmental degradation, natural disasters, disease pandemics and heavy debt burdens. The costs of not tackling internal and external security concerns are high in terms of the impact on financial, human and institutional resources. However, small island developing States are incurring further debts in their efforts to address security and terrorism issues, in particular with regard to the implementation of the United Nations resolution on security. There is an urgent need for capacity-building to ensure that small island developing States can address security needs without compromising their other development imperatives. This points to a need for institutionalized frameworks for cooperation and coordination

among States to build capacity for national and global security. Participants noted that consideration should be given to a trust fund for global security, which could be established through the World Bank and administered through regional development banks.

11. Besides terrorism, other transnational crimes pose a significant challenge for small island developing States. They are particularly vulnerable as target locations for the conduct of transnational crime, including trafficking in people and drugs. Such crimes have a destabilizing effect on communities, affecting tourist economies and undermining governance.

12. Efforts for strengthening regional cooperation have increasingly proved useful in harmonizing frameworks for more integrated governance. Small island developing States are moving towards alliances, pooling resources and investing in regional infrastructure in an attempt to overcome many of their disadvantages, including limited economies of scale and the high costs associated with geographic isolation.

Possible actions for further consideration

13. Small island developing States have been working to integrate the Millennium Development Goals into their planning and development processes. People-centred, participatory approaches to development, particularly representation by women at all levels of governance, continue to be essential to the sustainable development of small island developing States. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami reinforced the importance of long-term sustainable development approaches that are based on real partnerships and mutual respect, rather than short-term handouts. The panel highlighted the following elements as possible actions for further consideration:

- Provide more international support, in partnerships with the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, for programmes to combat HIV/AIDS
- Establish a trust fund for global security to be administered by the World Bank and regional development banks
- Strengthen community involvement in decision-making, planning and programme development, particularly on the part of women and youth
- Improve employment and education opportunities for the poor and disenfranchised to ensure economic and social sustainability and to create intellectual capital
- Call on Governments of small island developing States to ensure equitable distribution of income, job creation and job maintenance and to ensure the protection of workers' rights by ratifying the core International Labour Organization conventions
- Build institutional capacity to train local people so that they can develop niche markets in small island developing States, which will also help to retain jobs and support retirement options in the long term
- Take a more integrated approach to policies and programmes to address the many health issues, recognizing the broader implications for economic productivity and social cohesion

- Develop national plans of implementation to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and undertake a gender impact assessment of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- Establish an early warning system to monitor food security

Panel five

Resilience-building in small island developing States

Introduction

1. Panel five addressed the topic of resilience-building in small island developing States. The panel was chaired by Maria Madalena Brito Neves, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries of Cape Verde. Professor Albert Binger, Director of the Centre for Environment and Development, University of the West Indies, Coordinator of the UNDP expert group on small island developing States and member of the Committee on Development Policy, moderated the discussion. The four panellists were Toke Talagi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of Niue; Professor Michael Witter of the University of the West Indies and a member of the UNDP expert group on small island developing States; Teresa Manarangi-Trott, private consultant from the Cook Islands; and Siv Jensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee in the Norwegian Parliament.

2. The panellists' presentations, along with comments and questions from the Chairperson, the Moderator and from the floor, including representatives of Governments, organizations and civil society, discussed resilience-building in small island developing States from the perspective of their common elements of vulnerability, as well as some recent catastrophic weather events, and ongoing and proposed measures to deal with the serious and often long-term consequences for individual countries. The views of a major donor country regarding its foreign assistance priorities stimulated further discussion. The panel's recommendations were submitted to the high-level round tables of the International Meeting (see annex IV) to promote intergovernmental dialogue on practical measures to advance the small island developing States agenda.

3. The issues raised in the panel discussion and the recommendations proposed can be grouped under three headings, as set out below.

Elements of vulnerability

4. The panellists highlighted a number of key elements of vulnerability common to all of them, namely: smallness (of size and of population, limiting human resources and internal markets); remoteness (from markets, adding to transportation costs); reliance on energy imports (energy vulnerability); geographical dispersion; vulnerability to natural disasters and extreme weather events; fragile ecosystems (especially coral reefs and coastal areas); constraints on information and communication technology; vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks; lack of natural resources (especially limited freshwater supplies, fuel sources and agricultural/food products); and high levels of migration of skilled personnel (see also A/CONF.207/CRP.5).

5. Although rejecting the "one-size-fits-all" description of small island developing States, the panellists stressed that their limited natural, economic and human capital was a common constraint affecting their ability to absorb and respond to external shocks, whether man-made, such as from market/financial forces, or shocks resulting from natural hazards, such as those caused by extreme weather events. The recent tragic earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean was referred to as the most recent and destructive example of the impact of natural disasters.

Building resilience: lessons learned

6. The experience of Niue was discussed by the panel as a case of major economic and environmental devastation caused in January 2004 by cyclone Heta, the largest cyclone ever recorded in the Pacific. One year later, lessons learned in building resilience included the importance of communications — to get the facts of the disaster out quickly and correctly and to mobilize media and donor support. It was also important to pre-position relief supplies and emergency assistance. The prior planning of infrastructure and public utilities helped to facilitate speedy rehabilitation. Effective decision-making and management by government, at all levels, including setting priorities and getting the message to the people and local grass-roots and civil society organizations, was essential. Simultaneous long-term planning in post-cyclone recovery efforts and understanding the role that culture played in building resilience, through community-based and traditional psychological counselling, helped a devastated population overcome the trauma of destruction to their land, resources and livelihoods and to move forward to a long-term recovery.

7. Other panellists spoke of similar experiences of devastation and vulnerability after hurricane Ivan hit the Caribbean in 2004. The destruction caused was greatly exacerbated by years of environmental damage due to human activities, such as deforestation and beach and coastal erosion, often caused by the concentration of tourist facilities on fragile coasts. It was stressed that short-term economic gains from building hotels might ultimately be overtaken by the costs of long-term environmental damage to land and marine resources and related biodiversity.

8. One conclusion suggested was that the smallness of small island developing States required more of an inclusive, integrated approach to development, rather than the traditional sectoral approach to achieve sustainable development and “ecosystem resilience”. Capacity-building, including human resources development and management, good governance and public participation, including private and local sectors, were essential for resilience-building and sustainable development.

9. An important consideration mentioned by one panellist was that, as much as “one-size-fits-all” did not describe the physical characteristics of all small island developing States, that concept might also not be relevant for donors in considering financial assistance and trade preferences, which were determined more by individual requirements and needs. The diversity among small island developing States highlighted the need to tailor specific remedies for each country. Economic and trade diversification could be crucial, and donor commitments to investment in economic diversification could be essential.

Suggestions for further action

10. Resilience-building in small island developing States requires attention to:

- Means of recovery from natural environmental disasters and external economic shocks
- Innovative modalities for mobilizing resources and financing for development
- Mechanisms for evaluation and follow-up
- Sustainable solutions to energy concerns

- New information and communications technologies
 - Partnerships among Governments, civil society, the private sector and the international community
 - Establishment and/or strengthening of early warning systems
 - National security
11. Governments of small island developing States can and should take steps to:
- Integrate economic, environmental, social, and cultural considerations into disaster-management plans
 - Diversify trade activities and develop strategies for coping with economic instability
 - Manage in an inclusive and integrated way the environmental resources that sustain the economies of small island developing States
 - Include civil society in the formulation and implementation of public policy in meaningful ways to strengthen capacity for resilience
12. Major groups and civil society play an important role in resilience-building by:
- Increasing capacity through training, education and research
 - Developing global information-sharing systems
 - Raising awareness on indigenous issues
13. The international community and development partners can support small island developing States in building resilience and achieving sustainable development by:
- Rapid mobilization of resources for disaster relief and reconstruction
 - Strengthening capacities of small island developing States to work at the regional and subregional levels
 - Supporting and improving strategies to develop collaborative partnerships
 - Revising the use of GDI/GDP as criteria when considering small island developing States economies within the framework of financing for development
 - Funding scientific research and community-based initiatives for sustainable development in small island developing States

Annex IV

Summaries of round-table discussions

Round table one

The way forward: mobilizing resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Introduction

1. Round table one addressed the topic “The way forward: mobilizing resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”. The Panel was co-chaired by Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados, and Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the European Community. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat moderated the discussion.

2. Twenty-five speakers, including presidents, prime ministers, ministers and senior officials of Governments, as well as heads of agencies and organizations and representatives of civil society, participated in the round-table discussions. Co-Chairman Arthur opened the meeting with an introductory statement and Co-Chairman Michel made concluding remarks.

3. The round-table dialogue focused on key policy issues and measures that are considered critical to the mobilization of resources needed for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The round table also considered other recent goals and commitments, including those contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

4. In general, participants were of the view that it was the primary responsibility of individual States, themselves, to implement the Programme of Action and other development strategies. However, the limited access of small island developing States to financial and technical resources required assistance from the international community. They noted with concern that, 10 years after the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados, implementation of its commitments had fallen far short of expectations, largely due to insufficient levels of financial support. This resource gap has exacerbated the implementation gap. The ecological, economic and social vulnerabilities of small island developing States and their lack of resilience to external shocks — whether caused by financial markets and globalization or by extreme weather events and natural disasters, such as the recent catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean or cyclone Heta in the Pacific and hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean — magnified the lack of capacity of most small island developing States to mobilize the necessary funding and technical expertise required to fully implement the Programme of Action.

5. Official development assistance flows to small island developing States have decreased dramatically since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 1994, in some cases by up to 50 per cent. At the same time, trade by small island developing States in international markets has decreased, resulting in extreme losses in their export earnings. It was noted that agricultural subsidies and military expenditures of developed countries amount to significantly more than the total ODA of all developing countries. Remittance flows from small island developing States citizens abroad, though an important and growing portion of external finance to many small island developing States, is restricted to the immigration policies of some developed countries.

6. It was noted that international capital markets can be an important source of external finance but are in many cases not effectively utilized by small island developing States because of inadequate understanding of how these markets work or lack of capacity to take full advantage of such markets. In order to access these markets, small island developing States must develop and exercise the financial discipline imposed by these markets. It was noted that foreign direct investment (FDI) is often exclusively guided by commercial rates rather than the needs of the receiving countries. Referring to the high and increasing debt burden of many small island developing States, it was suggested that debt cancellation could be a way of investing in global peace.

7. Trade as a longer-term and more sustainable source of resource mobilization was also highlighted. However, most small island developing States are too small to be competitive in international markets and require support in enhancing their competitiveness. Moreover, their share of global trade is too small for the failure of their economies to have any significant impact on the global economic system. Due to their remoteness and small markets, many small island developing States have great difficulties in attracting external financial resources, including from international financial institutions. It was urged that the rule-based multilateral trading system take into consideration the economic vulnerabilities of small island developing States and increase the scope for acceptance of small island developing States as a case for special treatment in WTO and the ongoing Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations. It was also mentioned that graduation of small island developing States from least developed country status could lead to the erosion of market access preferences accompanying graduation, and that therefore that practice should be discouraged.

8. Many participants addressed the need for establishing an enabling domestic environment in small island developing States, including a business climate conducive to entrepreneurship and enterprise development. In most small island developing States, the private sector is underdeveloped and enterprises are not competitive. It was, in particular, noted that incentives for enterprise development, including access to finance on concessional terms, are insufficient to effectively stimulate the development and growth of such enterprises. Improving access to capital and credit, in particular, providing development financing and market development grants for small enterprises, accompanied by appropriate laws and regulatory instruments and infrastructure, could improve the situation.

9. Governments have an important responsibility to assist enterprise development and entrepreneurship, inter alia, through public and private partnerships, capacity-building and leading society into the new information age. Providing assistance to

enterprises in economic sectors where small island developing States have competitive advantage, such as the tourist sector and cultural industries, could improve competitiveness of enterprise operations in these sectors. Funds should be made available for eco-tourism and mainstreaming the informal sector into the formal economy.

10. Many participants highlighted the critical importance of human resources development through education, training and capacity-building. Equality between women and men in education and training must be achieved to allow equal access to employment and career development. Several participants called for the establishment of multidisciplinary centres of excellence, including at the regional level, to take full advantage of the social capital available in small island developing States. Such centres could, inter alia, maintain a database on human resources and expertise available in small island developing States.

11. Many participants called for enhanced cooperation among small island developing States to maximize and better harness scarce resources. Regional and subregional cooperation is essential to success in natural disaster prevention and early warning. Regional organizations should support such efforts.

Recommended actions for further consideration

12. To overcome the challenges inherent in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action, participants in the round table recommended that attention be given to the following:

(a) At the international level:

- Focus on trade as a longer-term source for resource mobilization and assist small island developing States in opening their markets while maintaining their special status
- Examine immigration issues, which are tied to aid flows and trade, including free flows of goods and services in open markets
- Reform the insurance sector so that it can respond effectively to the unique circumstances of small island developing States following natural disasters, including new ways of underwriting catastrophic risks, particularly those experienced in small island developing States
- Focus on partnerships for sustainable development, recognizing the role of the private sector
- Facilitate the promotion of cultural agents and their products, and ensure that small island developing States reap the benefits of their contributions to the global cultural industry
- Take measures to mitigate climate change, including ratification of the Kyoto Protocol
- Meet the agreed international ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product
- Create a global trust fund for small island developing States that would include private and voluntary contributions

- Foster cooperation among small island developing States in the sharing of experience and lessons learned
- Consider cancellation of debt in the most heavily indebted countries
 - (b) At the regional level:
 - Create regional multidisciplinary centres of excellence to provide access to capital, foster capacity-building, enable technology transfer and prevent brain drain
 - Strengthen regional efforts to coordinate financing and pool regional expertise
 - (c) At the national level:
 - Focus on the development of social capital and human resources
 - Create enabling conditions which make entrepreneurship attractive and viable, including:
 - Creation of sound education policy
 - Provision of education and training
 - Support for research
 - Access to capital
 - Development of sound infrastructure in such sectors as transportation and health
 - Create legal frameworks that support such enabling conditions and environments
 - Continue to develop approaches that include stakeholder consultations and support national sustainable development strategies
 - Increase political will to enable and strengthen local partnerships among communities, the private sector and government
 - Focus on procedures to integrate, coordinate and maximize use of resources in tourism, agricultural and other service sectors
 - Revisit tax schemes so that they foster development that sustains investment in systems that can create additional resources.

Round table two

The way forward: building capacity for the sustainable development of small island developing States

Introduction

1. Round table two addressed the topic “Building capacity for the sustainable development of small island developing States”. The round table was co-chaired by Kessai H. Note, President of the Marshall Islands, and Jacob Zuma, Deputy President of South Africa. Leonard Good, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility, moderated the interactive discussion.
2. The dialogue focused on the key environmental, economic and social vulnerabilities of the small island developing States and discussed the capacity-building efforts needed to address those vulnerabilities.
3. In the light of the recent earthquake and tsunami affecting the Indian Ocean region, many delegations stressed the environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States, in particular to natural disasters, adverse impacts of climate change, fragile water supplies, inadequate sanitation and waste management. The adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States and the long-term effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some small island developing States.
4. Many participants acknowledged a growing concern for the social vulnerabilities that confront small island developing States. In recent years, the importance of social development issues has been embraced by small island developing States, notably issues relating to health, preservation of indigenous culture, gender equality and education. These were underpinned by broad concerns regarding poverty as a root cause of a range of social stresses.
5. Culture has emerged as an important issue in the follow-up to the Programme of Action. Some of the issues are the protection of cultural heritage and cultural diversity, the preservation of indigenous languages, the strengthening of cultural industries, and the protection and conservation of traditional knowledge.
6. In the area of health, HIV/AIDS is a grave and growing threat in small island developing States and is compounded by high levels of migration and persistent cultural taboos on the open discussion of sexual practices. Other chronic diseases and health conditions in small island developing States are diabetes, obesity, hypertension, tuberculosis and malaria.
7. Education to address the lack of technical and managerial capacity in most small island societies is one of the most critical cross-cutting factors limiting the ability of small island developing States to pursue sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
8. It was mentioned that although small island developing States nationals send back considerable remittances to their home countries, such remittances can hardly compensate for the technical and intellectual capacity that has been lost. Such nationals could be encouraged to provide technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as assisting in mobilization of external resources.

9. Participants in the round table identified a number of very specific recommendations for action with respect to capacity-building.

Action-oriented recommendations

10. The following recommendations were proposed on strengthening environmental capacities:

(a) Mobilize external resources for capacity-building in environmental protection. For example, Italy announced the establishment of an international programme for environmental development to provide financing for training for environmental protection and sustainable development;

(b) Establish and build institutional capacities for regional and subregional early warning and information systems. Early warning systems are linked to the availability of ICTs, so capacity-building efforts for these two areas should be linked. This could also help to eliminate the digital divide;

(c) Increase efforts related to capacity-building to address the threat of climate change, including vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning;

(d) Strengthen and establish clearing houses for information on climate change and its adverse impacts on small island developing States so that they can better support the development of projects addressing climate change adaptation measures;

(e) Build capacity in small island developing States related to the formulation and implementation of clear development mechanism projects under the Kyoto Protocol;

(f) Create regional projects and programmes that utilize local human resources for biodiversity assessment, conservation and land-use planning;

(g) Provide support and capacity-building for the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of small island developing States, particularly with respect to coral reefs, fish stocks and the establishment of biodiversity corridors on land, such as the Meso-American Bio-reef Programme and the Meso-American Biological Corridor;

(h) Provide capacity-building assistance to small island developing States for the development and further implementation of freshwater and sanitation programmes and the promotion of integrated water resources management;

(i) Assist communities by building skill sets in environmental conservation and management since local communities, especially indigenous peoples, have strong spiritual linkages with the natural environment.

11. The following recommendations were proposed on strengthening economic capacities:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of small island developing States to participate more effectively in intergovernmental negotiations, including those related to climate change, trade and fishing;

(b) Diversify the economic base of small island developing States to improve competitive advantage through capacity-building at the regional and international

levels, inter alia, in ICT, science and technology, and development of cultural industries;

(c) Consider debt relief and even debt cancellation for the poorest countries;

(d) Strengthen regional and subregional approaches to capacity-building to overcome lack of critical mass in small island developing States in such areas as social development, health, monetary policies, capital market development, trade negotiations and regional negotiation machinery, such as that implemented in CARICOM;

(e) Enhance and further establish South-South cooperation, with the support of donors, so as to maximize the comparative advantages and best practices of developing countries. A number of countries expressed interest in providing training in specific areas where they have expertise, namely, Cuba, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Singapore;

(f) Build small island developing States capacities for integrated planning processes related to responsible tourism that address such issues as tourism supply and demand, carrying capacity, resource utilization, and economic, sociocultural and environmental impacts;

(g) Support capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening ICT literacy and skills development;

(h) Create subregional hubs for ICT among small island developing States. For example, India is building a cyber city to create a hub for ICT in Mauritius through South-South cooperation, and has cooperative ICT programmes with 30 small island developing States;

(i) Support ICT networks, early warning systems, remote sensing, computer-based systems for mapping and wireless technologies. A number of countries highlighted new initiatives and ongoing efforts to advance capacity-building in these areas;

(j) Support and promote centres of excellence to build capacities in science and technology that also draw on traditional knowledge. It was noted that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without capacity-building in science and technology, in particular renewable energy applications and ocean sciences;

(k) Build capacities at the national and regional levels to develop renewable energy and enhance energy efficiency;

(l) Support on-the-job training as an important aspect of continuous learning and adult education;

(m) Formalize relationships and mechanisms for partnerships to facilitate the participation of small island developing States experts of the diaspora interested in offering their skills for development in small island developing States.

12. Strengthening social and human capacities:

(a) Provide international support for capacity-building and awareness-raising in order to combat HIV/AIDS, in partnership with UNAIDS. One example was the Pan-Caribbean partnership in the fight against HIV/AIDS for resource mobilization

and training. Similar regional programmes should be launched in other regional groupings of small island developing States;

(b) Build the capacities of both men and women to promote cultural industries based on indigenous arts, music, crafts and festivals, and to protect cultural heritage and local languages through education curricula;

(c) Strengthen indigenous cultures and their communities to preserve traditional knowledge and as a guide to sustainable development. Civil society entities are important partners in capacity-building for sustainable livelihoods, financing for development, climate change adaptation and resilience, integrated land and water planning, conserving unique island biodiversity and empowering communities to preserve traditional cultural heritage;

(d) Balance top-down educational approaches with community-based cultural heritage. For example, the University of the West Indies has a cultural studies institute for the protection of cultural heritage, culture management, cultural industries and creative arts;

(e) Support the proposed establishment of a consortium of tertiary institutions for capacity development and education in small island developing States, including regional centres of excellence, technical development facilities for traditional knowledge and virtual universities;

(f) Invest in education, particularly for women and girls, as the best means of alleviating poverty and achieving sustainable development;

(g) Support education in small island developing States in which the supply of teachers and educational materials is limited, and access to ICT is almost non-existent;

(h) Promote distance learning, including at the secondary and tertiary levels of education through ICT, in order to build needed capacity and as a means of combating brain drain;

(i) Build systemic, institutional and individual capacities for legislative, regulatory and policy development;

(j) Combat the problem of brain drain through the establishment of systems at the national level to provide incentives for experts to invest their skills at home;

(k) Support the development of non-governmental and civil society structures and promote the sharing of expertise and lessons learned in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the mobilization of additional social and human resources;

(l) Build institutional and human resource capacity by working with indigenous cultures to foster traditional approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(m) Include women and girls in all educational and capacity-building efforts, including in building cultural industries;

(n) Provide capacity-building to ensure that small island developing States can address increased security demands without compromising their other development imperatives.

Annex V

Parallel and associated activities

A. Non-governmental organizations and other major groups participating in the International Meeting

1. The participation of major groups in the International Meeting included 332 individuals, representing 48 accredited organizations (see para. 6 below). Their views and experiences were given recognition through a number of entry points, including statements to the plenary and inclusion in panel discussions and high-level round tables, and they contributed significantly to partnership activities and side events throughout the meeting.

2. The opening session heard a report from the Civil Society Forum, which was held in Mauritius immediately prior to the International Meeting, allowing major groups to organize and consolidate their positions in preparation for the official meeting. Statements were also made by major groups representatives speaking on behalf of the Caribbean region, the Pacific region, the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas region, and international networks.

3. Major groups were also called upon to contribute to each of the five interactive panel discussions (see annex III), with the fourth panel allotting time for all nine major groups to make presentations on specific issues of concern related to emerging trends and social challenges for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

4. High-level representatives of major groups organizations from each region and from international networks actively participated in two high-level round tables with Heads of State and Government, addressing issues related to mobilizing resources for the further implementation of building capacity for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

5. In addition, representatives from both accredited and unaccredited NGOs and other major groups actively participated in a number of parallel events, such as the Civil Society Forum, the Community Villaj and the Youth Visioning for Island Living Forum, and organized numerous other parallel activities at the Freeport Exhibition Centre.

6. The following non-governmental organizations and other major groups were represented at the International Meeting:

BirdLife International

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

Caribbean Policy Development Centre

Center for the Study of Marine Policy

Centre de documentation, de recherches et de formation indianocéanique

Climate Institute

Coalition for Community Participation in Governance

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches
Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
Community Development Programme Agency
Conservation International
Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International
Friends of the Earth
Global Islands Network
Grassroots Organisations operating Together in Sisterhood
Greenpeace International
International Coastal and Ocean Organization
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
International Council of Environmental Law
International Institute for Environment and Development
International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus
International Ocean Institute
International Research Foundation for Development
International Union of Architects
Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace
Jamaica Environment Trust
Junior Chamber International
Liaison Unit of Non-Governmental Organizations
Council for Development, Environmental Studies and Conservation
Mauritian Wildlife Foundation
Mauritius Council of Social Service
Mouvement pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire
National Congress of Neighborhood Women
Nature Conservancy
Nature Seychelles
Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organization
Pacific Concerns Resource Centre
Pan African Movement
Rotary International
Sierra Club

Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center
Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future
United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries
United Nations Association of Mauritius
Wildlife Conservation Society
World Confederation of Labour
World Federation of Engineering Organizations
World Wide Fund for Nature International

B. Partnerships activities

7. Partnerships activities were held at the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre from Monday, 10 January to Wednesday, 12 January 2005. These activities were held in parallel with plenary and main committee meetings. Partnerships activities were an opportunity for partnerships working on the implementation of sustainable development in small island developing States to showcase their progress, identify challenges and share lessons learned.

8. Seven sessions were organized, representing 20 partnerships working in small island developing States. The events were well attended, averaging 50 people per session.

9. Participants represented a diverse range of stakeholders, from Governments and regional intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations system and major groups. All sessions focused on implementation-oriented dialogue and featured dynamic and fruitful exchanges.

10. Specific issues discussed included adaptation to climate change; building island resilience and reducing economic/social/environmental vulnerability; conservation of island biodiversity; integrated watershed management; ocean and coastal management; protection of reefs and island communities; and sustainable energy sources for islands.

11. The success of small island developing States partnerships was seen as being directly linked to the commitment and enthusiasm of partners. Engagement by all relevant stakeholders, coupled with integrated national and local partnerships actions, was stressed.

12. It was noted that while regional level coordination was ongoing in small island developing States regions, there was a corresponding need for national coordination between the various relevant agencies engaged in sustainable development. Building capacity was seen as being vital to greater national coordination in small island developing States partnerships.

13. Key challenges discussed included the need for measurable partnership targets, maintaining momentum and securing a sustainable financial base. The need for replicability and scaling up partnerships activities was also emphasized.

14. Small island developing States partnerships highlighted a range of concrete outcomes, including regional information-sharing networks; capacity-building

activities at the local level; cultural festivals and conferences; and the launch of a number of new partnerships.

Side events

15. Twenty-one side events were organized in the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre by Governments, major groups, United Nations agencies and other international bodies. These events were held outside the framework of the official meetings, during lunch and evening breaks, and provided an opportunity for the informal exchange of information, experience and views.

16. All side events were focused on issues related to the sustainable development of small island developing States. The most frequently discussed themes were natural disasters, vulnerability reduction and resilience-building, energy and climate change, trade and tourism, and sustainable development strategies.

Parallel events

17. Twelve parallel events were organized in the Freeport Exhibition Centre during the International Meeting. These events were held at a separate venue in order to accommodate the high demand of requests for side events, which exceeded the available space in the main conference centre. Most of the events were organized by major groups and civil society organizations.

18. Parallel events addressed a variety of relevant issues, including strengthening the domestic private sector and the role of local communities and community organizations in small island developing States.
