

**AOSIS Statement  
CSD19 High Level Segment**

Delivered by

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GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS**

**May 11, 2011**

Distinguished Chair,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

AOSIS wishes to align itself with the statement made by the Argentina on behalf of the G77 and China.

Today as we are gathered here at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it is an important occasion to recognize the progress made by the international community towards sustainable development. Yet, it is also an occasion to take stock of how much more remains to be done, and the tragic consequences that will result if the current rate of resource exploitation continues. The world's poor and the most vulnerable, especially the islanders, are at the front line and would feel the full impacts of our collective failure to act.

Mr, Chairman,

CSD is of specific significance to Small Island Developing States as it serves as the primary body for the implementation of Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA which is the essential blue prints for addressing the sustainable development needs of SIDS and their implementation remain critical for SIDS. Unfortunately we do not see the same degree of priority and importance given by the international community to the implementation of the commitments they have made under BPoA and MSI.

Each of this year's thematic areas includes concerns that cut to the core of the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS.

On the issue of transport, our situation as remote island nations makes us more dependent than most other countries on air and maritime transport. Furthermore, our small size and remoteness from

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major trading and transport centers result in relatively high transport costs, and to fully achieve our sustainable development goals, SIDS will require international and regional support to improve these links among islands and the outside world.

Similarly, the high dependence of SIDS on the environment for our economic and social wellbeing, as well as our low environmental and social carrying capacities, brings intense focus to issues of chemicals and waste management. Financial support for the development, transfer, and implementation of SIDS-appropriate waste management technologies is necessary critical impacts are to be addressed. The increased control of the transboundary movement of hazardous waste through the enhancement of activities under the Basel Convention and other international conventions that seek to address this threat must be supported financially.

Despite our small size, several SIDS have significant extractive industries that represent a major source of income. Efforts by the

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international community to assist SIDS in management of these industries, particularly through improving national capacity for policy and legislation formulation, negotiations with transnational corporations, and evaluation of mineral sector projects, are essential for maintaining their role in our sustainable development.

On the development of a ten year framework program on sustainable consumption and production, AOSIS calls for all issues on sustainable consumption and production to be considered in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Programmes on sustainable consumption and production strategies must be assessed on the basis of national priorities and best practices. In this regard we wish to reiterate our call for financial and technical support as well as capacity building to assist SIDS in the development of appropriate mechanisms to address the challenges associated with the design and implementation of national and regional sustainable consumption and production strategies.

Of all the cross-cutting issues currently facing SIDS, by far the most significant is the growing threat of climate change. While we have contributed the least to this global threat, small island states continue to bear the brunt of its effects. Already climate change is impacting our economies, societies, and threatening our very territorial existence. There is a clear need for an integrated approach that includes capacity building and transfer of appropriate technologies to assist SIDS in addressing the dangers climate change pose to our island ecosystems.

The recent five year review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI), held last year, proved that SIDS have made notable efforts in the development of national and regional institutional and policy frameworks for sustainable development. It also proved that the negative impacts of climate change, frequent and increasingly intense natural disasters and extreme weather events, the uneven and uncertain pace of our full insertion into global trade development

processes, and persistent structural vulnerabilities, all threaten to undermine decades of development

Clearly there is a need for a more focused and result-oriented approach to delivering support to SIDS, one that includes specific benchmarks, goals and targets, as well as the adoption of enhanced, formal, and holistic coordination of the UN system. Now more than ever, it is time to increase support for SIDS through concrete action by the international community.

SIDS need solutions to these problems, we are not prepared any longer to engage in an exercise that simply reaffirms the status quo and focuses solely on a negotiating text. It is now time to see real tangible action. We expect our development partners to come to the table with concrete plans on how to collaborate with SIDS to address these gaps; plans on how they will fulfill the commitments on finance, technology, capacity building and on ensuring a conducive international environment which supports the development efforts of

SIDS.

Distinguished Chair,

As CSD-19 comes to its last few days, AOSIS notes that substantial action towards addressing the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS must be a crucial component of the session's outcome. Therefore we welcome colleagues' willingness to take on board our concerns and look forward to continued engagement with a view to ensuring that SIDS' concerns remain on the CSD agenda.

Thank you.