

CSD 14: SIDS Day Intervention by India in the Climate Change Panel:

Thank You Mr. Chairman, let me begin by adding my delegation's compliments to the panelists for not only outlining the challenges of climate change but also sharing some of the strategies followed by them in addressing these challenges. And let me specifically compliment you Mr. Chairman for leaving a very optimistic chart on the screen.

Mr. Chairman, Small Islands, in common with low lying deltaic regions, will experience some of the most severe impacts of climate change, in particular, sea-level rise, extreme weather events that occur with increased frequency and increased intensity and major precipitation changes. All of these will combine to damage their environmental resources, which comprise the mainstay of their livelihoods and economies. As has been pointed out, some of these changes are already being experienced by the SIDS.

Mr. Chairman, in response to identical challenges that we have ourselves faced, in respect of the vulnerabilities of our own small islands in the Indian Ocean, we have over decades built up significant human and technological capacities to address climate related threats. We have in significant measure, made these available to the SIDS, and also provided financial resources to address their sustainable development challenges. Such cooperation has been a long-standing effort by India

Let me highlight five areas that have been identified for further long-term cooperation with SIDS, including through cooperation with the caricom climate change center.

1. **Oceanography:** Aimed at studying a variety of parameters that underscore climate change vulnerabilities.
2. **Climate Impact Modeling:** Under this initiative we are developing an early warning drought forecasting model, and propose to develop sectoral models on climate change impacts.
3. **Information, Communication, and Distance Learning Technology:** Under this several modules have been developed and are being shared with SIDS.
4. **Capacity Building for Multilateral Negotiations:** Cooperation in this area would enable the technical expertise available with the National Focal Points to be brought to bear on furthering the business of the countries or of the region in the global arena.

5. **Hazard Mitigation:** Region specific hazard mitigation models would be developed, to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events, whose intensities and frequency would increase with climate change.

To conclude Mr. Chairman:

We are but a developing country ourselves. We are concerned about the likely impacts of climate change on SIDS, as indeed on our own country. We also take the exhortations for South-South cooperation seriously, and have accordingly, shared our modest financial, technological, and institutional resources with the SIDS in their quest for sustainable development. We will further deepen our cooperation in these respects with the SIDS. At the same time, we urge the international community to do more in the future than what they have done in the past, not less. The SIDS require financial resources, transfer of technology, and capacity building. But beyond these, they require an enabling environment through increased access to developed markets, in particular the removal of agricultural subsidies, and other external constraints to their development.