



LE PRÉSIDENT
DE
L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE

2 August 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to attach herewith the agreed draft of the concise political declaration to be adopted at the high-level review on progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation to be held at the General Assembly on 24 and 25 September, 2010.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Vanu Gopala Menon of Singapore and Her Excellency, Ms. Sylvie Lucas of Luxembourg, for facilitating this agreement.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Abdussalam Treki'.

Ali Abdussalam Treki

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the
United Nations
New York.-

Draft political declaration on progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation

Agreed *ad referendum* on 30 July, 2010

We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States gathered at a high-level meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24-25 September 2010 to undertake a five year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to “assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation”,

1. *Recall* that the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States (SIDS) have been acknowledged by the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992), the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados (1994), the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002) and the Mauritius International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2005),
 2. *Reaffirm* our commitment to support the efforts of SIDS, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, for their sustainable development through the further full and effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI), including through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,
 3. *Acknowledge* that SIDS have demonstrated their commitment to promote sustainable development and will continue to do so, in mainstreaming sustainable development principles into national development strategies, in enhancing political commitments and public awareness on the importance of sustainable development issues, in establishing protected areas, including marine, coastal and terrestrial, through the demonstration of strong leadership in protecting biodiversity, in adopting strategies for promoting renewable energy and in mitigating the negative effects of the global financial and economic crisis on their economies. To this effect, SIDS have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and in this regard additional resources should be mobilized to support their efforts,
- 3(bis). *Note* with concern that notwithstanding these efforts, SIDS continue to face sustainable development challenges. The long standing cooperation and support provided by the international community has played an important role and should play an even more critical role in helping SIDS make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting the sustainable development efforts of SIDS,

4. *Note* with concern that while SIDS have progressed in the area of gender, health, education and environment, their overall progress toward achieving the MDGs has been uneven. SIDS have made less progress than most other groupings, or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability. SIDS have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth in part due to the ongoing negative impacts of the financial and economic crisis. Most SIDS' small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges have worked against efforts for sustainable development,
5. *Acknowledge* that, climate change and sea level rise continue to pose a significant risk to SIDS and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability,
- 6(0). *Recall* resolution 63/281 and in this context emphasize the need to consider and address climate change, including its possible security implications in SIDS,
6. *Maintain* that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. We also call upon States to take urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,
7. *Call* on the international community to continue to enhance its support for the development and implementation of SIDS' national climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and programmes, as well as to facilitate regional and inter-regional cooperation, in view of the urgent need to build the resilience of SIDS to the adverse impacts of climate change,
8. *Call* upon the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change,
- 9(0). *Recognize* that SIDS continue to grapple with natural disasters, some with increased intensity, including due to the effects of climate change, impeding progress towards sustainable development,
9. *Recognize* the need to enhance and establish, if necessary, means and tools at the international level aimed at implementing a preventive approach for natural disasters in SIDS, reducing risks, and properly integrating risk management into development policies and programs, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). We call on the international community to continue to support SIDS in enhancing their efforts to strengthen regional and national efforts in disaster risk reduction, management and coordination, including creating or strengthening insurance mechanisms where appropriate for natural and environmental disasters in SIDS,

10. *Reiterate* that energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for many SIDS. While SIDS are particularly suited to renewable energy options and that in spite of the fact that many SIDS are endowed with extensive renewable energy resources, these remain underdeveloped. We also reiterate the need to support SIDS in their efforts to develop and utilize new and renewable energy as well as foster energy efficiency and conservation, inter alia, through financing from all sources, technical assistance and capacity building aimed at developing a sustainable energy sector to be the foundations of SIDS' development sector. We underscore the importance of facilitating SIDS' access to finance, including access to investment funds for renewable energy, and are ready to assist SIDS to this effect,
- 10(bis). In this regard, we welcome regional mechanisms and initiatives for energy cooperation and integration to build and develop the energy infrastructure, direct supplies and social projects in order to achieve their energy sustainability,
- 10(ter). We recognize the importance of North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South, SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation in order to promote programmes for SIDS for the effective implementation of the BPOA and the MSI,
- 11(0). *Recognize* that SIDS continue to be heavily dependent on their coastal and marine resources, and that their development challenges include limited access to finances, technologies and equipment, global over-fishing and destructive fishing practices, and barriers to increased participation in fisheries and related activities,
11. *Reiterate* also the need for improved conservation of coastal and marine resources and integrated coastal management. We urge the international community to continue and enhance its support to SIDS to strengthen their implementation of integrated coastal zone management strategies, and their scientific research capacity,
- 11(bis). *Emphasize* that SIDS and relevant regional and international development partners should work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources,
12. *Reiterate* the need for the adoption and implementation of effective measures at the international, regional and national levels that provide for long-term sustainable use of fisheries resources as they are of vital importance to the sustainable development of SIDS. In this regard we agree:
 - a. To reaffirm the commitment to urgently reduce the capacity of the world's fishing fleets to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks;
 - b. To promote SIDS' full participation in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations;
 - c. To assist SIDS in developing their fisheries sector, including through building capacity of SIDS, to facilitate a greater level of participation in high seas fisheries, including for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, to receive greater benefits from sustainable fisheries for such stocks; to develop their own fisheries, and to improve their market access;

- d. To further strengthen, through international support, SIDS' capacities to carry out monitoring and implement enforcement measures to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing, and over-fishing;
 - e. Urge the mainstreaming of efforts to assist SIDS with other relevant international development strategies with a view to enhancing international coordination to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, consistent with the duty to ensure the conservation and management of those fisheries resources.
13. *Call* on the international community to continue enhancing SIDS' efforts to foster agricultural production, productivity and sustainability and to prioritize food security. This should be achieved through diversification and value-added activities, research and development, improved land use, sustainable forest management, access to and appropriate use of modern technology and access to markets, as well as empowerment of small-scale farmers, including women, indigenous peoples and rural communities,
- 13(bis) *Recall* that for most SIDS, tourism is an important contributor to employment, foreign exchange and economic growth, and that the MSI recognizes the need for sustainable tourism. Climate change along with other sources of environmental degradation can adversely impact the sustainability of the tourism industries in SIDS. We therefore call on the United Nations World Tourism Organization, relevant UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support SIDS' development and implementation of measures to promote sustainable tourism in SIDS.
14. *Call* upon the international community to further assist SIDS in the development of appropriate systems for recycling, waste minimization and treatment, reuse and management, and mechanisms to protect the oceans and coastal areas from waste and toxic materials, including through creating and strengthening systems and networks for the dissemination of information on appropriate environmentally sound technologies, recycling and disposal technologies,
- 14(bis). *Note* with concern that water quality and availability constitute serious constraints in SIDS. Although some SIDS are implementing measures like demand side management, waste water treatment, enhancing water use efficiency and increasing public awareness, these efforts are hampered by financial and capacity constraints. The international community is requested to provide assistance to SIDS for capacity building for the development and further implementation of freshwater and sanitation programmes.
15. *Call* on the international community to assist SIDS' efforts in strengthening national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, tracking progress and development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles. SIDS' efforts in developing databases and in institutionalizing national indicators for monitoring and evaluating sustainable development should also be supported, and utilized by UN agencies where available,

16. *Reiterate* the importance of facilitating the exchange of knowledge, success stories, experiences and information among SIDS,
17. *Recognize* that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are vital and indispensable elements to achieving sustainable development of SIDS. We encourage SIDS, with the necessary support of the international community, to make further efforts to incorporate biodiversity protection into their national development strategies. We call on the international community to increase assistance to SIDS to strengthen biodiversity protection and address current and emerging threats posed by invasive alien species. We look forward to a successful outcome of CBD COP 10 in Nagoya,
18. ~~[Integrated into para 24]~~
19. *Recognize* the need to address specific trade- and development-related needs and concerns of SIDS to enable them to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies. We agree to facilitate the accession of SIDS to the WTO, where appropriate, through enhanced technical assistance.
20. *Urge* development partners, in view of the current global economic situation, to further pay due attention to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS in the context of their trade and partnership agreements and trade preference programmes, in accordance with WTO rules and provisions, to help economic recovery in SIDS,
21. *Reiterate* the importance of Aid for Trade, as a means of delivering coordinated, effective and targeted trade related technical assistance and capacity building programmes, as established in the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of 2005. In this context, we call for assistance to be provided, where appropriate, to address the special constraints of SIDS in respect to building their supply-side capacities and their competitiveness, as part of their national development strategies,
22. *Acknowledge* that the specific circumstances of each SIDS should be taken into account in addressing long-term debt sustainability and that better access to international capital markets needs to be ensured for SIDS,
- 22(ter). *Urge* the international financial institutions to continue to take into account the specific circumstances, situations and vulnerabilities of each SIDS to enable them to have adequate access to financial resources including concessionary financing for investment in sustainable development,
23. *Reiterate* the importance for development partners to implement concrete measures in support of the transition strategy for SIDS who have recently graduated or are about to graduate from LDC status to ensure sustainability of the progress made. We also recognize the importance of the review of the criteria used in determining graduation from LDC status within the relevant UN mandates,
- 24(0). *Request* the Secretary General to include a chapter in his report to the 66th UN General Assembly on the Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the 'Further

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS' on the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the sustainable development of SIDS, and to make recommendations on how to address the challenges on these issues,

24. This review has highlighted some shortcomings in the institutional support for SIDS as well as other constraints to the full and effective implementation of the MSI and BPOA.

In this regard, we request the UNSG to submit a report that puts forward concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the BPOA and MSI and refocus efforts towards a results-oriented approach and to consider what improved and additional measures might be needed to more effectively address the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of SIDS. The report should be prepared in consultation with Member States, as well as relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account work done by the UN system and submitted during the 66th session of the UNGA.

Within the scope of this report, we further request the UNSG to conduct a comprehensive review and examine ways to enhance coherence and coordination of the UN system support for SIDS and to put forward concrete recommendations to Member States in this regard. This should include reviewing the work and respective mandates of all relevant UN entities within their areas of expertise as they relate to the BPOA and MSI, including with regard to paragraphs 101 and 102 of the MSI.

We renew our resolve to fulfill our commitments in further implementing the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and underscore the urgency of finding further solutions to small island developing States' major challenges in a concerted manner. We recognize that the way forward for sustainable development requires taking coordinated, balanced and integrated actions at all levels, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community, aimed at building the resilience of small island developing States in overcoming their unique and particular vulnerabilities and in reflecting their respective national priorities and needs.