

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. MR. RACHMAT WITOELAR  
STATE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO  
THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING TO REVIEW THE  
IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**Port Louis, 10 — 14 JANUARY 2005**

Mr. President,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me join the others who spoke before me to thank the host for the well-organized arrangement and warm reception by the people of this beautiful city of Port Louis and the government of Mauritius. I wish also to commend the Secretary-General of the Conference and his team for their professional work in preparing this meeting.

Mr. President,

Before I proceed further, I would like to touch upon the environmental disaster more than two weeks ago. The catastrophe we experienced on December 26 and its aftermath is considered by the Secretary-General of the UN as an unprecedented calamity that requires a global response. In my country alone, more than hundred thousand are dead, more than six hundred thousand homeless, 700 urban neighborhood and villages badly damaged or destroyed and great numbers of children orphaned.

I would like to take this opportunity to profoundly expressed our sincere appreciation for the condolences, sympathy, solidarity and continuous support extended to our brothers and sisters who are suffering from the unprecedented calamity in our region as voiced by delegates during this conference.

This nightmare has spurred governments and citizens, the media, the non-governmental organizations and international institutions from all over the world to a collective action. They have promptly made generous contributions to help ease the suffering of the survivors and commitments to help for the long-term recovery and rebuilding. They have also pledged to work together to prevent tragedies like this occurring in the future through an early warning and disaster preparedness development.

When calamity strikes, we should be equal to the task of uniting our collective force not only to assist our fellow human beings in need but also to collaborate for the disaster's aftermath and prevention. It requires transnational, multi-sectoral collaboration in addressing the on-going crisis

and in ensuring our collective preparedness to quickly and effectively deal with such crisis in the future.

The challenges we are facing are enormous, subsequently, together we have to conduct an intensive review of the existing regional and international mechanisms, strengthen them, give them muscle, and put them to good and effective use. This conference, therefore, provides unique opportunity to demonstrate our collective resolve.

Mr. President,  
Honourable Ministers,

I have listened carefully to the statements eloquently delivered before me. I shared their view that a lot more need to be done ten years after the BpoA put into place. Sustainable development is a critical challenge for small island developing countries. Having similar characteristics in term of challenges and opportunities, Indonesia is also reiterating the importance of enhancing international cooperation and partnership in achieving the targets and goals of JPOI and MDGs.

As a country of more than 17,000 islands of which most of them are small in nature, Indonesia is also experiencing similar economic, social and environmental challenges. In this context, the government has established a special division within the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries to solely deal with the promotion of sustainable development in small islands and coastal area.

We have, therefore, some experiences and lessons-learned that could be exchanged with other small island developing countries. In our common pursuit to promote sustainable development for the livelihood and prosperity of our people, I am pleased to take this opportunity to reconfirm our readiness to cooperate in partnerships with small island developing states.

Mr. President,  
Honourable Ministers,

Indonesia's philosophy on its maritime resources development is based on the concept of promoting the maritime culture for the sustainability and welfare of its people. The government is promoting human and

institutional capacity building programs, science and technology, and information systems.

We are also developing programs to improve sustainable economic growth of the ocean sector, empowerment of coastal and small island communities, enhancing the implementation of decentralized marine resources management and conserving its coastal marine ecosystems as well as combating the IUU fishing.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of synergizing and inter-linking the existing international frameworks that address climate change and natural disasters with wider developmental issues as elaborated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

On the issue of climate change, I am pleased to inform that Indonesia has joined the international community to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on 23 November 2004 and deposited the instrument of ratification to the UN on 3 December 2004. We are all aware that the implementation of the convention and the protocol through technology transfer, capacity building and provision of financial resources is critical.

To conclude, let me once again to take this extraordinary opportunity, to reiterate our readiness to cooperate with small island developing states, especially in the areas of climate change, renewable energy, trade and tourism. We could cooperate in the framework of the WSSD and MDGs follow up, in the form of partnership. We should also collectively encourage the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) to step-up their effort to support such cooperation and partnership in our collective pursuit of sustainable development objectives.

Thank you