



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
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**Statement by H.E. Han, MyeongSook  
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea**

I wish to convey my profound gratitude to the Government of Mauritius and the United Nations Secretariat for their vigorous contribution to the preparation of this gathering.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me, as the Head of the Korean Delegation, to address the meeting and take part in the deliberations on sustainable development of small island developing states.

I sincerely hope this Mauritius Meeting, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Barbados Programme of Action, will be a turning point that will produce action-oriented outcomes and hence mark a significant step forward for the attainment of sustainable development of small island developing states.

It is the view of the Korean government that three overarching issues, in particular, should deserve special emphasis in this high level meeting: a need for a clear vision which corresponds to the needs of SIDS, a work programme conducive to implementing the established vision and an effective implementation mechanism.

Bearing in mind that a successful implementation of the 'draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action' entails spontaneous efforts by each member state of SIDS combined with adequate financial and technical assistance from the international community, it is my sincere hope that this gathering sets in motion a process which will bring forth an adequate and effective implementation mechanism.

With regards to the deliberation on response measures against adverse effects of climate change confronting SIDS such as rising sea levels, typhoons, droughts and torrential rains, the Korean government fully comprehends the special concerns of SIDS.

A series of natural disasters including the last month's tsunami which hit Southwest Asia in recent years, and powerful hurricanes that struck the fatal blow to the Caribbean countries and impacts from such tragedies are problems confined not only to small island developing states. They are the key bottlenecks to the achievement of sustainable development throughout the world.

In this regard, the Korean government upholds the Jakarta Aid Summit Declaration, which was adopted at the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami held in Indonesia on 6 January this year, and further anticipates global collaboration for the implementation of the Declaration.

Given that climate change concerns in particular intertwined, either directly or indirectly, with economic and environmental vulnerabilities of SIDS, this issue should be high on the agenda as a matter of urgency.

Viewed in this light, the Republic of Korea welcomes 'Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures to climate change' adopted at the 10th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC last December. The Korean government truly hopes that the faithful implementation of the programme of work will bring about substantial outcomes, including capacity-building for climate change adaptation, establishment of adaptation measures receptive to peculiarities of various regions, as well as financial and technical assistance, all of which meet the specific needs of small island developing states.

The Republic of Korea as a responsible fisheries nation has been actively engaged in the efforts towards sustainable use of marine resources, and remains committed to enhancing cooperation with and support to small island developing states which highly depend on fisheries as a pivotal means towards economic development.

As part of its endeavor to support SIDS, the Republic of Korea has been making headway on promoting projects involving the invitation of foreign trainees and dispatch of Korean experts, *inter alia*, in the areas of economic development, fisheries and aquaculture, and information technology. The Korean government will also work hard to ensure steady increase in Korea's official development assistance.

With regards to financial mechanism to expedite the SIDS' implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Korean government would like to emphasize that GEF fund could embrace the financial needs of the 'Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action'.

Taking into account the important role of the private sector in quest of development, global support should be enhanced in a way that could facilitate inflow of funds from the private sector into small island developing states.

To conclude, the Korean government reaffirms its readiness to provide further technical and human resources to SIDS and broaden the scope of cooperation in other relevant areas, which attests to the government's unflinching commitment to the cause of the SIDS' successful implementation of the 'Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action'.