



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

## Statement

by

**Prime Minister of Solomon Islands  
Honourable Sir. Allan Kemakeza**

before the

**International Meeting to Review the  
Implementation of the Programme of  
Action for the Sustainable Development  
of Small Island Developing States  
Port Louis, Mauritius  
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Mr. Chairman,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen

I take this opportunity to thank the government and people of Mauritius for the excellent arrangements and gracious hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival on your shores. To you, Mr. Chairman, we add our voice in congratulating you on your assumption as Chair and assure you of our support and cooperation.

On the outset, my delegation wish to register its deep condolences to all those who have lost loved ones during the recent Tsunami.

Coming from a small island state, Solomon feel for the countries affected. We share similar experience of human, social and economic losses at a time when the world is experiencing an increase in the magnitude and frequency of natural and human disasters. Sadly, these developments underlines the vulnerability of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) being attested within the BPOA.

In this regard, I am pleased to note that the Pacific has produced a draft Pacific Regional Action Plan for disaster reduction in an effort to build a safer and more resilience Pacific Islands Community in terms of risk management and its capacity to respond to the disasters. This will be presented at the forthcoming World Conference on Disasters to be convened next week in Kobe, Japan.

Mr. Chairman,

The presence of SIDS Heads of States, Governments and Ministers demonstrates their strong political will and that of the development partners in reinvigorating the Program of Action through the Strategy Paper. This international meeting gives us the opportunity of renewing our commitment to the BPOA and incorporate SIDS concerns within the various international forums including the High Level Panel Report on UN reforms. The outcome document also acknowledges and emphasizes cooperation amongst SIDS through innovative and effective partnership with the international community in addressing the realities and challenges affecting SIDS. In this regard, denying the rights of one country not to participate in existing international framework weakens any global arrangements especially at a time when swift and coordinated assistance of essence.

Solomon Islands subscribes to the AOSIS Political Declaration adopted yesterday by SIDS leaders which outlines SIDS issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman,

Solomon Islands is positive that the Strategy Paper presents an opportunity for sustaining the BPOA with better national coordination. My government is undertaking major economic and social reforms and is committed in integrating the Strategy Paper more

closely into Solomon Islands National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan.

Mitigation in preserving our environment remains the corner stone of present and future generations. In this connection, Solomon Islands National Forestry Act is being reviewed to establish better procedures in conserving and ensuring the people get a better return for their resources. This is another step in improving environmental governance.

Mr. Chairman,

Two of the most important means of implementing the BPOA is trade and finance. My government is positive that the strategy paper presents a framework to better equip and assist the SIDS countries in responding to these sustainable development challenges and related issues. It is equally important that the process is people- centred to foster resilience.

Mr. Chairman,

The mobilization and coordination of resources at the national and international level is imperative in achieving the objectives of the BPOA and other international targets including the Millenium Development Goals (MDG). This includes addressing the new and emerging security threats facing SIDS, in particular, the issue of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country coming out of a conflict situation, my country has made significant economic and social progress with the support of the Australian and New Zealand led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to close by congratulating all including the facilitator, Ambassador Don Mackay of New Zealand for his skills and tireless efforts in chairing the informal negotiations. Our appreciation also goes to the chief negotiator of G77 of Mauritius, Ambassador Konjul and all our development partners who participated in the negotiations. My delegation also wish to recognize the President's contribution and that of the Secretary General of this international meeting. The outcome document has only been possible due to the flexibility and cooperation shown by all delegations in arriving at a consensus text.

Solomon Islands believe that if we are to meet the challenges of this country, both SIDS and the international community will have to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility. Each of us must learn to work for the survival and benefit of all mankind.

Thank you.