



FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

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NATIONS
HEAD OF THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL MEETING TO REVIEW THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES

Port Louis, 14 January 2005

Mr. President,

First of all, let me thank the Government of Mauritius for hosting this International Meeting. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the organization and for the preparation of the relevant documents.

Mr. President,

As other speakers who preceded me have pointed out, the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) is taking place under very special circumstances. The recent tsunami tragedy which claimed thousands of lives and caused extensive material losses in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Maldives and other countries bordering the Indian Ocean has dramatically reminded us - once more - of the vulnerabilities to natural disasters that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and non-SIDS alike may experience due to their geographic circumstances. In the name of the Government and people of Brazil, let me reiterate our unconditional support and heartfelt solidarity for all those that were affected by that terrible event.

As the international community, in particular the affected countries, engage in actions aimed at avoiding the repetition of such a tragedy, the imperative of putting in place an efficient early warning system is readily pointed out. However, as we look into other situations that highlight SIDS' vulnerabilities to severe weather events, we cannot overstate the importance of international cooperation to address the adverse effects of climate change and sea level rise. It is our collective duty, taking into account our common but differentiated responsibilities, to address those issues in a way that will ultimately provide SIDS with adequate means to overcome — or at least to better cope with — those phenomena.

On the other hand, we must not lose sight of other specific circumstances that adversely affect SIDS' economic and social development in an environmentally sustainable way and of the need to collaborate with a view to assisting SIDS to overcome their disadvantages and vulnerabilities. Due regard should therefore be given to issues like trade, transfer and development of technology and transport and communication, also covered by the BPOA.

In this regard, Brazil welcomes the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action which, hopefully, will provide renewed impetus to the BPOA process. As others have stated before, ensuring the conditions for the sustainable development of SIDS is paramount to assisting those countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Meaningful developments are urgently needed in this regard, especially as we approach the high-level plenary meeting that will review the implementation of the Millennium Declaration as well as the outcomes of the other United Nations Conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reaffirming that Brazil intends to continue to collaborate, to the extent of its possibilities, with a view to the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. We share the belief that was expressed by the High Level Panel on Challenges, Threats and Change, that security and development issues are closely related and, in this regard, that collective security can only be achieved if development is ensured. We also share the sentiment that the international community must take concrete steps to assist those that are among the most vulnerable of its members. With that in mind, we look to the fundamental contribution this meeting can make to the further implementation of the BPOA as a means of assisting SIDS to fully attain their sustainable development objectives.

Thank you.