

Check against delivery

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. JOHN WILLIAM KACHAMILA
MINISTER FOR THE COORDINATION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS,
14 JANUARY, 2005

**Mr. President,
Hon. Heads of Delegations
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Allow me to congratulate you Mr. President on your election to chair the deliberations of this important and timely meeting on Small Island Developing States. I'm confident that under your wise guidance we will achieve needed and excellent results.

Also I wish to congratulate the people and Government of Mauritius for excellent arrangements made for the success of our work and for warm hospitality extended to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful Country.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my Government's solidarity with the countries affected by tragedy of Tsunami, which resulted in the loss of thousands of human lives, destruction of many infrastructures and hard won achievements by those countries aimed at improving the standard of life of their citizens.

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the previous speakers on the urgent need to find ways and means to tackle the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States in the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) to ensure the sustainable development of those States.

This meeting which takes place three years after the historic Johannesburg Summit, provides us with a unique opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of priorities and critical issues for Small Island Developing States Sustainable Development process. These critical issues include climate change and sea-level rise, natural and environmental disasters, coastal and marine

resources, fresh water resources, national institutions and administrative capacity, human resource development n other clearly identified in the Barbados Program of Action.

Although some progress have been registered, we are still concerned that after 10 years of the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action in general, Small Island Developing States still face major challenges to their sustainable development, particularly in implementing effective strategies for poverty eradication and in pursuing the people-centered development. In fact, the SIDS countries have made gigantic efforts to achieve progress, however, their structural disadvantages and vulnerability, the effect of international terrorism threats on travel n tourism and the growing problem of HIV/AIDS are hampering these efforts.

Therefore, there is a need to renew the political commitment by all states in relation to the Programme of Action and to the international commitments and pledges related to the programme. More resources and technology should be available in order to allow the SIDS Countries to achieve the targets and time-tables set out in the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

Mr. President,

The Tsunami catastrophe has highlighted the vulnerability of the world to natural disasters. Therefore, a global disaster management and Early Warning Systems for natural disasters are crucial to prevent the re-occurrence of losses and destruction on a large scale as the one we have assisted recently in South East Asia. In this context, there is a need to create capacity building initiatives to ensure preparedness of our countries for future disasters and calamities that normally affect harder Small Island Developing States and the coastal developing countries.

Mozambique is strongly committed to meet the targets agreed in the Millennium Development Goals and subsequently contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, through the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

In our endeavor to achieve strong and sustained social and economic growth towards reducing absolute

poverty, we have been making huge effort to ensure that on our Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), commonly known as the *Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty* (AR), environmental aspects are given due consideration in policy-making. For that end, we have been pursuing a broad-based approach in which communities are encouraged to meet their pressing needs while preserving the scarce available resources.

Mozambique's population is growing at high rate of 2,6%, approximately. The recent influx of people into the cities, which are mainly located along our 2700 km coastal line, has not been accompanied by an increased capacity of management of the Coastal and Marine resources. Although not being a Small Island Developing State, Mozambique shares many of the SIDS development constraints, foreseen in the Barbados Program of Action.

My country is located in a region periodically affected by natural disasters, mainly floods, drought, and cyclones, as well as other climate change triggered events affecting our planet.

For that reason we share the Small Island Developing State's challenges related to Sustainable development marine and coastal resources utilization and biodiversity conservation as well as improving the quality of life of our peoples living along coastal areas. The commitment of Mozambique can be measured by recent declaration of one new marine protected area of Quirimbas in the north and the enlargement of Bazaruto Archipelago in the South. In this regard, we would like to point out that development challenges faced by the SIDS countries are common for all developing countries located in coastal areas.

Mr. President,

Mozambique is ready to give its contribution however, given our weak economic capacity, our efforts to manage those natural disasters only be successful if we benefit from effective international assistance in putting in place such early warning system which can be used to avoid the losses of human lives and properties like tragic event which affected South-East Asia a few weeks ago. Therefore, we need strong and active partnerships among all stakeholders, including Governments, private sector n civil society so as to come up with appropriate solutions to problems faced by humanity and in particular those of Small

Island Developing States and other developing countries.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I express our hope that this UN Conference will contribute to keep momentum of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, where our Heads of States and Governments reaffirmed the collective commitment of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development for all countries and peoples of the world.

I thank you for your attention.