

## **Statement under SIDS Mauritius meeting High Level Segment 12-14 January 2005.**

**by Director General Harald Neple**

On behalf of the Norwegian Government we would like to express our deeply felt sympathy with all the victims of the disaster which struck many island and countries with a low lying coastal area in the Indian Ocean the 26 of December. This is a terrible tragedy which will require substantial assistance in the long and short term. Norway stands ready to contribute its share. We have already decided on a contribution of 1 billion NOK of fresh funding to the countries affected by the tsunami:

As stated In the Barbados Programme of Action in 1994; Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change, climate variability and sea level rise. Any rise in sea level will have significant and profound effects on their economies and living conditions. The very survival of certain lower laying countries will be threatened.

The impact of climate change is increasingly making itself felt in the SIDS. Their geographical uniqueness places them, through no fault of their own, among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of such changes. SIDS have no option but to try to adapt as best, and as quickly as they can to these effects.

Fortunately, the international climate change community is increasingly rising to the challenge of adaptation. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has adopted adaptation as a strategic priority: The new climate change funds (the LDC Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund) are both operational and focus almost exclusively on adaptation. Also under GEF's climate change focal area, adaptation is receiving increasing attention.

When the Kyoto Protocol enters into force, proceeds from the Green Development Mechanism (CDM) are earmarked for the new Adaptation Fund. And the Climate Change Convention, at its 10<sup>th</sup> Session last month, adopted the new Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation, which should also inject more focussed purpose into adaptation work.

In the longer term, but starting as soon as possible, those parts of the world that are causing our climate to change have a duty to stabilise emissions at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The entry into force of the Kyoto protocol next month marks a first, albeit modest, step in the right direction. The next meeting of the parties to the UNFCCC will coincide with the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in November this year. Here, we look forward to starting serious discussions on how to make this mitigation process much more comprehensive after the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, both in terms of geographical coverage and in terms of actual emission reductions.

This will be in our own interest, as well as a moral duty towards those who are most vulnerable and who have not contributed to the changes in our climate system.

Mr. Chairman,

I will use this opportunity to draw your attention to UNEP/ GRID Arendal's programme on the delineation of Continental Shelves, which we are sponsoring from the Norwegian side. In line with Article 76 of the UN Convention of the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) SIDS countries and developing countries with coastline can establish "extended Continental Shelf" which is beyond 200 nautical miles. This programme has been established to support developing states with a coastline and SIDS with technical and scientific data, so that they can submit claims regarding implementation of this extended continental shelf under the UNCLOS rules and regulations.

Mr. Chairman,

The comprehensive review process undertaken by the SIDS, in preparation for this Mauritius International Meeting has served to highlight the changes since 1994. New challenges for the SIDS include globalisation, trade, health related issues such as HIV/AIDS and SARS, and security issues which now rank much higher on the world's agenda. In addition new global processes have emerged through, inter alia, the Millennium Summit; LDC III; the Doha Development Agenda; the Monterrey Consensus; and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

Let me reiterate some of our priorities regarding the outcomes of the Mauritius International Meeting;

- The outcome should focus on implementation; it should be action-oriented and should have a strong added value.
- This Meeting should reinforce the importance of nationally driven plans for sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- This Meeting should also focus on collaboration with the international community in supporting these national plans and strategies, including through harmonisation amongst donors, the promotion of policy coherence and results-oriented monitoring of activities.

Lastly, we would urge all SIDS to continue their efforts to mainstream adaptation into their more general development efforts, and in this process to make full use of the emerging facilities I mentioned, which of course are additional to the considerable bilateral co-operation already taking place.

Thank you for your attention