

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Permanent Mission of the
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
to the United Nations
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البعثة الدائمة
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة
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Statement by

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United Arab Emirates to the United Nations

Head of Delegation

**before the high level segment
of the International Meeting to Review the Program of Action
for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

Port Louis- Mauritius
10-14 January, 2005

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, I have the honor to extend our sincere regards to the government and people of the Republic of Mauritius. I also would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for their hospitality and generosity.

I also should not fail to express our thanks and appreciation for your valuable efforts in directing this important meeting, which is dedicated to reviewing the implementation of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ten years after its adoption. This program is still considered the main plan of action for the small island states and the international community, which aims to realize national and regional sustainable development for these states, while taking into consideration the economic, social and environmental aspects in them.

This meeting acquires more significance, as it is convened just a few weeks after the devastating Southeast Asian tsunami has killed thousands of people and destroyed enormous amounts of property in many countries, some of which are small island states. In this respect we offer our deepest sympathy and consolations to the governments and people of those countries. Before that, a few months ago, hurricanes and floods devastated states in other areas. These incidents emphasize the vulnerability of the small island states and highlight their urgent need of international support to help them face the increasing challenges rising from climate change. Therefore, this meeting could contribute to a large extent in enriching the deliberations of the 2005 event of the General Assembly at its 60th session.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates has participated in many international conferences and summits on development. We have endorsed their outcomes and recommendations that have paid special attention to the small island developing states, which are characterized by economic and environmental vulnerability due to their geographical nature and the impact of climate

change on them. My country has attached great importance to joining multilateral treaties and conventions on environment protection, as well as encouraging environment-friendly mechanisms for sustainable development. The latest of which is the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. President H.H Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has issued on 8th of January 2005 a federal decree on the ratification of the Protocol, which will be deposited at the UN within few days. We also continue to contribute financially to the different UN agencies concerned in development, including the Small Island States Fund,

During the former inter-regional meeting, held in January 2004, we stated that we recognize the importance of the national efforts made by the small island states to implement the BPOA. We also emphasized the importance of increasing the international support to assist them in meeting the requirements of this program.

And as we renew, through this forum, our call to further strengthen the international support for the small island states, we affirm the importance of the implementation of the commitments undertaken by the international community during the relevant conferences and summits—the Millennium Declaration, the Monterey Consensus, Johannesburg Plan of Action and the Doha round of negotiations on trade and Development—all of which foret a *wide* platform for the BPOA. The international support and assistance should be based on a development strategy that pays special attention to *the* conditions and needs of these countries, with *increased focus* on the emerging challenges such as the spread of HIV, security threats caused by terrorism and arms and drugs trafficking, in addition to the challenges of globalization. Such strategy must ensure the application of the general guidelines for the realization of sustainable development in those countries, as the following:

- Achieving an increase in the flow of financial resources and other necessary resources for sustainable development to them,
- Improving their opportunity to contribute and benefit from the international trade system.
- Facilitating their access to the new, environment friendly technology.
- National capacity building in all areas including culture and science.

Finally, this meeting embodies the international community's commitment to address the special conditions of the small island states, We

hope it will succeed in reaching a consensus on the proper measures to implement the BPOA through an effective international partnership that draws on the participation of all stakeholders in order to bring development and prosperity to the people of those countries.

Thank you Mr. President.