



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

04 June, 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 64/199 entitled “Follow-up and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, which was adopted by consensus on 21 December 2009.

In the context of this resolution, the General Assembly decided “to convene a two-day high-level review in September 2010 as part of its sixty-fifth session, to assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation”.

Furthermore, the Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to present a concise draft political declaration based on, inter alia, inputs from the preparatory meetings, at an appropriate date to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States.

In order to commence the process of consultations on the aforementioned concise political declaration, I have asked His Excellency, Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon Permanent Representative of Singapore and Her Excellency, Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, to act as the Co-Facilitators to conduct the informal consultations on this very important issue.

I trust all Member States will give the Co-Facilitators their full support on this collective undertaking. Member States will soon be informed of the first meeting of the consultations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Abdulssalam Treki', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ali Abdulssalam Treki

Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations.



9 June, 2010

Excellency,

We have the honour to refer to the letter of 4 June, 2010 from the President of the General Assembly informing you of our appointment as Co-Facilitators to conduct the informal consultations on the political declaration to be adopted at the high-level review on progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, to be held in the General Assembly on 24 and 25 September, 2010.

In this regard, we are pleased to convene a first informal meeting on 21 June, 2010 at 3.00 pm (GA Hall). The purpose of the meeting is to share views on how we envisage the political declaration, including its format and substance. It will furthermore be an occasion to hear briefings concerning the various regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States and the interregional meeting for all small island developing States held these last months. We thought that such briefings would be of interest to Member States as the concise draft political declaration, according to General Assembly resolution 64/199, is to be based on, inter alia, inputs from these regional and interregional meetings.

The second informal meeting is foreseen for 25 June, 2010 at 10.00 am again in the GA Hall. It will be the occasion for Member States to submit and present their substantial inputs to the process; inputs on the basis of which the Co-Facilitators will then prepare a first draft political declaration to be presented to Member States in the course of the month of July, for discussion thereafter.

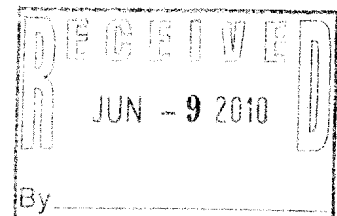
We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Mr. Vanu Gopala Menon
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Singapore
to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations





9 July, 2010

Excellency,

We have the pleasure to forward herewith the co-facilitators' draft of the concise political declaration to be adopted at the high-level review on progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation to be held at the General Assembly on 24 and 25 September, 2010.

We would like to thank Member States for the substantial inputs that they have provided to us in written and oral form. The draft concise political declaration as well as the written inputs we received can be accessed at <http://www.sidsnet.org/secure/> (user name: sids and password: msi5). The advance unedited version of the Secretary-General's report can be found at: http://www.sidsnet.org/msi_5/docs/hlr/SG-MS15-advanceunedited.pdf.

Our next informal meeting to hear reactions on the draft will be held on **15 July, 2010 at 10 am in Conference Room 5**. We hope that the timely issuance of this draft will give Member States sufficient time to prepare for the meeting.

We look forward to continue working closely with you on this important issue.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Mr. Vanu Gopala Menon
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Singapore
to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
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07/09/10

Draft political declaration on progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation

CO-FACILITATOR'S TEXT

We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States gathered at a high-level meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24-25 September 2010 to undertake a five year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to “assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation”,

1. *Recall* that the special economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States (SIDS) have been acknowledged by the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992), the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados (1994), the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002) and the Mauritius International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2005),
2. *Reaffirm* our commitment to support the efforts of SIDS, in view of their unique and specific characteristics, for their sustainable development through the further implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI), including through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,
3. *Acknowledge* that SIDS have made substantial efforts in mainstreaming sustainable development principles into national development strategies, in enhancing political commitments and public awareness within each SIDS on the importance of sustainable development issues, in establishing protected areas, including marine, coastal and terrestrial, through the demonstration of strong leadership in protecting biodiversity, in adopting strategies for promoting renewable energy and in mitigating the negative effects of the global financial and economic crisis on their economies. To this effect, SIDS have mobilized scarce resources at the national and regional levels. The long standing cooperation and support provided by the international community has also played an important role in helping SIDS make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities,
4. *Note with concern* that while SIDS have made some progress in the areas of gender, health, education and environment, their progress with respect to the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven. They have made less progress than most other groupings, or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability, resulting from low growth. Higher exposure to external shocks, particularly

the financial and economic crisis, has further exacerbated SIDS' vulnerabilities, thereby lowering their coping capacity and threatening to reverse hard-won development achievements. SIDS' small size, remoteness, trade dependence, narrow resource base, and high exposure to environmental degradation have also worked against their achievement of sustained progress,

5. *Acknowledge* that among the many challenges SIDS face, climate change continues to pose the gravest threat to their survival and viability and their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals,
6. *Emphasize* the urgent need to consider and address the possible security implications and the human dimensions of climate change. We maintain that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Ambitious global actions are needed to significantly reduce emissions and ensure adaptation results. We reaffirm the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,
7. *Call* on the international community to support the development and implementation of SIDS' national climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and programmes, as well as to facilitate regional and inter-regional cooperation, in view of the urgent need to build the resilience of SIDS to the adverse impacts of climate change,
8. *Recognize* that SIDS should be given access to fast start and long term financing pledged by developed countries, without prejudice to the needs of other vulnerable developing countries. These resources should be new and additional to existing ODA commitments and access to these resources should be further streamlined and simplified. Technology transfer should also be provided, where appropriate, in a predictable manner,
9. *Stress* the importance of enhancing SIDS' efforts to strengthen regional and national efforts in disaster risk reduction and management. We recognize the need to establish means and tools at the international level aimed at implementing a preventive approach for natural disasters in SIDS, reducing risks, and properly integrating risk management into development policies and programs, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). We further recognize the importance of continuing to strengthen insurance mechanisms for natural and environmental disasters in SIDS,
10. *Reiterate* the importance of international support to SIDS through North-South, South-South, SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation aimed at increasing energy access, efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. We underscore the need to assist SIDS in developing an investment fund for renewable energy and energy efficiency,
11. *Reiterate also* the need for greater conservation of coastal and marine resources, integrated coastal management and adoption of effective measures that provide for long-term sustainable use of fisheries resources as they are of vital importance to the sustainable development of

SIDS. More resources should be provided for research and implementation of coastal zone management strategies in SIDS,

12. *Emphasize* the need to enhance SIDS' participation in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and assist them in developing their fisheries sector. SIDS' efforts to carry out monitoring and take enforcement measures to combat IUU fishing and over-fishing should also be further strengthened,
13. *Call* on the international community to continue enhancing SIDS' efforts to foster agricultural production, productivity and sustainability and to prioritize food security. This should be achieved through diversification and value-added activities, research and development, improved land use, sustainable forestry management, access to and appropriate use of modern technology and access to markets, as well as empowerment of small-scale farmers, including women, indigenous peoples and rural communities,
14. *Urge* the establishment of technical cooperation programmes to support SIDS' development of appropriate systems for recycling, waste minimization and treatment, reuse and management, and mechanisms to protect the oceans and coastal areas from waste and toxic materials, including through creating and strengthening systems and networks for the dissemination of information on appropriate environmentally sound technologies, recycling and disposal technologies,
15. *Call* on the international community to assist SIDS in strengthening national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, tracking progress and development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles. SIDS' efforts in developing databases and in institutionalizing national indicators for monitoring and evaluating sustainable development should also be supported,
16. *Reiterate* the importance of facilitating the exchange of knowledge, success stories, experiences and information among SIDS. In this regard, we welcome the ongoing efforts to revitalize SIDSNet as a knowledge management system to promote action and facilitate partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS, as well as to enhance dialogue and cooperation between SIDS and the international community,
17. *Recognize* that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are vital and indispensable elements to achieving sustainable development of SIDS. It is therefore important to establish ambitious, realistic and action-oriented post-2010 biodiversity targets. We encourage SIDS to make further efforts to incorporate biodiversity protection into their national development strategies. Support to SIDS in this regard should be further strengthened. There is also a need for regional and international coordinated approaches to address the issue of invasive alien species,
18. *Agree* to consider the recognition of SIDS as a special category within the United Nations system,
19. *Agree* also to further enhance trade related assistance to SIDS in order to facilitate their accession process to the WTO. The WTO Work Programme on Small Economies could take

into account the special economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities of SIDS which limit their capacity to fully integrate into the global economy,

20. *Urge* developed countries to further consider the special case of SIDS in the context of their trade and partnership agreements. We also urge the International Financial Institutions to continue to take into account the specific circumstances of each SIDS to enable them to have greater access to concessionary financing,
21. *Call* for the early operationalization of the Aid for Trade initiative, without awaiting the conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda, as a means of delivering coordinated, effective and targeted trade related technical assistance and capacity building programmes to SIDS. We also call for assistance to be provided, where appropriate, to address the special constraints of SIDS in respect to their competitiveness,
22. *Acknowledge* that the specific circumstances of each SIDS need to be taken into account in addressing long-term debt sustainability and that better access to international capital markets needs to be ensured for SIDS,
23. *Recognize* the importance of smooth transitional measures for SIDS who have recently graduated or are about to graduate from LDC status. We also recognize the importance of re-examining the criteria that are used in determining graduation of SIDS from LDC status. Such a review needs to take into account SIDS' special economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities, including the adverse impacts of climate change, [Note: to be reviewed in view of ECOSOC decisions]
24. *Call* for improved cooperation and enhanced coordination in addressing the needs of SIDS as well as the mainstreaming of the MSI in the programmatic work plans of relevant entities of the United Nations system. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General, in consultation with specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, to provide a report by the end of the 65th session of the UNGA that analyses the United Nations' support for SIDS and puts forward concrete recommendations on how to ensure system wide coherence of United Nations' institutional, administrative and technical support for SIDS.

We renew our resolve to fulfill our commitments in further implementing the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and underscore the urgency of finding further solutions to small island developing States' major challenges in a concerted manner. We recognize that the way forward for sustainable development requires taking coordinated, balanced and integrated actions at all levels, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community, aimed at building the resilience of small island developing States in overcoming their special economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities and in reflecting their respective national priorities and needs.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 February 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 53 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2009

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/64/420/Add.2)]

64/199. Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados¹ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,² adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

Reaffirming also the Mauritius Declaration³ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (“Mauritius Strategy for Implementation”),⁴ adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 14 January 2005,

Recalling its resolutions 59/311 of 14 July 2005, 60/194 of 22 December 2005, 61/196 of 20 December 2006, 62/191 of 19 December 2007 and 63/213 of 19 December 2008,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁵

¹ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁵ See resolution 60/1.



Reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

Reaffirming also that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant and specific risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, that the effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some of them and that, given their vulnerability, adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise therefore remains a major priority for small island developing States,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

Underlining the importance of developing and strengthening national sustainable development strategies in small island developing States,

Recalling the decision to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;⁶

2. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene a two-day high-level review in September 2010 as part of its sixty-fifth session, to assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;⁴

3. *Decides* that the high-level review will be structured around an opening plenary meeting, followed by two multi-stakeholder round-table sessions, an interactive dialogue on cross-regional perspectives and a closing plenary meeting;

4. *Also decides* that the review will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the General Assembly to present a concise draft political declaration based on, inter alia, inputs from the preparatory meetings, at an appropriate date to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States;

5. *Reaffirms* that the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct a thorough assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and to agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

6. *Decides* to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the national and regional levels, and also decides that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through

⁶ A/64/278.

its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, should organize, facilitate and provide necessary support to the review process at the national, regional and international levels;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this context, to provide a comprehensive report on progress made and on the continuing challenges faced in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, noting the importance of paragraphs 87, 88 and 101 of the Mauritius Strategy and of taking into account cross-cutting implementation issues;

8. *Decides* that the meeting of the preparatory committee for the high-level review will be convened during the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with Commission resolution 17/2 of 15 May 2009;⁷

9. *Invites* the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the high-level review, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process thereof, as observers, in the same capacity specified for their participation at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005;

10. *Invites* all Member States and States members of the specialized agencies, relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly, to participate fully in the preparatory activities and the high-level review;

11. *Urges* that representation and participation at the high-level review be at the highest possible level, including with the participation of Heads of State or Government;

12. *Invites* heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as heads of intergovernmental organizations and entities having observer status in the General Assembly, to participate, as appropriate, in the review, in accordance with the rules and procedures as established by the General Assembly;

13. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and other major groups, in preparing for the high-level review, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the International Meeting held in Mauritius, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the high-level review, and in this context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the high-level review;

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 9 (E/2009/29)*, chap. I, sect. B.

14. *Encourages* relevant major groups organizations that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council to submit applications to participate as observers in the high-level review, as well as its preparatory meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, following the accreditation procedures established during the International Meeting held in Mauritius;

15. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the contribution of Member States and other international donors to support activities related to small island developing States, including through the voluntary trust fund;

16. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, other major groups and other donors to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States in participating fully and effectively in the high-level review and the various preparatory processes;

17. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely action for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration³ and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes;

18. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and targets adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and encourages small island developing States and their development partners to continue to consult widely in order to develop further concrete projects and programmes for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

19. *Encourages* enhanced, closer and early consultation with small island developing States in the planning and coordination, as appropriate, of the activities related to the high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and emphasizes the importance of enhanced interaction between small island developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system addressing issues concerning small island developing States;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the Small Island Developing States Unit with adequate, stable and predictable funding to facilitate the full and effective implementation of its mandates in accordance with the priority accorded to the Unit and in view of the demand for its services, in particular with respect to the provision of assistance, technical cooperation services and support to small island developing States;

21. *Also reiterates* the importance of ensuring sufficient and sustainable staffing of the Small Island Developing States Unit so that it may undertake its broad range of mandated functions with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

22. *Calls for* the provision of new and additional voluntary resources to ensure the revitalization and sustainability of the Small Island Developing States

Information Network, and in this regard welcomes the contribution of the Government of Spain to support the revitalization of the Network;

23. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change;

24. *Reiterates its request* to the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to intensify efforts aimed at mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in their work programmes and to establish a focal point for matters related to small island developing States within their respective secretariats to support coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

25. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance its support for the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity⁸ as a set of actions to address characteristics and problems that are specific to islands, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting, in 2006;

26. *Calls for* continued support for the design and implementation of national sustainable development strategies in all small island developing States;

27. *Encourages* the implementation of partnership initiatives, within the framework of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;

28. *Invites* the small island developing States to consider, at their relevant intergovernmental meetings, assessments of and relevant contributions to the review process;

29. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including by facilitating the participation of small island developing States in review activities;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.

*66th plenary meeting
21 December 2009*

⁸ UNEP/CBD/COP/8/31, annex I, decision VIII/1, annex.