

Oral statement in connection with draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40  
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"

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16 of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, the General Assembly would:

(a) Reaffirm the decision to convene in 2014 the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States as called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to build on the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and chapter VII of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation regarding small island developing States, recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States;

(b) Welcome the offer of the Government of the Independent State of Samoa to host the International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014;

(c) Decide to convene in 2013 a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States<sup>1</sup> as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

(d) Further decide that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through 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 the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

(e) Invite the President of the General Assembly to launch the work of the intergovernmental preparatory process at the end of 2013 to consider the governance structure as well as other organizational matters related to the preparatory committee, and to

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<sup>1</sup> Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea; Caribbean; and Pacific.

convene the first meeting of the preparatory committee early in 2014;

(f) Decide to consider further at its sixty-eighth session, before the end of 2013, the modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

(g) Decide that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences.

3. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, it should be noted that if the venue of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States is decided to be in the Independent State of Samoa, the Government of the Independent State of Samoa will need to defray the additional costs directly or indirectly involved, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, which stipulates that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved.

4. It is estimated that the non-post requirements of \$314,000 would be required for the biennium 2014-2015, under section 9, Economic and social affairs for: (i) a non-recurrent provision under general temporary assistance in the amount of \$159,700 equivalent to one P-3 position for 12 months to provide analytical support for the global preparatory process, including the preparation of background and synthesis papers; and (ii) a non-recurrent provision of \$154,300 to organize an expert group meeting with 20 participants for the duration of four days in New York to prepare technical and substantive inputs to the preparatory process for the Conference.

5. It is also estimated, under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, that the non-post requirements of \$206,500 would be required for the biennium 2014-2015 for: (i) a non-recurrent provision under general temporary assistance in the amount of \$106,500 equivalent to one P-3 position for eight months to provide substantive and organizational preparations and servicing of the meetings related to the preparation for the Conference, including pre-conference events, the intergovernmental preparatory

committee, and the negotiations of the Conference, and the outcome documents; (ii) a non-recurrent provision of \$50,000 for consultant services for specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat to assist in the development and execution of a strategic advocacy strategy aimed at building consensus among Member States around a core set of SIDS-specific issues in the lead-up to the Conference. Stemming from the activities and outcomes related to the implementation of the advocacy strategy, a series of publications on SIDS-specific issues will be made available in the preparatory phase of the Conference; and (iii) a non-recurrent provision of \$50,000 for layout and printing of advocacy materials and publication.

6. With regard to operative paragraph 9, the requirements for a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States and an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States to be held in 2013 would be met from voluntary contributions received in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference.

7. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12, 13 and 16, the President of General Assembly will launch the work of the intergovernmental preparatory process at the end of 2013 to consider the governance structure and other organizational matters related to the preparatory committee, and convene the first meeting of the preparatory committee early in 2014. It is understood that the General Assembly will consider further the modalities, format and organization of the meeting of preparatory committee to be convened in early 2014 as well as the Conference at its sixty-eighth session. It is, therefore, not possible at the present time to estimate the potential implications of the requirements for meetings and documentation. Upon the decision on the modalities, format and organization of the Conference as well as the meeting of the preparatory committee, the Secretary General would submit such requirements in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

8. In conclusion, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, no additional requirements would arise for the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The additional requirements of \$520,500, including \$314,000 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, and \$206,500 under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

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