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Delegates,

As you have just heard the Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise.

However it is important to note that for SIDS climate change does not stand alone, but jointly with the other three sectors of the thematic cluster for CSD14&CSD15 which are considered to all be intrinsically linked.

In this presentation I will focus on issues related to energy that are of immediate importance to SIDS and therefore consider that these issues should accord a high level of attention.

At this point and as an overarching factor, security of energy supply and access to energy are requirements necessary for sustainable development, this is pivotal, since most SIDS are nearly all totally dependent on imported fossil fuels for meeting the greater proportion of their energy needs. Compounding this for the Pacific SIDS is the fact that there still remain an estimated 70% of Pacific islanders that do not have access to modern energy supplies.

Therefore and so as to address the issue of security of energy supply and access to energy, I will focus on the following sectors:- policy and planning, petroleum supply, renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation which are consistent and in accord with those in the Report of the Secretary General (E/CN.17/2007/2) for this Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

For the Pacific SIDS the development of a regional energy policy has provided a guideline and basis for the development of National Energy Policies and Strategic Work Plans, and that a similar approach is currently being implemented in the Caribbean. However, there is still the need for technical assistance and capacity building for SIDS in not only the implementation of the national polices and plans but also in developing national capacity and skills to design project and programme proposals that will assist SIDS in accessing funding that will directly contribute to addressing the security of energy supply and access to energy. It is appropriate to note here that the development of national energy policies has been through a fully participatory approach where specific attention has been given to energy and gender. The energy and gender component being further strengthened through the Pacific Energy and Gender Network (PEG) where this has focused on the development of training materials, the convening of awareness building workshops at government level as well as the preparation of gender focused publications so as to reach out into rural and remote communities. As this capacity building and educational aspect of energy and gender awareness is in its infancy there is the need for further support and assistance to ensure that this sector is strengthened for the betterment of SIDS communities as a whole. The incentives here are the direct linkages into the rural and remote communities, through contributing to reducing poverty and improving education and health.

As most SIDS are nearly totally dependent on imported fossil fuels for meeting the greater proportion of their energy needs, in particular for electricity production and the transportation sector it is imperative that support (through technical and financial assistance) be provided so as to identify options for reducing the cost of imported petroleum products.

This is also a high priority for the Pacific SIDS where the Pacific Island Leaders during the 2006 Pacific Islands Forum directed that there is the need to consider the option of bulk purchasing of petroleum products with the view to reducing costs – obviously to do this there is the urgent need immediate technical and expert support to review the regions current petroleum supply arrangements and determine what possible options are available to address this issue.

Hence there is a need to develop and implement a strategy for the review of petroleum supply including bulk fuel purchasing and distribution options so as to ensure security of energy supply and access to energy for sustainable development.

It is recognised that the reduction in the cost of petroleum products is not going to be the total solution and in parallel there needs to be an increase in the number of project, programmes and initiatives that allow for the integration appropriate new and renewable energy technologies into the energy supply within SIDS. Although there are new initiatives such as ADMIRE as a national energy project in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the PIGGAREP as a regional project that addresses the reduction in greenhouse gasses through renewable energy, there is still the need for further such initiatives that will contribute towards achieving a more realistic increase in energy technologies into the energy mix. For SIDS the promotion of hydropower, wind, solar and biomass currently present opportunities where the technologies are proven. However, potential for other more innovative technologies such as biofuels, wave energy and ocean current still require to be developed as pilot project and proven before they are likely to become fully accepted as renewable energy options for integration in to the energy mix. As these evolve they will also assist in addressing the energy requirements of the urban as well as the rural communities. Until there is further rapid development in the increase and integration of these new and alternative renewable energy technologies within SIDS then there will remain limitations in contributing too and addressing the MDGs, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Barbados Plan of Implementation and Mauritius Strategy for Implementation where specific emphasis will be on issues such as energy and gender, health and education.

SIDS dilemma in progressing the adoption and integration of new and renewable energy technologies at an appropriate rate is hindered from a number of aspects. The uniqueness of the SIDS must be fully recognised and acknowledged where each of the SIDS are to a significant degree individually unique. For example, they have different natural renewable energy resources and therefore different development needs – their geological structure geographical locations often expose them to extremes in weather events and hence increased vulnerability to installations such as wind turbines, flash flooding inundating hydropower scheme infrastructure or coastal structures. Other aspects of relevance are the initial high cost of implementation and following this the longer term maintenance costs. This therefore necessitates that special attention should be given to the SIDS case

in supporting their efforts to increase the percentage of renewable in their energy mixes through the introduction of affordable and appropriate technologies. As identified earlier technologies such as solar, wind, biomass, hydropower and in some cases geothermal already contribute, but there needs be increased integration and opportunities provided to accommodate and integrate other emerging renewable energy technologies.

However this can only be achieved if the following can be provided:-

- The immediate need for assistance in research and in understanding and quantifying the individual renewable energy resources which are available within SIDS;
- The need for improved access to and the provision of financing, both public and private modalities that will facilitate to increasing the percentage of renewable energy as well as support the introduction of emerging new and innovative renewable energy technologies;
- Technology transfer including support in resource assessment and evaluation for renewable energy technologies, technology research and development, and data collection; and
- Increased capacity building across key sectors – such as policy development / planning / development of project proposals / strengthen technical institutions etc.

Further in regard to renewable energy, and more recently it is has been identified that “biofuels” can offer and provide a suite of new and emerging energy technology options as part of the renewable energy mix, in particular the use of coconut oil for Pacific SIDS, which needs the immediate input of technical assistance, improved access to and the provision financing, technology transfer and capacity building.

However it should be noted that the development of biofuel initiatives for SIDS are severely disadvantaged from the perspective that there is the lack of established and approved baseline methodologies that enable access to development funding, such as that available through the GEF and also linking these technologies to the CDM process. It is therefore urged that immediate attention be given to addressing the need for consideration to be given to SIDS in regard to improved access to and the provision of financing through appropriate mechanisms that can be realistically achieved by SIDS. This also links to the earlier referenced requirement for support and assistance with capacity building in the development of project and programme designs.

Although the SIDS are striving towards sustainable development through the reduction and reliance on fossil fuels through increasing the percentage of renewable energy in the petroleum energy mix there is the growing recognition that the implementation of energy efficiency and conservation initiatives in parallel can provide real cost effect opportunities of reducing the reliance on imported petroleum products and the effective exploitation of natural energy resources as part of the energy mix in SIDS.

As with renewable energy technologies SIDS also require now and in the future significant levels of assistance in addressing both the supply side and demand side of their energy sectors so as to ensure the benefits are optimised from the proposed initiatives which will primarily contribute towards reducing the use of imported petroleum products and support the increase of energy supplied from renewable energy resources.

Referring to the inter-linkages and in relation to Industrial Development there is the need for support for small to medium sized enterprises in SIDS that links with energy efficiency and renewable energy for rural and remote areas, as well as the identification and promotion of niche markets for SIDS and small to medium sized enterprise development.

Such initiatives will benefit from contributions in improving energy efficiency and energy conservation where this is already noted as a priority action for SIDS as relatively small improvements in energy efficiency can result in large savings for governments and communities

Air Pollution/Atmosphere issues for SIDS predominantly relate to the need to pursue options for the development and use of cleaner burning biofuels as a means of reducing indoor and ambient air pollution where appropriate alternate options need to be made available along with information transfer to the relevant sectors.

SIDS can benefit from access to technical support for alternative refrigeration and air-conditioning technologies specifically for the tourism and fisheries sector as an incentive means of reducing reliance on potentially ozone depleting substances or alternatives to ozone depleting substances that have high climate change potential. There are significant benefits from the capitilising on the opportunity for the provision of technical support

through strengthening and utilizing inter-agency cooperation to address issues of compliance, monitoring and illegal trade.

In conclusion SIDS are aware of the interaction and inter-linkages between the thematic cluster where it has been identified there is:-

- The need for support in the development and implementation of policies, plans and strategies;
- The need to work towards reducing reliance on the use of fossil fuels, including the review of supply and pricing;
- The need to increase the percentage of new and renewable energy in the energy mix; and
- The need for promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation in supply and demand side sectors.

However, for SIDS to be able to realistically work toward and achieve these goals they need significant levels of assistance immediately. More specifically these include improved access to and the provision of financing through appropriate mechanisms that can be realistically achieved by SIDS, technical transfer and capacity building that should be available across the government, public, private and community sectors.

Hence these are identified as the main components necessary for SIDS to be able to work towards ensuring security of energy supply and access to energy for sustainable development.

Thank you.