



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

TWENTY-FIRST SPREP MEETING

Madang, Papua New Guinea
6 – 10 September 2010

Information Paper 3

Updates on Review of Mauritius Strategy Implementation and Agenda 21 (Rio+20 Earth Summit) Preparations

Purpose

1. To inform the SPREP Meeting of the global reviews being undertaken or planned on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and Agenda 21 and to encourage members' inputs to these global review processes.

Background

2. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the international community adopted *Agenda 21*, an unprecedented global plan of action for sustainable development. Ten years later the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) adopted the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, highlighting concrete steps for better implementation of Agenda 21. In 2005, the *Mauritius Strategy* for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI) was approved as the global strategy for addressing the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

3. The world has changed since the 2002 WSSD and the international community is now facing a number of critical and interrelated problems. Particularly since 2007, the world has witnessed a major global food crisis, serious volatility in oil prices, increasing climate variability and the worst global financial crisis for almost a century. Consequently, progress has been slow in achieving internationally agreed goals, including the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic).

4. Against this backdrop, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2009 passed two resolutions (62/191 and 64/236) to review the progress made in implementing the MSI at its 60th session in September 2010, and Agenda 21 at the 'Rio+20' Earth Summit in 2012.

5. The aim of the five-year review of the *Mauritius Strategy* implementation¹ (or MSI+5) is to provide the international community with an opportunity to: (a) conduct an assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the MSI; and (b) agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of SIDS.

6. The Rio+20 Earth Summit² to be held in Brazil in 2012 is aimed at: securing renewed political commitment to sustainable development, assessing the progress and implementation gaps in meeting agreed commitments, and addressing new and emerging challenges. The Conference will focus on 4 areas: (a) review of commitments; (b) emerging issues; (c) green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development; and (d) institutional framework for sustainable development.

7. In pursuance of the MSI resolution, the UNESCAP Pacific Sub-regional Office assisted the Pacific SIDS in preparing their national assessment reports (NARs) and drafted a Pacific Regional Report with input from CROP members (including SPREP). Furthermore, UNESCAP, with financial assistance of UNDESA and the collaboration of CROP agencies, organized a Pacific High-level Dialogue on the MSI in Port Vila on 8 and 9 February 2010, hosted by the Government of Vanuatu. At the Meeting Pacific SIDS exchanged views on national progress towards implementing the MSI and provided feedback on the draft report. The Pacific Regional Report along with NARs will feed into the MSI+5 review process, including the SIDS Day Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) during the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in May and ultimately the UNGA High Level Meeting in September 2010.

8. For the Rio+20 Earth Summit process, the first meeting of the PrepCom in May 2010 discussed the substantive themes, procedural matters and elected the Bureau.

Update

9. The UNGA High Level Meeting for MSI+5 review was scheduled for 24-25 September 2010 to consider the UN Secretary General's Report on the implementation of the *Mauritius Strategy*. The Secretary General's Report will reflect information on NARs, regional reports and regional outcome statements, and outcomes of inter-regional meetings and the SIDS Day PrepCom held in May. The High Level Meeting was also to consider draft political declaration prepared by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which will form the main outcome document for the MSI+5 review.

¹ Further information about MSI+5 review can be found at:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_index.shtml

² Further information about Rio+20 can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/rio20/index.shtml>

10. At the time of writing the process for the Rio+20 Earth Summit had only begun with PrepCom 1 in May 2010. The Secretariat will verbally update the Meeting with updated information on the process and major events and milestones. As with the Rio Earth Summit and WSSD, it is expected that the Rio+20 process will involve an extensive review process possibly involving preparations of NARs, regional reviews and reports and consultations.

11. Pacific participation and input to the MSI+5 review and Rio+20 processes has to date been strong. The Pacific MSI+5 High Level Dialogue in Vanuatu in February was attended mostly by ministers of finance and senior officials and the PrepCom meetings in New York in May were attended mainly by the Pacific island missions to the UN. SPREP and some other CROP agencies have been actively engaged in these processes through providing submissions and comments to various draft reports and attending the events to support our members.

12. It is critical that the Pacific region is actively engaged in the MSI+5 and Rio+20 processes to ensure that the internationally agreed commitments are tailored to our specific needs and vulnerabilities. SPREP Members are therefore encouraged to participate wherever appropriate in these global review processes.

Conclusion

13. The SPREP Meeting is invited to **note**:

- the updates and developments relating to the process for the MSI+5 review and preparations for the Rio+20 Earth Summit; and
- the need for Members to participate in and support these global processes to ensure their outcomes are tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of the Pacific region.