

**International Meeting to Review
the Implementation of the Programme
of Action for the Sustainable Development
of Small Island Developing States**

13 January 2005

English only

**Port Louis, Mauritius
10-14 January 2005**

**Draft Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation
of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable
Development of Small Island Developing States**

The annex to this document contains an advance unedited version of the Draft Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as agreed in informal consultations.

The text appears as an official document in the six official languages as A/CONF.207/L.1, which was the basis for the informal consultations in Mauritius, and A/CONF.207/L.4/Add.1 to 7, which contains the elements revised and agreed during the informal consultations in Mauritius.

**Draft Mauritius Strategy for the further
implementation of the Programme of Action for the
Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

1. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States remains the blueprint for small island developing States and the international community to address national and regional sustainable development in small island developing States that takes into account the economic, social and environmental aspects that are the pillars of the holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development. The Programme of Action sets out basic principles as well as specific actions that are required at the national, regional and international levels to support sustainable development in small island developing States. Along with the Barbados Programme of Action, the Rio Principles, the full implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcomes of other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Monterrey Consensus, all contribute to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

1 bis. The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, provide the overarching framework for global poverty eradication and development support. Small island developing States' national development plans and strategies, including national sustainable development strategies, should include poverty reduction strategies, as appropriate, and measures to address their vulnerabilities and to build resilience, in order to contribute to the achievement of these internationally agreed goals and to be a key underpinning of donor and United Nations system support for small island developing States.

2. Small island developing States acknowledge that sustainable development is primarily a national responsibility, but also that for small island developing States to succeed, given their acknowledged vulnerabilities, the Rio Principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, must be given specific expression for small island developing States. Furthermore, there is a need for strengthened cooperation and partnership in support of sustainable development of small island developing States at the national, regional and international levels. Such partnership should be broad-based and ensure the involvement and participation of relevant stakeholders.

3. Small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development through utilization principally of their own resources in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States while at the same time addressing increasing obligations under international agreements. In addition, the international community has provided financing and technical assistance in sectors that were fairly new in 1994. For the most part, the efforts of small island developing States have been pursued within the constraints of limited financial resources, including an overall decline in official development assistance (ODA) to small island developing States, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/2004/8). Furthermore, an analysis of the report shows an increase in ad hoc stand-alone projects, rather than a programmed or strategic approach. It is crucial to mobilize domestic resources, attract international flows, promote international trade as an engine for

development, increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, make debt-financing sustainable and provide external debt relief and enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

4. The review of the Programme of Action has provided small island developing States with a valuable opportunity to measure progress in implementing its objectives. National assessment reports have been prepared, which in turn have informed the preparation of regional synthesis reports. These documents, together with the Programme of Action, form the basis of the review of the Programme of Action and should be read along with the present document in order to fully appreciate the work needed to ensure further progress.

5. Small island developing States are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of their peoples by the implementation of strategies which build resilience and capacity to address their unique and particular vulnerabilities. This can be facilitated by international cooperation, including through further efforts by multilateral partners, which is more responsive to the particular needs of small island developing States.

6. In order to complement national and regional development efforts for small island developing States, there is an urgent need to enhance coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, which would facilitate the participation of small island developing States in international financial decision-making processes and institutions and in the process of setting international rules, codes, norms and standards.

7. Good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development. At the domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for sustainable development. As a result of globalization, external factors have become critical in determining the success or failure of developing countries in their national efforts. The gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade and full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased.

7 bis. Peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all.

8. Security for small island developing States is a multidimensional concept. Specific challenges to small island developing States include, inter alia, environmental degradation, natural disasters, food security, water scarcity, HIV/ AIDS, narco-trafficking, small arms trafficking and the impact of terrorism on the economic sectors and tourism in particular. Implementation of the sustainable development agenda for small island developing States must proceed notwithstanding the current emphasis on security. In this regard, the international community acknowledges the increased financial and administrative obligation at the national level that this places on all small island developing States as part of the global fight against terrorism and reaffirms the importance of international cooperation and technical and financial support to small island developing States where necessary.

9. South-South, including small island developing States-small island developing States cooperation is critical at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in strategic areas, such as information and communication technology, trade, investment, capacity-building, disaster management, environment, food, agriculture, oceans, water, energy, health and education.

[Paragraphs 10 and 11 were deleted.]

12. Experience has reaffirmed that sustainable development is best achieved through adoption of integrated and holistic approaches at all levels.

13. Small island developing States recognize the importance of culture in their sustainable development, as it represents the expression and identity of the people and the foundation of the richness of our cultural diversity, traditions and customs.

14. Small island developing States recognize the integral role of youth in sustainable development and express the need to further ensure their participation in programmes and activities related to sustainable development on small island developing States.

15. Small island developing States reaffirm the importance of gender equality and promoting the full and equal access of women and men to political participation at all levels, economic opportunity, health-care services and programmes and decision-making systems for sustainable development, and the full and equal access of girls and boys, women and men to all levels of education.

I. Climate change and sea-level rise

16. The adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the long-term effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some small island developing States. Based on the Secretary-General's report and other available data, small island developing States believe that they are already experiencing major adverse effects of climate change. Adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise remains a major priority for small island developing States.

16 bis The international community reaffirms its commitment to achieving, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UNFCCC, the Convention's ultimate objective of stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. Parties that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge all States that have not done so to ratify it in a timely manner.

16 ter In the context of paragraphs 16 and 16 bis, the international community should:

(a) Fully implement the UNFCCC and further promote international cooperation on climate change;

(b) Continue to take, in accordance with the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as applicable, steps to address climate change, including through: adaptation and mitigation in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective

capabilities; and the effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol by those countries that have ratified it;

(c) Promote increased energy efficiency and development and use of renewable energy as a matter of priority, as well as advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, *inter alia*, through public and/or private partnerships, market-oriented approaches, as well as supportive public policies and international cooperation and support their use in small island developing States, where appropriate, and in accordance with their national policies.

(d) Implement the Buenos Aires Programme of Action on Adaptation and Response Measures, in particular those elements that are relevant to small island developing States;

(e) Work to facilitate and promote the development, transfer and dissemination to small island developing States of appropriate technologies and practices to address climate change;

(f) Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, including in small island developing States, *inter alia* through continuing support to the IPCC for the exchange of scientific information and data, including where relevant to small island developing States.

(g) Enhance the implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor the Earth's atmosphere, including as appropriate, strategies for integrated observations, *inter alia* with the cooperation of relevant international organisations; and work with small island developing States to strengthen their involvement in monitoring and observing systems, and enhance their access to and use of information.

17. small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, including through the facilitation and improvement of access to existing resources and, where appropriate, through allocation of dedicated financial resources, will as an integral component of their national sustainable development strategies, where appropriate, develop and implement national adaptation strategies and facilitate regional and inter-regional cooperation, including within the framework of the UNFCCC.

18. Small island developing States, with assistance from regional development banks and other financial institutions, as appropriate, should coordinate further, on a regional basis, to establish or strengthen national and regional climate-change coordination mechanisms.

II. Natural and environmental disasters

19. Small island developing States are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences. The tragic impacts of the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and the recent hurricane/cyclone/typhoon season in the Caribbean and Pacific highlight their vulnerability. Small island developing States have undertaken to strengthen their respective national frameworks for more effective disaster management and are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Strengthen the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and related small island developing States regional mechanisms as facilities to improve national disaster mitigation, preparedness and early-warning capacity, increase public awareness about

disaster reduction, stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, and the mainstreaming of risk management into the national planning process;

(b) Use such opportunities as the 10-year review of the Yokohama Strategy on Natural Disaster Reduction, including the programme outcome for 2005-2015 of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, to consider the specific concerns of small island developing States, including issues relating to insurance and reinsurance arrangements for small island developing States.

(c) Augment the capacity of small island developing States to predict and respond to emergency situations, including those affecting human settlements, stemming from natural and environmental disasters.

III. Management of wastes

20. While some small island developing States have made significant progress in both planning and implementation of waste management policies, programmes and strategies, most of them have serious difficulties in terms of financial and technical capacity in dealing with waste management issues. Marine debris, ballast water, shipwrecks with potential to cause environmental hazard due to leaks, and other forms of waste threaten small island developing States' ecological integrity.

20 bis. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community to:

(a) Form regional partnerships to draw on best practices and develop innovative solutions to waste management, seeking international assistance in this effort;

(b) Work to strengthen the control of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes especially through the enhancement of activities under the Basel Convention and, where it applies, the Waigani Convention;

(c) Promote sustainable waste management, including:

(i) Identifying cost-effective and environmentally sound waste management systems;

(ii) Exploring and engaging in innovative forms of financing of waste management infrastructure, including the creation of appropriate national environmental trust funds;

(iii) Promoting reduction, reuse and recycling of waste and waste management initiatives;

(iv) Developing projects appropriate to small island developing States for the use of waste as a resource, including for the production of energy as a waste management solution;

(d) Promote national, regional and international cooperation to reduce the quantity of waste disposed of at sea, including by working with others in the international community to strengthen regimes relating to the disposal of waste at sea, particularly those regimes established by the International Maritime Organization, the London (Dumping) Convention and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(e) Promote the broad participation in and early implementation of the new International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention on Ballast Water;

20 ter. Recognizing that there is concern with the environmental implications of potential oil leaks from sunken state vessels to marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States, and taking into account sensitivities surrounding those vessels which are marine graves, small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis;

20 quat. The international community notes that cessation of transport of radioactive materials through small island developing States regions is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognises the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the aegis of the IAEA and IMO, with the aim of improving mutual understanding, confidence building and enhanced communications in relation to safe maritime transport of radioactive materials. States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other states to address their concerns. These concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate fora, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport.

IV. Coastal and marine resources

21. Small island developing States are defined by their historic, cultural and economic links to the oceans and seas. They continue to be heavily dependent on their marine resources, particularly for the sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities. The management of coastal and marine resources have become integrated into broader ocean management strategies since the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. However, for those small island developing States which are States parties to the Convention implementation continues to be impeded by financial constraints and a lack of capacity.

22. To overcome these constraints, it is important to give appropriate priority at all levels, including in national and regional sustainable development agendas, to ocean issues including fisheries. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to enable small island developing States to, among other things:

(a) Complete the delimitation of their maritime boundaries;

(b) Submit any claims to the Continental Shelf Commission by 13 May 2009 or such later date as applicable in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(c) Further the work on the assessment of seabed living and non-living resources within their national jurisdiction.

23. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to build technical and financial capacities to:

(a) Establish effective monitoring, reporting and enforcement, and control of fishing vessels, including by small island developing States as flag States, to further implement international plans of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to manage fishing capacity;

(b) Strengthen or develop, where necessary, national and regional sustainable and responsible fisheries management mechanisms consistent with the 1995 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

(c) Fully implement surveillance and monitoring systems;

(d) Analyse and assess the status of fish stocks;

(e) If they have not yet done so, consider becoming parties to the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the FAO High Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement, as well as relevant regional agreements for the conservation and management of fisheries;

(f) Establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure and legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of, their responsibilities under international law. In this regard, until such action is undertaken, small island developing States flag States are encouraged to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry.

24. Distant-water fishing nations are encouraged to provide small island developing States with adequate technical and financial support to enhance the effective and sustainable management of their fisheries resources.

25. In collaboration with other States and making use of regional mechanisms, small island developing States will work to put in place integrated policies and sound management approaches, such as marine protected areas, consistent with relevant international agreements, and develop national capacity to monitor, conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems, taking into account the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 7th meeting. Small island developing States should address as a priority the impacts of coastal development, coastal tourism, intensive and destructive fishing practices, pollution, as well as the unreported and illegal trade in corals, on the future health of coral reefs. To facilitate these initiatives, the international community should provide technical and financial support for:

(a) Regional monitoring efforts and Global Ocean Observing System;

(b) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) marine science programmes that are of particular relevance to small island developing States;

(c) The strengthening, where appropriate, of representative networks of marine protected areas, consistent with decision VII/28 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d) Activities to address the impact of coral bleaching, including enhancing resistance and recovery.

26. Small island developing States and relevant regional and international development partners should work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, drawing upon best practices from other regions, including the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, the Ocean Governance Project involving all regions, and the establishment of related initiatives in other small island developing States regions.

26 bis Small island developing States and the international development partners should fully implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, particularly with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by undertaking initiatives specifically addressing the vulnerability of small island developing States;

V. Freshwater resources

27. Small island developing States continue to face water management and water access challenges, caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment and storage, pollution of water resources, saline intrusion (which may be exacerbated, *inter alia*, by sea-level rise, unsustainable management of water resources, and climate variability and climate change) and leakage in the delivery system. Sustained urban water supply and sanitation systems are constrained by a lack of human, institutional and financial resources. The access to safe drinking water, the provision of sanitation and the promotion of hygiene are the foundations of human dignity, public health and economic and social development and are among the priorities for small island developing States.

28. Small island developing States in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions have demonstrated their commitment to small island developing States-small island developing States cooperation with the Joint Programme for Action for Water and Climate. The international community is invited to support the implementation of this programme, and the proposal to broaden it to all small island developing States regions.

29. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support from the international community, to meet the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development 2015 targets on sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, hygiene, and the production of integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005.

30. The international community is requested to provide assistance to small island developing States for capacity-building for the development and further implementation of freshwater and sanitation programmes, and the promotion of integrated water resources management, including through the Global Environment Facility focal areas, where appropriate, the World Water Assessment Programme, and through support to the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and the EU "Water for Life Initiative".

31. The Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico City in March 2006, and its preparatory process will be an opportunity for the small island developing States to continue to seek international support to build self-reliance and implement their agreed priority actions as submitted to the Third World Water Forum Portfolio of Water Action, namely: integrated water resources management (including using the Hydrological Cycle Observing

System); water demand management; water quality capacity-building; water governance; regional water partnerships; and inter-small island developing State water partnerships.

VI. Land resources

32. The pressures on land resources that existed 10 years ago have only been exacerbated by competing uses, increased demands and land degradation. National strategies have to be elaborated on sustainable land use, which tackle such issues as land tenure and management systems, combating desertification and protecting biodiversity. These strategies should include environmental impact assessments and identify the necessary policy changes and capacity-building needs within the framework of the three pillars of sustainable development.

33. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Develop capacity to implement the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international agreements in relation to land resources;

(b) Develop capacity for sustainable land management and self-generating agro-ecosystems by building on communal tenure systems and traditional land-use planning and practices for crop, livestock and aquaculture production, taking into account the increasing competition for land resources by tourism, urbanization and other activities;

(c) Strengthen land tenure and management systems, move from primary to tertiary agricultural production and diversify agricultural production in a sustainable manner.

34. Most small island developing States face serious challenges of land degradation as a result, inter alia, of inappropriate land use and poor irrigation management systems. Since the main objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is to address land degradation, and considering the designation of GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention, small island developing States should fully utilize available GEF resources to develop and implement projects to address land degradation through sustainable land management. In this regard, every effort must be made for the full implementation of the Convention.

35. Faced with the challenge of competitiveness, small island developing States should seek additional opportunities for diversifying their economies and markets, especially in the agricultural sector, in order to increase their degree of food security and self-reliance. Small island developing States are committed individually and through small island developing States-small island developing States partnerships, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Create an enabling environment for sustainably enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting agricultural diversification and food security;

(b) Remove production constraints and build programmes in such areas as seed production and integrated pest management systems;

(c) Enhance food processing, marketing and product development and quality control;

(d) Promote relevant research and development and the use of appropriate modern technologies;

(e) Promote sustainable aquaculture.

36. To elaborate concrete strategies to enhance efficient and sustainable agricultural production and ensure their food security through such initiatives as the FAO sustainable agriculture and rural development initiative, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations are urged to provide practical support to small island developing States for research into such matters as: the diversification of agriculture; alternative uses for crops; improved husbandry; irrigation and water management; aquaculture; and the use of appropriate modern technologies for smallholder agriculture, including agricultural extension services.

37. The 2005 FAO conference of small island developing States ministers of agriculture is urged to consider endorsing priority actions for an enhanced contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to small island developing States sustainable development policies, in the light of the importance of nutrition and food security needs to small island developing States.

38. Sustainable forest management to reduce forest loss and forest degradation is crucial to small island developing States. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community and in the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and subsequent action of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Convention on Biological Diversity work programme on forest biodiversity and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to:

(a) Develop and strengthen partnerships for sustainable forest management, such as the Iwokrama rainforest programme;

(b) Increase stakeholder participation in all discussions regarding the development, management and conservation of forest and tree resources;

(c) Ensure adherence to national forest policies and legislation that has been developed to safeguard rights of resource owners and legitimate or licensed users through administrative and management mechanisms for alienation, licence or transfer of “traditional rights” for commercial development purposes;

(d) Increase the awareness, promotion, adoption and enforcement of legislation to ensure that sustainable rotational logging practices and replanting initiatives are implemented.

39. In the mining sector, we recognize that small island developing States are committed, with the support of the international community, to improve national capacity for:

(a) Policy and legislation formulation;

(b) The development of databases and assessment of mineral and aggregate resources;

(c) Negotiations with transnational corporations including measures to enhance transparency of revenue flows;

(d) The evaluation of mineral sector projects, including using environmental and social impact assessment to identify opportunities and risks and ensuring compliance with mitigatory and ameliorative measures where impacts are negative, as well as dealing with mining tenement issues and raising land “owner” awareness and participation.

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VII. Energy resources

41. Energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for many small island developing States, and many remote and rural small island developing States communities have little or no access to modern and affordable energy services. Modern research has produced commercially feasible options of energy supply, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, hydro and ocean energy. Indeed, many small island developing States are particularly suited to these options because of their geographical location. However, existing technologies may not always be adaptable to the needs and circumstances of many small island developing States communities.

42. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to develop and implement integrated energy programmes. These programmes should include, inter alia, comprehensive assessments of small island developing States energy resources, current and projected patterns of energy use, enhancing energy efficiency, and promote the development and use of renewable energy as well as advanced clean energy technologies that are affordable and readily adaptable to the circumstances of small island developing States. Regional development banks have an important role in this process. Support for technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and for capacity-building are important.

43. Small island developing States are committed, with the required support of the international community, to strengthen ongoing and support new efforts on energy supply and services, including the promotion of demonstration projects. It is recognized that a renewed effort is required by all, for small island developing States to achieve real and demonstrable progress in this regard by the time of review by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006, in accordance with its work programme.

44. Small island developing States and other international partners should work together to promote greater dissemination and application of small island developing States-appropriate energy technology and to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the United Nations Renewable Energy Fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Energy Thematic Trust Fund, for this purpose. Small island developing States-small island developing States cooperation should be further pursued in areas where success has been achieved, such as a collaborative agency for financing small island developing States renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

VIII. Tourism resources

45. Tourism is an important contributor to economic growth in small island developing States. Yet it is recognized that the sector is open to many exogenous shocks. In addition, if tourism is not developed sustainably, it can damage or even destroy the natural environment that attracts tourism in the first place. There is also a continuing challenge to establish the appropriate balance between tourism development and that of other sectors of the economy.

There is a particular challenge to make appropriate linkages to other sectors, including local service providers to retain resources within the country, in particular to create synergistic linkages between tourism and the agricultural sector by promoting island foods and beverages supply chains, rural hospitality and agro-tourism.

46. Small island developing States, with the required support of regional and international tourism organizations and other relevant stakeholders, should monitor the impacts of tourism development to ensure that tourism development and social and environmental aspects are mutually supportive at all levels. They must also facilitate the design or refinement of guidelines and best practices appropriate for assessing the carrying capacity of small island developing States, including the provision of technical and financial support to conduct these assessments. To this end, they should develop and implement appropriate partnerships. Small island developing States should also implement the guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting.

47. Small island developing States, with the necessary support of regional and international tourism organizations, should also find effective ways and means to develop and implement sustainable tourism development plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector, and integrate these plans into their national strategies for sustainable development. In addition, they should develop and implement community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism, and build the necessary capacities of civil society and local stakeholders, while protecting culture and traditions and effectively conserving and managing natural resources.

IX. Biodiversity resources

48. Many small island developing States have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and have initiated national biodiversity strategic action plans and developed national nature reserves and protected areas. The World Summit on Sustainable Development confirmed the essential links between biodiversity and livelihoods. The achievements of the targets set by the international community in relevant international conventions, in particular those of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and endorsed by the Summit, are of particular importance to small island developing States.

49. To achieve those targets in the agreed time frames, the following actions are required by small island developing States, with necessary support from the international community:

- (a) Integrating biodiversity protection into national sustainable development strategies;
- (b) Building effective partnerships between all relevant stakeholders essential to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources;
- (c) Addressing island biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity in a manner that responds to the unique characteristics of small island developing States and to the threats related to climate change, land degradation and their particular vulnerabilities;
- (d) Implementing the Convention's guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development;

(e) Enhancing national efforts, both by Governments and other stakeholders, in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on protected areas, including the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information;

(f) Controlling major pathways for potential alien invasive species in small island developing States;

(g) Developing local capacities for protecting and developing the traditional knowledge of indigenous groups for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, taking into account the Bonn Guideline on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing as adopted at by the Conference of Parties to the Convention at its sixth meeting;

(h) Developing the capacity to promote small island developing States-small island developing States cooperation for biodiversity resources, shared ecosystem management and exchange of experience, including through support for strong networks, by both Governments and other stakeholders;

(i) Participating in the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Group of the Convention on an international regime on access and benefit-sharing to elaborate and negotiate the nature, scope and elements of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing in accordance with the terms of decision VII/19 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, including, inter alia, the issue of unauthorized access to and misappropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, which is of particular concern to small island developing States.

(j) Developing human and institutional capacity for research in biodiversity, including taxonomy, at the national and regional levels in small island developing States;

(k) Supporting, through the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol, the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks;

(l) Supporting small island developing States efforts in building community capacity to conserve important species, sites and habitats.

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X. Transport and communication

51. Transport and communications remain important lifelines linking small island developing States with the outside world. While dramatic technological breakthroughs over the last decade, such as the development of the Internet and satellite communications, have mitigated the traditional isolation of small island developing States, transport and communication nevertheless remain important challenges in the promotion and implementation of sustainable development nationally and in their regions.

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53. Small island developing States, with the support of the international community, should cooperate and develop viable regional transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies.

54. While the liberalization of telecommunications in some small island developing States has presented both opportunities and challenges, in many small island developing States there are still serious access limitations to basic telecommunications. The small size of the markets has prevented the maximization of the full value of liberalization through economies of scale.

55. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community to taking initiatives in such areas as access to and the use of information and communication technology (ICT), development of community multimedia centres, ICT literacy, skills development, local content and applications in building knowledge-based societies and bridging the digital divide, particularly in rural communities. There is also a continuing need for maintenance of low-tech communication solutions, such as high-frequency radio for rural and remote locations. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other relevant organizations are invited to support these activities in a coordinated manner. In this regard, the World Summit on the Information Society is encouraged to consider small island developing States concerns and their participation in the Summit process.

56. Taking into account the objective of their national policies, small island developing States are urged to consider further liberalizing their telecommunications sector as one of the possible means to address the high costs caused by existing monopoly service providers. In this regard, appropriate and adequate national communications regulatory frameworks will be required.

XI. Science and technology

57. It is recognized that science and technology is a cross-cutting issue for all sectors for small island developing States sustainable development. Since 1994, some small island developing States have been able to strengthen the science and technology base of their economy, while others still require significant support.

58. Targeted investments for small island developing States-appropriate science and technology capacity is critical, given the increasing importance of science and technology in building resilience in small island developing States. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Incorporate into national sustainable development strategies appropriate science and technology elements and support for science development in small island developing States, and also provide promotion and protection of traditional knowledge and practices;

(b) Review science and technology activities in relation to environmentally sound technologies and sustainable development;

(c) Reduce environmental risk in the application of science and technology and in the utilization of indigenous technologies.

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61. The strengthening and further development of small island developing States-small island developing States cooperation and experience-sharing in this area is crucial and should be made a priority, especially in regard to utilizing the national and regional institutions of small island developing States. An important activity in this regard is the operationalization of the small island developing States roster of experts (SIDSTAP), and the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat should seek to complete the necessary work by 2005 in cooperation with regional organizations and national Governments.

62. The Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNet) is a critical mechanism in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States and needs maintenance, strengthening and further enhancement. The French-language portal is expected to be fully operational by 2005. A Spanish-language portal should be developed by 2005, and the Small Island Developing States Unit is requested to seek the necessary financial support.

XII. Graduation from least developed country status

63. The adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of resolutions on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries is welcomed, and they need to be fully implemented. The two States the General Assembly has recently resolved to graduate from the list of least developed countries are small island developing States, and all of those which are currently potential candidates for graduation from least developed country status are small island developing States. It is critical that the elaboration and implementation of national smooth transition strategies formulated with development partners takes into consideration the specific vulnerabilities of graduating States and ensures that graduation does not disrupt their development plans, programmes and projects aimed at achieving sustainable development.

64. The United Nations Committee for Development Policy has made useful progress in better reflecting the vulnerability of developing countries that face special disadvantages, such as small island developing States, in its recommendations concerning least developed country status; the Committee's ongoing work in this regard is encouraged.

XIII. Trade: globalization and trade liberalization

65. Most small island developing States, as a result of their smallness, persistent structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities, face specific difficulties in integrating into the global economy. Trade liberalization and globalization present opportunities and challenges to small island developing States, including in terms of the erosion of trade preferences. The potential benefits from trade liberalization and globalization can be best realized if the specific limitations and vulnerabilities of small island developing States are addressed at all levels.

65 bis. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

66. The decision taken on 1 August 2004 by WTO members, which emphasizes their resolve to conclude the negotiations launched at Doha, and the renewed commitment by

WTO members to fulfilling the development dimension of the current round of WTO negotiations, which seeks to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Doha work programme, is a welcome development. We recognize the importance of intensifying efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation by small economies, notably small island developing States, in the deliberations and decision-making process of WTO. Many small island developing States either are not represented in Geneva or are still grappling with the process of accession to WTO membership. Most small island developing States also experience serious capacity constraints in meeting WTO obligations.

67. In seeking to integrate into the global economy, there are a number of issues of special concern to small island developing States, including:

- (a) The WTO accession process;
- (b) Graduation and smooth transition from the United Nations list of least developed countries;
- (c) Capacity constraints;
- (d) Harmonized, coordinated and sustainably financed technical assistance;
- (e) Structural handicaps and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;
- (f) Erosion of preferences;
- (g) Structural adjustment;
- (h) Relationship between trade, environment and development;
- (i) Trade and food security;
- (j) Lack of adequate representation in Geneva.

XIV. Sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development

68. Small island developing States continue to require support to address the serious challenges they face in capacity development in policy and strategy formulation and implementation. Small island developing States are now seeking to address these challenges in capacity through a more integrated approach that includes civil society and the private sector, noting that within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region a charter has been established for the participation of all major groups.

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70. While access to education in small island developing States has developed considerably over the last decade, it is still a fundamental component of sustainable development and capacity-building for the long term. The right to education is also a human right. In this regard, education strategies and action plans that encompass the wide-ranging needs for improved access to and quality of education need to be implemented.

70 bis. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to further education for sustainable development through:

- (a) Supporting efforts of the respective ministries of education;
- (b) Promoting comprehensive and accessible universal primary education and ensuring gender equality in all small island developing States, with a major emphasis to reduce illiteracy;
- (c) Promoting technical and vocational education, to enhance skills and facilitate entrepreneurship necessary in the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods;
- (d) Strengthening distance-learning arrangements;
- (e) Integrating national sustainable development strategies and environmental education within the education systems, with particular support from UNESCO and regional environmental organizations and in the framework of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2015;
- (f) Assisting with basic infrastructure, curriculum development, where appropriate, and teacher training, working towards an integrated gender perspective;
- (g) Assisting with further development of programmes for people with special needs in particular children and youth, especially training at a regional level;
- (h) Further strengthening the training and teaching of the principles and practices of good governance at all levels and protection of human rights.

XV. Sustainable production and consumption

71. In response to the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the development of a 10-year framework of progress in support of regional and national initiatives on sustainable consumption and production, small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

- (a) Consider all initiatives relating to sustainable consumption and production in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;
- (b) Take appropriate measures to facilitate implementation of the 10-year framework on sustainable production and consumption in a coherent manner;
- (c) Assess the need for programmes on sustainable consumption and production strategies on the basis of national priorities and best practices;

XVI. National and regional enabling environments

72. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

- (a) Formulate and implement national sustainable development strategies by 2005, as agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Incorporate guiding principles of sustainable development into nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and all sectoral policies and strategies;

(c) Develop appropriate national targets and indicators for sustainable development, that can be incorporated into existing national data collection and reporting systems, in order to, inter alia, respond to the requirements of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and other relevant global and regional targets;

(d) Improve legislative, administrative and institutional structures to develop and implement sustainable development strategies, policies and plans and mainstream sustainable development concerns into overall policy development and implementation and facilitate the participation of civil society in all sustainable development initiatives;

(e) Create and empower sustainable development task forces, or their equivalent, to function as interdisciplinary and communally representative advisory bodies;

(f) Rationalize legislation that affects sustainable development at the national level, where appropriate, improve coordination between legislative frameworks, and develop guidelines for those who must carry out legislative objectives;

(g) Develop and implement integrated planning systems and processes;

(h) Involve youth in visioning sustainable island living.

XVII. Health

73. Health is a key determinant of sustainable development as identified through the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The strengthening and further development of small island developing States-small island developing States cooperation and experience-sharing in the area of health is crucial and should be made a priority. Increasing incidence of such health challenges as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, drug resistant malarial strains, dengue, severe acute respiratory syndrome, West Nile Virus, bird flu and other new and emerging diseases, and nutritional disorders, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases and their impact on sustainable development is a major concern in small island developing States.

73 bis. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to also address HIV/AIDS which is prevalent in many countries. In addition to its impact on individuals and families, HIV/AIDS is particularly devastating for countries with small populations and limited skilled workforces, taking a severe toll on their economies as productivity declines, income levels are reduced and the social fabric is undermined. Responding effectively to HIV/AIDS is both an urgent health issue and a development imperative.

74. Other communicable and non-communicable diseases will continue to have a significant impact on the health of small island developing States communities for the foreseeable future. Further, the experience of many regions has shown that failure to effectively control such diseases as HIV/AIDS will have substantial negative impacts on future sustainable development in all small island developing States.

74 bis. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to effectively control these diseases through:

(a) Strengthening the health management and financing systems of small island developing States to enable them to arrest the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to reduce the incidence of malaria, dengue and non-communicable diseases and to promote mental health;

(b) Technical assistance bilaterally or through multilateral cooperation agencies to facilitate prompt access to funds from the Global Fund to Combat HIV/ AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is a major instrument to combat these infectious diseases, thereby supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States;

(c) Enhanced accessibility to effective pharmaceutical drugs at affordable prices;

(d) The active implementation of healthy public policy and effective prevention programmes in such areas as immunization, reproductive health, mental health and health education;

(e) The development and implementation of effective surveillance initiatives at the local, national and regional levels;

(f) The facilitation of early information-sharing on possible emerging outbreaks nationally and internationally;

(g) Preparedness of countries and regional organizations to respond rapidly and effectively to outbreaks, naturally occurring and intentional, requiring development and regular testing of response plans, strengthening of response capacity and identification of resources which can be accessed quickly;

(h) The development and implementation of modern, flexible national public health legislation;

(i) To promote the development of traditional medicines, including medicinal plants.

(j) The implementation of targeted environmental health programmes which prevent ill health of small island developing States populations, such as waste management, control of air pollution and improved water quality;

(k) Enhanced data collection on demographic and epidemiological trends.

XVIII. Knowledge management and information for decision-making

75. Small island developing States recognize that there are new opportunities afforded by the rapid new developments in ICT to overcome limitations of isolation and remoteness and build their resilience. These new opportunities include such areas as e-commerce, improved early warning, tele-medicine and distance-learning.

75 bis. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, for:

(a) The identification and addressing of gaps in data and characterization of information related to economic, social, environmental and cultural areas;

(b) Developing databases, vulnerability indexes, geographic information systems (GIS) and other information systems;

(c) Establishing national and regional information and database centres, including the collection, quality control and use of metadata, analysis of data, accessibility and sharing of data and information;

(d) The expansion and extension of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (Paris 21) initiative to address small island developing States concerns;

(e) Addressing issues relating to cyber-security in small island developing States;

(f) Establishing land use databases, inter alia, through training in and access to the use of GIS and remote-sensing;

(g) Strengthening and establishing, where necessary, relevant research and postgraduate programmes at small island developing States regional tertiary level institutions.

76. Consideration should be given for the establishment of a task force to elaborate a resilience index, supported by the international community. This work would be significantly enhanced as a result of the successful implementation of the activities outlined above.

XIX. Culture

77. Small island developing States recognize the importance of the cultural identity of people and its importance in advancing sustainable development, and also recognize the need to develop cultural industries and initiatives, which present significant economic opportunities for national and regional development. Cultural industries and initiatives are viewed as an area in which small island developing States have comparative advantage, which have the potential to diversify small island developing States economies and build their resilience while they adjust to changes in the global economy. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Develop and implement national cultural policies and legislative frameworks to support the development of cultural industries and initiatives in such areas as music, art, the literary and culinary arts, fashion, festivals, theatre and film, sports and cultural tourism;

(b) Develop measures to protect the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage and increase resources for the development and strengthening of national and regional cultural initiatives;

(c) Improve institutional capacity for advocacy and marketing of cultural products and the protection of intellectual property;

(d) Seek venture capital and access to credit to small and medium-sized cultural enterprises and initiatives, including through the establishment of culture support funds in small island developing States regions.

XX. Implementation

78. Small island developing States and the international community recognize that the further implementation of the Programme of Action, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are mutually reinforcing. This will require a more focused and substantially increased effort, both by small island developing States themselves and by the rest of the international community, based on the recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, taking fully into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

78 bis. To adequately address their most urgent sustainable development challenges, small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, including through the facilitation and improvement of access to existing resources and, where appropriate, through allocation of dedicated financial resources, will take action in the following key areas:

(a) **Climate change adaptation and sea-level rise:** as an integral component of their national sustainable development strategies, where appropriate, to develop and implement national adaptation strategies and facilitate regional and interregional cooperation, including within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and, inter alia, with support from the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, as appropriate;

(b) **Energy:** to address the energy vulnerability of small island developing States, to promote access to energy efficient technologies, renewable energy and advanced clean energy technologies that are affordable and readily adaptable to the special circumstances of small island developing States;

(c) **Intellectual property rights and development:** to protect intellectual property in small island developing States, including traditional knowledge and folklore, and recognize their value;

(d) **Biodiversity:** to build representative systems of terrestrial and marine protected areas and to advance the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity programme of work on island biodiversity, and facilitate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization;

(e) **Culture and development:** to promote the development of cultural industries in small island developing States, including through cultural exchanges among small island developing States and other countries;

(f) **Natural and environmental disasters:** to develop partnerships to implement schemes that spread out risks, reduce insurance premiums, expand insurance coverage and thereby increase financing for post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and establish and strengthen effective early warning systems as well as other mitigation and response measures;

(g) **Marine resources:** to promote national and regional efforts in the sustainable management of marine resources of small island developing States, through appropriate assessment and management of fish stocks and effective monitoring and surveillance of fishing effort, including appropriate enforcement measures to minimize illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overharvesting, mapping of their exclusive economic zones, and improving and strengthening existing regional mechanisms, where appropriate;

(h) **Agriculture and rural development:** to promote agricultural competitiveness through the long-term development of efficient agricultural systems, diversification and value-added activities, and to ensure food security, inter alia, through research and development;

(i) **HIV/AIDS:** to urgently intensify action at all levels to prevent and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, and mitigate the impact of these diseases;

(j) **Transport and security:** to promote access to appropriate technology and increased technical and other assistance to further develop and manage transport infrastructure in small island developing States to meet international requirements, including those relating to security, as well as to minimize environmental impacts;

(k) **Sustainable production and consumption:** to develop appropriate mechanisms to address the challenges associated with the design and implementation of small island developing States' sustainable production and consumption strategies at the national and regional levels;

(l) **Information and communication technologies (ICT):** to enhance ICT development, including connectivity and access to affordable hardware and software.

79. To assist small island developing States in this regard will require:

(a) Substantially increasing the flow of financial and other relevant resources, both public and private, and ensuring their effective use;

(b) Improved trade opportunities;

(c) Access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional or preferential basis, as mutually agreed;

(d) Education and awareness-raising;

(e) Capacity-building and information for decision-making and scientific capabilities;

(f) National country-driven and country-owned strategies for sustainable development, including poverty reduction and resilience-building.

80. Small island developing States reaffirm their commitment to meet the sustainable development goals and priorities in the Programme of Action by, inter alia, more effective utilization of available resources and reinforcing their national sustainable development strategies and mechanisms. The success of the present Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action by small island developing States at the national level will depend on effective human, institutional and technical capacity

development, effective monitoring and coordination, including through the support of small island developing States regional organizations. At the global level, it is essential that the international community supports these goals and assists in the implementation of actions to achieve them, particularly through the provision of financial and technical support.

A. Access to and the provision of financial resources

81. The international community reaffirms its commitment to support the sustainable development of small island developing States through the provision of financial resources, inter alia, access to existing funds and financial mechanisms, such as the relevant operational programmes of GEF, and underlines the crucial involvement of the donor community, including the international financial institutions and regional development banks.

82. This commitment entails a more coherent, coordinated and collaborative approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, through, inter alia:

(a) Strengthened country-driven donor coordination for small island developing States as regional groups or through national consultative processes, using existing frameworks, where relevant;

(b) Active support for regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States, such as the small island developing States University Consortium, the Caribbean-Pacific Water Initiative and the Interregional Ocean Governance Initiative;

(c) Broad-based partnerships that ensure involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(d) Appropriate harnessing of the potential for foreign direct investment (FDI) and encouraging increased FDI flows to small island developing States;

(e) Urging developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance (ODA), and encouraging developing countries, including small island developing States, to build on progress achieved to use ODA effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;

(f) Targeting and coordinating this aid well, including through harmonization of donor procedures, untying aid, increasing absorptive capacity and other such measures, which are particularly important when providing ODA to countries with limited capacity, such as small island developing States;

(g) Urging GEF, consistent with the decisions of relevant bodies, to simplify and improve access to and the effectiveness and efficiency of its support, including disbursement procedures, and those of its implementing agencies. The international community should facilitate the access of small island developing States to GEF.

B. Science and development and transfer of technology

84. Access to appropriate technologies remains crucial for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Small island developing States and relevant regional and international development partners should work together to:

(a) Focus on the dissemination and use of technology that helps resilience-building in order to address the growing vulnerability (economic, environmental, social) of small island developing States;

(b) Promote access to technological system licences, with due respect for the rights of licence holders, including for the management of waste as a resource, energy efficiency and renewable energy development, through mechanisms such as regional development banks;

(c) Disseminate information on resilience-building technologies deployed in small island developing States, as well as providing technical assistance to small island developing States;

(d) Assist small island developing States in making critical technological choices, providing information on previous experience with the technology in small island developing States, in partnership with SIDSNet as the mechanism for dissemination, and the tertiary institutions in small island developing States;

(e) Provide technical assistance to small island developing States to help them develop institutional arrangements conducive to the registration of intellectual patents and identification of potential partners for full-scale commercialization;

(f) Promote intersectoral synergies;

(g) Continue to strengthen science and technological collaboration through North-South and South-South Cooperation;

(h) Facilitate research into new products, maximizing the use of existing small island developing States resources;

(i) Encourage development of appropriate programmes in support of national and regional efforts to build the science and technological capacities of small island developing States.

(j) Consider the establishment of a small island developing States dedicated technology transfer and development facility.

C. Capacity development

85. The international community commits itself to continuing to support the efforts of small island developing States to develop human and institutional capacity through:

(a) Cooperation with other capacity development initiatives and existing programmes, such as the UNDP capacity 2015 programme, to provide resources for education reform, making education systems relevant for small island developing States, including through the integration of national sustainable development strategies in education curricula;

(b) Investing in appropriate training focusing on water and waste management, energy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, intellectual property rights, development of cultural industries, tourism, disaster management, health care, trade facilitation and niche marketing, insurance, investment, agriculture, mining, forestry and fisheries and natural

resources product development, and involving small island developing States NGOs and community groups;

(c) Supporting the small island developing States Universities Consortium, small island developing States regional organizations and NGO networks in order to improve the use of small island developing States intellectual resources and to provide the cadre of expertise that is needed in small island developing States at the national and regional levels, in particular in the areas of climate change, energy, integrated island management, trade and sustainable development, sustainable tourism development, international law, intellectual property rights, and negotiating skills;

(d) Development of capacity to monitor the state of their environment, economies and social and cultural institutions to define and further develop their national priorities and meet international obligations;

(e) Involvement of youth in visioning sustainable island living and improving the capacity of civil society to enable them fully to contribute to sustainable development;

(f) Establishment and strengthening of centers of excellence for training and applied research within existing national and regional institutions;

(g) Enhance the delivery of coordinated, effective and targeted trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for small island developing States, including taking advantage of existing and future market access opportunities, and examining the relationship between trade, environment and development.

(h) Facilitate the development of human resources and institutional capacity within small island developing States for the implementation of the obligations of multilateral environmental agreements;

D. National and international governance

1. National enabling environment

87. Good governance is essential for sustainable development. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation. Freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies, and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing.

88. small island developing States commit themselves, with the necessary support of the international community, to continue the following:

(a) Mobilizing resources at the national level to meet the sustainable development goals and priorities articulated in the BPOA;

(b) Developing national sustainable development strategies including nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies and strategies;

(c) Developing and strengthening their legislative, administrative and institutional structures;

(d) Increasing awareness and involvement of relevant stakeholders in implementation of sustainable development programmes;

(e) Promoting an enabling environment for investment and technology and enterprise development, including small and medium size enterprises, for sustainable development through appropriate policies for regulatory frameworks in a manner consistent with national laws and circumstances to foster a dynamic well functioning business sector, while recognizing that the appropriate role of Government in market-oriented economies will vary from country to country;

(f) Engaging corporate and other private sector actors in sustainable development;

(g) Promoting public/private partnerships.

2. International enabling environment

89. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries. Efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development.

90. International institutions, including financial institutions, should pay appropriate attention to the particular needs and priorities of small island developing States. In this regard, the international community recognizes the diversity of circumstances that exist within developing countries and the need to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. International organizations should operate on an integrated cross-sector-based approach in order to ensure the optimum utilization of resources across sectors.

90 bis. The international community recognizes that all efforts undertaken in the implementation of this Strategy must be carried out without measures that hinder sustainable development, and must be in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Trade and finance

91. Attention should be focused on the specific trade- and development-related needs and concerns of small island developing States to enable them to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies.

92. In order to address small island developing States' concerns, the following are of high priority:

(a) Redoubled efforts towards the successful completion of the WTO negotiations launched at Doha on the basis of a balanced overall outcome that meets the ambition of the Doha mandate in fulfilment of the commitments ministers made at Doha;

(b) Facilitation of the accession of small island developing States, where appropriate, through enhanced technical assistance;

(c) Recognition of the importance of long-standing preferences and of the need for steps to address the issue of preference erosion;

(d) Use of appropriate long-term mechanisms to facilitate the adjustment of small island developing States to post-Doha trade liberalization and timely implementation of the trade integration mechanism for small island developing States that are members of IMF to address balance-of-payments shortfalls arising from multilateral trade liberalization;

(e) Taking into account the specific circumstances of each small island developing State when assessing the perspective of long-term debt sustainability;

(f) Implementation of programmes to facilitate remittances, encourage foreign investment and support the development of small island developing States;

(g) Developing human resources and institutional capacity to address trade-related issues of interest to small island developing States, as well as the analysis and formulation of appropriate policies and the development and resourcing of appropriate infrastructure required to address issues relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT);

(h) Continuing the commitment of the international community to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, which provides valuable assistance to developing-country members, particularly those without Geneva representation, to participate more actively in the Doha round of negotiations and WTO more generally;

(i) Support for regional representation to WTO to enhance the effective participation and negotiation capacity of small island developing States in WTO;

(j) Working to ensure that in the WTO Work Programme on Small Economies due account is taken of small island developing States, which have severe structural handicaps in integrating into the global economy, within the context of the Doha work programme.

93. Furthermore, the United Nations Secretary-General is requested to consider enhancing, where appropriate, the work programmes of relevant United Nations agencies, including UNCTAD, on the special problems of small island developing States to provide concrete recommendations to assist small island developing States in having access to and deriving greater economic opportunities and benefits from the global economy. WTO and other relevant international organizations are encouraged to use the modalities of the integrated framework of trade-related technical assistance for least developed countries to coordinate assistance programmes, including capacity-building for more effective participation in trade negotiations, and build on national poverty reduction strategies in order to mainstream trade into the development plans of small island developing States.

E. Monitoring and evaluation

94. The international community recognizes the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this action programme, including within the overall framework of the integrated and coordinated follow-up of United Nations summits and conferences.

F. Role for the United Nations in the further implementation of the Programme of Action

95. The Commission on Sustainable Development will continue to be the primary intergovernmental body for the implementation and follow-up to the commitments related to small island developing States. Other relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system also continue to have an important role within their respective areas of expertise and mandates. All organs and programmes of the United Nations system should coordinate and rationalize their work in implementing the present Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action. In this regard, the Commission will include these issues in its work programme in accordance with its decision at its eleventh session.

96. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates, and further mainstream small island developing States issues to facilitate coordinated implementation in the follow-up of the BPOA at the national, regional, sub-regional and global levels. The Secretary General is requested to include, in his annual report to the 60th session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the BPOA, progress in this regard.

97. The Secretary-General is further requested to ensure that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, continues to provide substantive support and advisory services to small island developing States for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and that the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS) continue to mobilize international support and resources for the further implementation of the BPOA in accordance with its mandate.

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99. The international community recognizes that small island developing States should have the flexibility to report jointly on implementation through simplified procedures for the Programme of Action, internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and other international reporting requirements.

G. Role of small island developing States regional institutions for monitoring and implementation

100. Small island developing States regional institutions should play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action.