

Thank you Mr Chairman,

I would like to underscore that the CSD14 review process had highlighted the following goals for SIDS:

- (i) Boost international competitiveness and reduce vulnerability to external shocks through economic diversification and regional integration;
- (ii) Increase employment through rural development initiatives and human resource training and capacity building programmes; and
- (iii) Attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

As far as SIDS are concerned, their inherent vulnerabilities coupled with remoteness and size of their markets discourage the flow of FDI which inevitably lead to unemployment and migration of skilled labour.

We would thus urge that CSD 15 adopt concrete policies to enable SIDS and Developing countries to achieve sustainable development. Such policies and measures should, among others, include:

- (i) The provision of adequate financial assistance by the developed countries as well as international financial institutions, to assist SIDS and other developing countries in walking the long and arduous path of economic diversification;

- (ii) Delegations from SIDS and Developing countries have been reiterating the fundamental importance of transfer of technology and the urgent need to train our people to man the new technology that can boost the modernization of the developing countries; and
- (iii) Assistance for the setting up of Cleaner Production Centres which would promote sustainable consumption and production.

Mr. Chairman,

From a national perspective, I would like to mention that in its endeavour to promote the setting up of more SME's and the consolidation of existing ones, the Government of Mauritius has set up an Empowerment Fund to the tune of 5 billion Mauritian rupees, out of which a sum of Rs. 750m has been front loaded by the Government.

Thank you Mr. Chairman