



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF

Azerbaijan

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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SIDS day:

Integrated review of the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/climate change in small island developing States

Statement by Mr. Yashar Aliyev, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, Head of Delegation

Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan welcomes the discussion reviewing the progress towards sustainable development of SIDS in the context of the current thematic cluster and would like to thank the SG for its report (E/CN.17/2006/7).

The facts and figures presented in the report provide useful information for the international community on the current status of development and challenges being faced by SIDS. It is crystal clear that socio-economic challenges of SIDS are aggravated by their exposure to natural disaster and inability to adjust to them.

Although GDP records of SIDS vary across the regions it is obvious that their sustainable development efforts should be supported and complemented in coherent manner through complex measures targeted at infrastructure development, capacity building for combating climate change and other environmental degradation related challenges.

We are also concerned over the some cases, notably Kiribati, Maldives, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, whereas the risk of total submersion is increasingly a very real threat. We believe these cases deserve urgent attention of international community. Moreover, the experience of Grenada shows that there is a room for improvement in the area of international response to recovery efforts of affected SIDS and building resilience of all SIDS.

We welcome the efforts of SIDS towards ensuring access to cleaner and reliable energy services, including through promotion of use and development of renewable energy sources. The effects of energy on the livelihoods of population and development are

enormous and require integrated approach ranging from urban planning and infrastructure development at the national level to access to modern technologies and funding at the international level.

It is an established fact that most of SIDS are highly dependent on imported fossil fuels for energy. Therefore, Azerbaijan, as oil producing country, believes that support to oil producing and exporting countries, in ensuring access to greener fossil fuel technologies, will complement our joint efforts in quest for sustainable development and strengthened international cooperation in this area can offer win-win situation.

As a party to UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, Azerbaijan attaches a great importance to the adaptation works and to the implementation of adaptation measures. In this connection, we support the SG recommendations towards supporting long-term development goals of SIDS and consider that today's discussion will contribute to that end.