

**Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) integrated and enabling cooperation  
framework for the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy for the  
Further Implementation**

**Outcome of the Inter-regional preparatory meeting for the  
Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States**

**Bridgetown, Barbados  
26-28 August 2013**

1. We reaffirm the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA), the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI) and the Plan for the Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, or JPOI), including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States. We also reaffirm the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”, including the call for the convening in 2014 of a Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.
2. We reaffirm that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in acknowledgement of their unique characteristics, challenges and vulnerabilities and the ongoing impact of these on their ability to achieve sustainable development and build sustained resilience. Small Island Developing States remain constrained in meeting economic, environmental and social challenges. SIDS recognise their own responsibility in overcoming some of these challenges but stress that, in the absence of cooperation and assistance from the international community, success will remain difficult.
3. In this regard, SIDS remain committed to ensuring the full and effective implementation of the BPoA and the MSI and we urge our development partners to fulfil their commitments by providing in a timely and predictable manner financial and technical support to ensure the successful implementation of the BPoA and MSI and other internationally agreed outcomes.
4. There is a need for partners to assist SIDS in the pursuit of their goals in relation to sustainable development. The overarching theme of the Third

International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be “The sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships.”

5. We agree that the outcome document is the basis for the SIDS Zero Draft in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (the Samoa Conference). –

***Our Common Vision for the SIDS We Want***

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the unwavering pursuit of our sustainable development.
7. We take seriously our role as moral leaders in the effort to combat climate change. Our safety and very existence requires urgent global action to ensure that we can overcome this threat to our Peoples and Nations. What is now an existential crisis for SIDS will, in the face of inaction, become an existential crisis for all.
8. We recognize that despite being geographically dispersed across the globe, SIDS strength lies in a shared vision and a commitment to collective action. Our vision can only be realized through an inclusive dialogue anchored in national ownership and through empowered partnerships based upon mutual trust, equality, respect, and accountability.
9. We reaffirm our commitment to the Rio Principles and acknowledge the important role that the BPOA, MSI, JPOI, and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have played in focusing our development efforts, facilitating dialogue and making our development strategies more results-oriented. However, these processes have not been fully implemented and a transformational strategy is now required to bridge national sustainable development priorities and the global development agenda. We further underscore the need for the international community to adopt a more integrated approach to creating enabling environments and supporting the sustainable development of SIDS.
10. The Samoa Conference in 2014 presents a pivotal moment in this regard and must result in an outcome that reinvigorates the commitment of the international community to a global partnership that enables SIDS to eradicate poverty, build resilience, and improve the quality of life for our Peoples and Nations. We must take advantage of new, meaningful opportunities for

cooperation and partnership with a range of traditional and non-traditional partners.

11. We envision a post-2015 development agenda that includes an effective institutional framework for sustainable development and that takes into account the particular concerns and priorities of SIDS. Achieving this vision requires an approach that is transparent, inclusive and built on mutual respect and accountability, in short ‘nothing about us without us’.
12. We reaffirm the importance of cross-regional, regional, and sub-regional organizations to mobilize support and guarantee that our priorities are reflected in the post-2015 development agenda and beyond.
13. We look to the first International Year of SIDS in 2014 to raise awareness and galvanize action on behalf of an agenda that fulfils our development aspirations and unleashes the potential of SIDS people, especially the youth as the leaders of tomorrow.

#### *Acknowledgement of progress to date*

14. As evidence of our commitment to sustainable development, SIDS have made significant efforts at the national and regional levels to implement the BPOA and the MSI. We have mainstreamed sustainable development principles into national development plans, policies and strategies, and undertaken political commitments to promote and raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development issues.
15. SIDS have demonstrated strong leadership in calling for ambitious and urgent action to address climate change, in protecting biodiversity, and in adopting strategies for promoting renewable energy.
16. In spite of our best efforts and the mobilization of our limited resources, our progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs, has been uneven, requiring continued effort and support.
17. SIDS have made varying levels of progress towards the attainment of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals, particularly in the areas of gender equality, education, environment and health, though continued efforts are required.

18. SIDS have successfully mobilized partnerships and cooperation arrangements to advance their sustainable development. These include SIDS-SIDS partnerships and cooperation programmes implemented at intra- and inter-regional levels.<sup>1</sup>

## **I. Recognition of Existing Challenges and Identification of Gaps in the Implementation of the BPOA and MSI**

19. In spite of some progress, SIDS continue to face significant challenges to the achievement of their sustainable development as well as to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. SIDS have made less progress than other groupings and even regressed in economic terms and in terms of debt sustainability and poverty eradication. Ongoing exogenous shocks further exacerbate vulnerabilities of SIDS and negatively impact their ability to mobilise national resources for sustainable development.
20. In addition, SIDS have not sustained high levels of economic growth and continue to be negatively impacted by, *inter alia*, food insecurity, lack of adequate transport networks, degradation of their coastal marine environment, limited access to fresh water, water insecurity, inadequate access to or inappropriate infrastructure, inadequate waste management systems and the global economic and financial crisis. These challenges are further compounded by climate change, salt-water intrusion, land degradation, soil erosion and deforestation. Challenges also remain in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs); communicable diseases and environmental health; access to sexual and reproductive health; maternal, child and adolescent health; full access to quality education at all levels; access to quality and affordable education and improvement in health systems.
21. Significant gaps remain in the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI, including, *inter alia*, the following.
22. The insufficient support at the international level for the research, development, and utilization of renewable sources of energy and related technologies has contributed to challenges in energy sectors for SIDS. These

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS), SIDS-initiated SIDS DOCK renewable energy program, and the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge, the Caribbean Biological Corridor, the regional centre for creating capacities for assessing risks and vulnerabilities of the region, Petrocaribe and the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management, the Pacific Water Partnership on Sustainable Water Management, the Pacific peer review process, and the commitments made at the Barbados Sustainable Energy for All meeting

include, *inter alia*, access to sustainable energy services for all, in particular for the poor, who are unable to afford these services even when they are available; high dependence on imported fossil fuels; high inefficiency and cost; negative impact on competitiveness and employment; high consumption of foreign exchange and stress on those least able to face the challenges of an energy deficient and costly society.

23. International action to address climate change remains grossly inadequate, and emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally at a distressing rate. There is therefore an urgent need to address climate change as a cross cutting and persistent crisis. Its related impacts including extreme events and slow onset events such as climate variability, temperature rise, sea level rise and ocean acidification and security related issues, threaten the survival and viability of SIDS and pose a significant challenge to their sustainable development efforts.
24. The adverse impacts of climate change compound existing critical economic, environmental, social and security related issues and placed additional burdens on national responses and development systems, as well as on national budgets and efforts to achieve national sustainable development goals.
25. The absence of an international mechanism under the UNFCCC process to comprehensively address the loss and damage to SIDS and other most vulnerable developing country Parties from the adverse impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, is a major gap in the international climate change regime.
26. The provision of sufficient, additional and predictable financial resources to SIDS is critical to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. Where funds exist, application procedures often preclude SIDS from accessing those funds, and capacity building efforts have not addressed this persistent problem.
27. We note the importance of ongoing initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, as well as the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
28. Inadequate support of the international community for the sustainable development of SIDS at the regional and international levels has negatively affected the full integration of the BPOA and MSI into national plans and strategies.

29. We call attention to the need for capacity building as well as to strengthen national institutions according to national priorities.
30. Insufficiently developed or inefficient mechanisms for the creation of an enabling environment at the international level are undermining national and regional efforts for the sustainable development of SIDS.
31. We note the absence of adequate, coherent, consistent, and coordinated support by the UN system to SIDS for the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI.
32. International financial institutions and the multilateral trading system have failed to fully recognize and take into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS due in part to limitations and constraints on their representation and effective participation.
33. Failure to establish or strengthen and render more effective national, regional and international coordination mechanisms has had a negative impact on the full implementation and follow-up of the BPOA and MSI and of the forthcoming outcome of the Samoa Conference.
34. We note the absence of effective mechanisms to facilitate SIDS-SIDS cooperation based on solidarity including in research and technological development and the exchange of best practices across sectors.
35. Support from the international community has not been sufficient to facilitate the access to and development of environmentally sound technologies that are relevant to SIDS.
36. Developed countries have failed to honour commitments to SIDS related to the provision of new, predictable financial resources to support the implementation of the BPOA and MSI.
37. Overall declining levels of ODA to SIDS have negatively impacted their capacity to mitigate and more effectively respond to multiple crises.
38. The presence of harmful initiatives advanced by limited membership international organizations have a negative impact on the ability of SIDS to mobilize financing for sustainable development, particularly as it relates to the contribution of the financial services sectors of SIDS.
39. Access criteria to international funding and financial institutions and mechanisms are burdensome to SIDS.

40. We note a need for greater transparency, reporting and accountability of the international funding and financial institutions.
41. The use of GDP per capita, GNP and GNI as the primary measures of development masks persistent development challenges of SIDS.
42. We note the insufficient integration of issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in a cross-cutting manner across the three dimensions of sustainable development.
43. We recognize that HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, influenza, polio and other communicable diseases continue to present serious challenges to the sustainable development efforts of SIDS.
44. We recognize the need for improved access to and increased investment in formal and non-formal education, including entrepreneurial skills, training and skills development for all to address high rates of unemployment (particularly in women and youth), migration of labour and brain drain. There is a need for building and strengthening education infrastructure and increasing investment in education, particularly investment to improve the quality of education for all.
45. High rates of unemployment, particularly for women and youth, and migration of skilled labour and the resulting brain drain are factors that hinder progress in achieving sustainable development objectives for SIDS. -
46. Measures to protect and preserve the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage practices and traditional knowledge of SIDS have been inadequate.
47. SIDS have not received adequate support from the international community for assessing the overall impact of the economic, social and ecological aspects of tourism in order to plan sustainable tourism and to further develop eco- and cultural tourism.
48. Overall progress in the implementation of sustainable consumption and production projects (SCP) and initiatives in SIDS remains slow as a result of the continuing misalignment between policies and actual projects, in the light of a lack of capacity and resources.
49. Peace and security and stability provide an enabling environment for sustainable development. As such, it is necessary to recognize the ways in which the sustainable development of SIDS is negatively impacted by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, and transnational organized crimes including drug and human trafficking and people smuggling, piracy, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as well as terrorism in all

its forms and manifestations which threaten national stability and regional peace and security. SIDS require additional support to address these threats to their sustainable development.

50. We express concern that SIDS are being increasingly impacted by issues which are trans-boundary in nature, such as air pollution, haze due to unregulated burning of forests, and marine litter.
51. We express our concerns about the possible effects of nuclear radiation from disasters and shipping accidents on SIDS. –

## **II. New opportunities and emerging challenges for the sustainable development of SIDS**

### ***Health and NCDs***

52. The burden and threat of NCDs constitute one of the major challenges for sustainable development in the twenty-first century. Preventive treatment, care, and support are critical to treating NCDs.
53. SIDS note with concern the increase in NCDs among children, such as obesity and asthma, which, if not checked, will cause chronic stress on our health systems. We call upon WHO and other stakeholders to assist in the development of specific national programs and policies geared towards children's health.

### ***Green Economy***

54. SIDS have the sovereignty to pursue development models that, in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities, will promote the achievement of overarching sustainable development goals. The green economy is one such model that is available to SIDS to enhance policy-making.
55. SIDS reaffirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to pursue sustainable development. SIDS also consider Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. SIDS also reaffirm paragraph 58 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The Future We Want."



## ***ICTs***

56. In a globalized and interdependent world, active participation in the knowledge economy and greater use of ICTs provides clear opportunities for more efficient and improved provision of services in SIDS. In this regard, we call for scaled up efforts by the international community to assist the efforts of SIDS to increase connectivity and the use of ICTs in SIDS, including through greater cooperation and skills training. We encourage the establishment of overall strategies, including cyber-security strategies and national legislation, in this regard.

### **III. Practical and Pragmatic Actions for the Further Implementation of the BPOA and MSI and addressing new and emerging challenges and opportunities**

57. We reaffirm that empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based upon mutual trust, equality, respect, accountability and transparency. They are anchored in national ownership and require political will delivered through long-term, predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure meaningful engagement and achieve the vision of self-reliance.
58. We recognize that given the vulnerabilities and the need to build resilience of SIDS, there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to their sustainable development needs. All partnerships, irrespective of their size or economic value are worthwhile; they must assist with the implementation of national policies which help achieve the commitments made in the BPOA, MSI, MDGs and other internationally agreed commitments for the sustainable development of SIDS.
59. We call on the international community to provide support to SIDS to address the gaps in the implementation of the BPOA and MSI as well as the emerging issues outlined which pose serious challenges to the efforts of SIDS to achieve sustainable development objectives. This support should include, *inter alia*, financing, technology transfer and capacity building in keeping with previous commitments.

## ***Climate change***

60. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and we reaffirm the principles and provisions of

the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular that Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

61. In order to achieve the sustainable development goals of SIDS and full implementation of the BPOA and MSI we call for urgent global action, with developed countries taking the lead, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to keep the global average temperature increase well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and long-term stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at well below 350ppm CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent levels. These actions should include the provision of increased levels of financial and technological resources.
62. There is an urgent need to address the security implications of climate change, including violation of territorial integrity, existential threat, more frequent and severe climate-related disasters, threats to water and food security, increased natural resource scarcity, and forced displacement and the human dimensions of climate change, including, where necessary, initiatives for preparing communities for relocation.
63. The full operationalization and capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund by early 2014 must be prioritised, and developed countries should scale-up financing to reach USD 100 billion per year by 2020. The Board of the Fund must implement expeditiously the commitment contained in the governing instrument of the GCF to balance the provision of financing for adaptation and mitigation, provide a minimum allocation floor for SIDS and ensure simplified and prioritised access to SIDS. Developed partners should also address as a matter of priority the replenishment of the Adaptation Fund.
64. We call for the international community to support and further efforts to secure, and operationalize, an international mechanism under the UNFCCC to address loss and damage resulting from the impacts of human-induced climate change.
65. We call on the international community to undertake greater political engagement and commitment on the issue of climate change and look forward to global participation in the Secretary-General's 2014 Summit on Climate Change. This Summit must result in scaled up mitigation for the pre-2020 period, a concerted global effort from all, with developed countries taking the lead, to enhance their mitigation ambition in order to close the pre-2020 ambition gap, in particular by urgently increasing the ambition of their current targets and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), and by bringing forward mitigation action where they are yet to do so.

66. We call on developed countries to provide new, additional and predictable financial resources, technology and capacity building, delivered in a timely and transparent manner to enable developing countries in particular SIDS to implement their NAMAs and meet their adaptation needs in the short, medium and long term.
67. We recognize the importance of the effective and continuing support for REDD Plus activities, to bridge the mitigation gap and encourage early agreement on modalities for REDD Plus results-based financing from both public and private sources, which could include, as appropriate, market-based approaches, while ensuring that environmental integrity is preserved.
68. We support a gradual phase down in the consumption and production of HFCs. We explore the use of the Montreal Protocol in this regard.

***Management chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste***

69. We call for the establishment of technical cooperation programmes to enable the creation and the strengthening of national, regional and international mechanisms for the management of wastes, including chemical and hazardous waste as well as ship-generated waste. Actions should also be taken to support sustained financing for national waste management programmes, and for the further strengthening and expanded geographic coverage of oil spill contingency plans. SIDS also call for increased investment and cooperation in developing integrated waste management and technologies.
70. We acknowledge calls for countries to become parties to the new international treaty on mercury, the Minamata Convention, and in this regard call upon the international community to provide technical and financial assistance to SIDS, upon request, who wish to become parties, including through support to the development or strengthening of their policy and legislative frameworks.
71. We call upon the donor community to provide support to SIDS in the effective implementation of the Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam Conventions and SAICM in an integrated and synergistic manner at the regional and national levels. In this regard, the special program on financing for chemicals and waste should support the establishment of national units in SIDS, upon request, to support the effective implementation of these conventions and agreements at the national level/ and the achievement of the 2020 target as outlined in the JPOI.
72. We call for greater assistance to take advantage of existing capacity programs like those under the International Health Regulations, which call for

strengthening and management of specific risks including control programs for chemical, and other toxic and environmental events.

73. We call for technical and financial support from the international community, including the UN system and development partners, to complement efforts undertaken by SIDS to implement a Globally Harmonized System of the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) as an important building block to enhance trade and protect the health of their populations and environment from exposure to toxic chemicals.
74. We call for the establishment of special protected zones in all SIDS regions, where appropriate, to restrict the passage of ships carrying nuclear waste and radioactive materials through these zones.
75. We call for renewed international efforts to clean up oil reserves and residues and hazardous materials and explosives left over from ships sunk during the Second World War.

### ***Social Development***

76. Empowerment of women and girls has a transformative and multiplier effect on development activities and gains, and women have the potential to be powerful agents of change. We therefore call for the enhancement of efforts towards ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are cross-cutting issues and must be realized in particular through their full participation at all levels of decision making.
77. SIDS possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous bio-cultural heritage recognizes the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, and can meaningfully advance social development. We therefore call for increased resources for the development and strengthening of national and regional cultural activities.
78. Social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring results on the ground, both now and in the future. We therefore call for measures to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
79. We commit to a people-centered and focused approach to poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have access to education, health, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including credit, land,

training, technology, knowledge and information. The approach should enable citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.

### ***Health and NCDs***

80. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. We understand the goals of sustainable development can only be achieved in absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, and where populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being.
81. We call for the full realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
82. We call for redoubling efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transition of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases.
83. We call on international community to provide assistance to SIDS to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated and multi-sector policies and strategies for the management of the main NCDs, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases, including through capacity development and investment in the prevention and control of NCDs.
84. Multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approaches should be adopted to address this issue including through education and public awareness, trade, food and nutrition, sports and strengthening of the health system.
85. We call on the international community to support the implementation of interventions that strengthen health promotion, promote primary health care, and develop accountability mechanisms for NCDs surveillance.
86. SIDS call for further assistance in implementing the following key elements in the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs:
  - a. Global partnership for monitoring implementation of the Declaration, including national, regional accountability mechanisms for monitoring implementation of the Political Declaration
  - b. Ensuring NCDs are among the development priorities of Member States

- c. Instituting fiscal and regulatory measures for development of or adherence to nationally set target levels for fat, sugar, and salt in food and beverages.
  - d. Common approach and solidarity in addressing the trade barriers to increasing access to more healthy affordable foods for the population
87. A mechanism should be developed with support from the relevant UN and international organisations to enable SIDS-SIDS cooperation for NCDs including optimal use of the UNDP South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE). In this regard we seek support to utilize existing international fora to have biennial meetings of SIDS ministers of health and appropriate non-health sectors to address issues relating to implementing the Political Declaration on NCDs.

### ***Food security***

88. SIDS, being primarily net food importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to availability and price volatility of food imports. We also stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the SIDS.
89. SIDS call on large, food-producing countries to refrain from applying export restrictions on staple food products. SIDS also call for support in the development of robust crop insurance schemes for farmers, particularly small farmers, to compensate for any economic losses due to the adverse impacts of climatic events and natural disasters and to cater for food shortages resulting from natural disasters.
90. SIDS further call on the FAO to facilitate a special meeting on food and nutrition security in SIDS in order to develop an action program to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS.
91. Urges that progress in identifying and mainstreaming strategies that can further assist SIDS in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries, including through improved market access for fish products from developing countries as mandated at Rio+20, with the aim of completion in advance of the Samoa Conference.
92. We reaffirm the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger, and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and

ecosystems, and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters. We also recognize the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems.

### *Oceans and Seas*

93. SIDS are custodians of vast expanses of oceans and as such they must have ownership of strategies concerning the sustainable development of oceans. Fisheries, coastal tourism, possible exploitation of seabed resources, potential sources of renewable energy: these are the building blocks of an ocean-based economy. By emphasizing the economic power of the ocean economy, SIDS as large oceans states can seize their competitive advantage and carve a niche in global economy.
94. States commit themselves to making progress in the context of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and to the development of a specific legal regime for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and to that end, to initiate, as soon as possible, the negotiation of an implementing agreement to UNCLOS which would address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, and as a single undertaking, marine genetic resources, including access and benefit-sharing, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, marine scientific research, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. Building on the work of the ad hoc working group and before the end of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly we commit to address, on an urgent basis, the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under UNCLOS.
95. We endorse ongoing efforts to establish a global network to monitor ocean acidification, particularly in vulnerable ecosystems, such as coral reefs, and areas of high vulnerability such as coastal regions, and provide relevant measures to enable SIDS scientists to be integrated into international research teams.
96. Land-based pollution resulting from agricultural processes, deforestation, urban expansion, and other anthropogenic activities have detrimental impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems. There is a need for implementation of relevant instruments where these exist and, as applicable, development of stronger regional and national instruments or programs on controlling land-based sources of pollution.

97. We call upon the international community to support the full and effective implementation of the UNEP Regional Seas Strategy, which is aimed to address the degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. We call, further, for support to be provided to SIDS to address gaps at the national and regional levels relating to coastal zone management and land-based sources of pollution to the marine environment.
98. We urge provision of increased means and resources at the national and regional levels for research and implementation of plans and strategies on coastal zone management as well as ecosystem based management.
99. There is also an urgent need to enhance environmental impact assessment requirements for Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) with ocean management or governance responsibilities to improve the resilience of marine ecosystems including to oceans acidification.
100. We call on the international community to support efforts by SIDS to enhance and implement the regime for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels, to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including by investing in institutional capacity at the national, regional and international levels to:
  - a. ensure compliance with national laws and international conservation management measures;
  - b. improve the exchange and utilisation of information between States;
  - c. strengthen the regime for cooperation in fisheries enforcement at the regional and international levels; and
  - d. enhance cooperation between market States, port States, flag States and coastal States to allow for catch documentation throughout the market chain.
101. We assert the need to recommit to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment at all levels and to establish a global network of ecologically and representative area-based management measures. To this end, the international community should provide technical and financial support to advance this critical work.
102. SIDS recognize the value of requiring compliance with certain areas, where appropriate, of targeted high seas closures to fisheries as a condition of access to fisheries resources, to promote sustainable fisheries.
103. We call on the international community to further support SIDS' national and regional efforts to assess, conserve and sustainably manage their marine resources by agreeing to provide new additional and predictable financial and technical assistance to:



- a. promote the full recognition of the special requirements of SIDS in regional fisheries management organisations/RFMA including through development and implementation of RFMO/A based and national measures to increase SIDS ability to control fishing at levels that provide for ecologically sustainable returns to their growing economies;
  - b. provide for enhanced participation for SIDS within fisheries and fisheries-related industries in order to overcome critical barriers to sustainable development and to make concerted efforts and consider innovative options to reduce or restructure their fleets so as to accommodate aspirations of SIDS to further develop their own fisheries.
104. We support the implementation of regional initiatives to promote sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, the Caribbean Challenge and Coral Triangle Initiatives and the Micronesia Challenge to aid the achievement of Target 11 of Aichi under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
105. We call on the international community to assist SIDS with the development of their marine scientific and technological capacity and to provide the necessary technical assistance to SIDS for the preparation and submission of information in accordance with the procedures of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. We further call on States to make further voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds established for these purposes.
106. We further call for the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centers with support from the UN system and relevant regional organisations.
107. We urge the international community to develop approaches and mechanisms to ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to SIDS
108. We call for baseline marine research and resource mapping.
109. We call for the assistance of the international community to protect coral reefs and to take urgent action to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated approaches for their management and enhancement.

110. We further call on States and relevant international institutions to improve efforts to address coral bleaching by, *inter alia*, improving monitoring to predict and identify bleaching events, supporting and strengthening action taken during such events and improving strategies to manage reefs to support their natural resilience and enhance their ability to withstand other pressures, including ocean acidification.
111. We urge the international community to assist SIDS, upon their request, in undertaking marine scientific research in the sea bed area beyond national jurisdiction with a view to understanding the benefits to be accrued from the prospecting, exploration and future exploitation of these resources.
112. SIDS call on the international community and relevant UN Agencies to support the establishment of a "Postgraduate Programme for the Sustainable Development, Utilization and Management of Coastal and Marine Resources of SIDS" through the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS).

### ***Biodiversity***

113. We call for additional support to SIDS to facilitate their ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity as a means of ensuring the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and the transfer of appropriate technologies, taking into account the rights of SIDS over their own resources and technologies
114. SIDS also call for further assistance from developed countries in the development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms to reduce the negative impacts of genetically modified organisms on biodiversity.

### ***Forests***

115. We call for support in the sustainable management of forests including in the implementation of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests and in accessing financing support to national sustainable forest management. We also call for enhanced efforts to achieve reforestation, restoration and afforestation, and we support all efforts that effectively slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including, *inter alia*, promoting trade in legally harvested forest products.

## *Sustainable Energy*

116. We highlight the efforts of SIDS in the area of sustainable energy, including through the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in the areas of, *inter alia*, access to affordable, modern energy services, renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including, on a voluntary basis, the commitments by many SIDS to undertake the actions contained in Annex 1 of this Declaration.
117. We call on the international community including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the UN system, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the private sector to provide adequate and predictable financial support and investments as well as technological transfer and capacity building to develop and implement national, regional and inter-regional energy policies, plans and strategies to address the special vulnerabilities of SIDS.
118. We call for the establishment of Regional Data Repositories, upon request by Member States, in SIDS regions where there is no mechanism in place. The Regional Data Repository is envisioned as an online energy database of both raw and processed information that is user friendly, accurate and comprehensive. Technical studies are required to be conducted on grid stability and innovative storage mechanisms.
119. We call for an integrated approach to establishing or strengthening innovative regional and national energy roadmaps, with strong emphasis on both renewable energy and energy efficiency, detailed resource planning, and energy storage and capacity development, taking into account social, environmental and economic considerations. We further call to improve the access to energy for poor and remote areas in SIDS.
120. We call for the establishment of a finance mechanism for the implementation of renewable energy projects in SIDS.
121. Support should be provided to enhance regional and inter-regional SIDS-SIDS cooperation for research and technological development and implementation of appropriate renewable energy and energy efficient and environmentally-sound technologies. Such cooperation should include, *inter alia*, the provision of concessionary loans and direct investment in the

development of the renewable energy sector, exchange of best practices, access to efficient technologies, smart grid technology development and internationally recognized regulatory frameworks for renewable energy.

### ***Disaster risk reduction***

122. We call for support to be provided to SIDS in their efforts to build resilience and reduce risks associated with natural disasters in areas and sectors vulnerable to climate change threats and for support to assist SIDS in effectively addressing the multiple effects of their vulnerabilities through the adoption of sustainable development strategies. We call, further, for special consideration to be given to financing for early warning systems to reduce economic and social losses, as well as the loss of human lives. Support is also required to mitigate the negative impacts of natural disasters, particularly as it regards recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.
123. Support should be provided to SIDS for implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2015.
124. We call for support to SIDS in the establishment and strengthening of catastrophic risk insurance facilities.
125. We call for special consideration to be given to SIDS for financing of early warning systems, pre-disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery. Support should be in the form of grants instead of loans.

### ***Sustainable consumption and production***

126. SIDS call on all countries to promote SCP patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefitting from the process, taking 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.
127. SIDS also recognize that Rio+20 reaffirmed that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. We further recognize the commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns with the adoption of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable

Consumption and Production Patterns (10 YFP), and that SCP continues to be a priority for SIDS as included in Chapter XV of the MS/POA.

128. SIDS further call for the establishment of a SIDS specific support platform within the 10 YFP with emphasis on small and medium enterprises, sustainable tourism, sustainable lifestyles and education for sustainable development. Support should also be provided to additional programmes for the 10YFP including sustainable waste management and sustainable food systems, including food security, to encourage linkages in the sustainable supply chain to promote rural development.

## **Enabling Factors**

### ***Financing***

129. We call on bilateral donors, international financial institutions and the UN system to ensure the provision of new and additional, predictable, financial resources in order to give strong support to SIDS in their efforts for our sustainable development, in accordance with national priorities and needs.
130. We further call for the establishment of a dedicated mechanism to provide financing to developing countries, in keeping with the ongoing Rio+20 follow-up processes, in order to develop specific projects and programmes on sustainable development which would be implemented through United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The modalities for supporting the projects would include multilateral, bilateral and triangular cooperation, as appropriate, and with special consideration given to proposals from **SIDS**.
131. We call for the development of alternative measurements for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of SIDS which take into account the special circumstances, vulnerabilities and low resilience of SIDS.
132. We call for further development of international access arrangements/modalities, that allow developing countries, particularly SIDS, direct access to financing for sustainable development, including for climate and environmental financing. Support is required from development partners to strengthen the national capacities, including human and institutional capacities, of SIDS to increase their readiness to take advantage of direct access financing arrangements.
133. We call for dedicated attention to the special challenges in financing sustainable development in SIDS, including their access to concessionary sources of financing, to implement the BPOA, MSI and the outcome of the

Samoa Conference. We call further for these challenges to be considered in the context of the work of the inter-governmental committee of experts on financing for sustainable development and other related bodies addressing financing for development.

### ***Capacity Building***

134. Building on the lessons and successes of Capacity 2015, SIDS call for a coordinated and coherent UN system-wide capacity initiative for SIDS through Country Teams in collaboration with regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations that focusses on enhancing national capacities and institutions towards the further implementation of the BPOA and MSI.
135. Urgent attention and support is required by SIDS to build national capacity, to conduct and utilize cost-benefit analysis and to support informed and participatory decision-making in SIDS on sustainable development. This could include SIDS-specific cost-benefit analysis models to evaluate the projected implementation impact of MEAs over the short, medium and long-term. That tool should inform policy-makers of the technical and financial requirements related to the implementation of MEAs and related instruments prior to accession/ratification. It should also be able to evaluate social, economic, environmental and governance requirements and impacts.
136. We call for investments in education and other training programs to develop the human capacity and human resources of SIDS in order to build the resilience of SIDS societies and economies, given that people are their greatest natural resource.
137. We call for the international community to support SIDS efforts to increase investment in education, training and skills development for all, as well as improving access to formal and non-formal education including entrepreneurial skills including through formal and non-formal means such as the use of distance teaching and the development of SIDS-appropriate training approaches.
138. We call on the international community to strengthen national institutions to complement capacity building. Institution building is an important component of international support to SIDS, and both capacity building and institution building should be reflected in all cooperation frameworks and partnerships, as well as in the priorities and work programmes of all UN agencies providing assistance to SIDS. Institution building encourages the use of country systems and promotes the retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within a country.

139. We further call for a dedicated SIDS Intensive Training for Sustainable Development Programme. That training programme should be located in UCSIS and should be tailored to address common-priority thematic capacity constraints identified in the preparatory process to the Samoa Conference. In addition, there is need at the regional level for an Annual Training Course on the UN Systems with emphasis on SIDS issues. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Universities and other relevant institutions should be approached in that regard.

### ***Technology transfer***

140. We call for the provision of finance, access to information and intellectual property rights and the transfer of appropriate technologies in keeping with the commitments in the JPOI. In particular we urge the promotion, facilitation and financing, as appropriate, and the development, transfer and diffusion of affordable, SIDS-adapted and environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to the SIDS, on favourable terms. This is critical to complement the national efforts of SIDS in promoting environmentally sustainable development.
141. In this regard, we call for the establishment of a dedicated technology transfer facilitation mechanism to provide, *inter alia*, environmentally sound and appropriate technologies to countries, in particular SIDS, in keeping with the ongoing Rio+20 processes in order to support sustainable development projects, to be implemented through the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The modalities for supporting the projects will include multilateral, bilateral and triangular cooperation, as well as a particular facility for SIDS in order to provide affordable and SIDS-adapted technologies.
142. We call for the early integration and support for scientific and academic institutions in SIDS within the Climate Technology Centre and Network established under the UNFCCC.

### ***Data Collection and Management***

143. A data revolution in SIDS is required to enable effective follow up and evaluation of implementation and indicate our level of success in attainment of the internationally agreed development goals.
144. We call for the strengthening of data systems and partnership initiatives where they exist and for the establishment of linkages and partnership to existing initiatives. Ownership of data and information collected and deposited will remain the property of SIDS governments within those regions.

145. We reaffirm the need for the United Nations system to collect statistics from SIDS, irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way, by, *inter alia*, allowing electronic submission and, where appropriate, submissions through competent regional agencies.
146. We call on the UN Statistics Division, UNEP, and all other UN agencies and inter-governmental organisations to support the establishment of a SIDS Sustainable Development Statistics and Information Programme with emphasis on upgrading national statistical systems and mainstreaming sustainable development data collection and analysis.
147. We call for dedicated support from the UN Statistical Commission within the context of the elaboration of the sustainable development goals as it relates to SIDS in line with the ongoing Rio+20 process.
148. We call for dedicated support by UNEP to produce a dedicated SIDS GEO Report within the context of future Global Environment Outlook Reports and the inclusion of information as it relates to SIDS in the Global Chemicals Outlook based on SIDS appropriate indicators.
149. We call on the international community to assist in the establishment of national and regional information and communication technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in SIDS to facilitate information exchange and SIDS-SIDS cooperation. This initiative should be linked to existing information and communication platforms such as SIDSNET.

### ***Partnerships and technical cooperation***

150. We call upon the international community to increase all forms of partnerships and to enhance cooperation including North-South, South-South, triangular and especially SIDS-SIDS, while reaffirming that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.
151. We call on all governments and private sector partners to work closely with SIDS through effective, innovative and concrete partnerships for the full implementation of SIDS sustainable development priorities as identified in the outcome document. We further call for the active engagement of civil society, private sector, NGO, all major groups, the UN system and all relevant national and regional stakeholders ensuring the success of these partnerships.
152. The Samoa Conference should serve as a forum for the launch of innovative and concrete partnerships to advance the sustainable development of SIDS, and thus reaffirm the need to define parameters for the documentation, categorisation and monitoring of partnerships to ensure that past and future



commitments made to SIDS are backed by practical and accountable partnerships that can be monitored to ensure subsequent implementation.

153. A private sector-focused SIDS inter- and intra-Regional trade information and facilitation platform should be established to facilitate information sharing. We call further for the creation of an enabling environment that fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, builds capacity and increases the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and new social actors of SIDS economies.
154. We call for the establishment of a SIDS interregional technical cooperation agreement, which will allow for the further strengthening of the SIDS Technical Assistance Program (SIDS TAP), the exchange of technical expertise and information on sustainable development priority areas for SIDS.
155. We call for financial support, technical assistance and strengthened SIDS-SIDS and other multilateral cooperation, including strengthening the existing multilateral regimes, to address threats to peace and security, which negatively impact the sustainable development of SIDS.

#### ***Institutional support to SIDS***

156. The United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners are urged to continue and strengthen support for SIDS in their efforts to implement national development strategies and programs.
157. We call on the international community to provide resources to support the UN system in providing for regular meeting of SIDS national focal points to allow for exchange of views and best practices regarding the implementation of BPOA, MSI and the outcome of the Samoa Conference.
158. There is an urgent need to assess whether the current mandates and operational functioning of UN entities, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) SIDS Unit, the Office for the High Representative of Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), and the Inter- Agency Consultative Group on SIDS are sufficient to provide the support required to SIDS. It is also necessary to identify the level of financial resources and institutional capacity needed for the UN agencies, funds and programmes to enhance delivery of projects on the ground and to enhance overall effectiveness. The Samoa Conference will provide an opportunity to pursue more effective implementation of existing mandates for SIDS and to ensure clear delineation of the roles, accountability, an accurate reflection of current realities and an assessment of the UN entities' ability to address new and emerging issues.

159. United Nations entities need to build institutionalized support to SIDS into their programmes at both national and regional levels, in particular, UNDAF, and to undertake activities that are responsive to the needs of SIDS, as articulated by the SIDS themselves. In this regard, UN development entities should incorporate SIDS related activities into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks. The UN Secretariat should enhance the human and financial resources currently available to work on SIDS issues.
160. SIDS issues should be mainstreamed and fully taken into account across the work of the UN development system and should be included in the agenda of the HLPF and reformed ECOSOC with appropriate linkages to national and regional implementation mechanisms.
161. We call upon the international community to provide increased support for regional institutions that play a key role in the monitoring and implementation of the BPOA and MSI, as appropriate and upon request.
162. We further call on the UN regional commissions to play a significant role in supporting SIDS in the implementation of the BPOA, MSI and the outcome of the Samoa Conference, including by working in close cooperation with SIDS own existing regional institutions.
163. We call on the UN system to help ensure coherence between the national, regional and global processes and better link these processes towards ensuring that SIDS national capacities and institutions are connected with the ongoing global processes to ensure the implementation of the BPOA, MSI and the outcome of the Samoa Conference.
164. We call on the UN system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen their coordination and support to SIDS that are considering or have already begun to adopt elements of a national green economy model.
165. We call for due consideration of the vulnerability of SIDS to be given by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Committee for Development Policy, in their assessment of SIDS, particularly in relation to their categorization as Least Developed Countries.

### **Addressing systemic imbalances**

#### ***Trade***

166. Given the vulnerability of SIDS and their disadvantage with regard to traditional markets, the formulation and implementation of an effective trade policy is important in the development and strengthening of the economic resilience of SIDS.
167. SIDS call for further technical assistance through Aid for Trade and other programmes to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system by addressing their limited capacity to implement trade commitments and to develop trade policy. They continue to require technical assistance for capacity building and institution building to assist them in understanding trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements, and formulating and administering coherent trade policies.
168. SIDS call for increased support to assess the implications of and to mitigate the impact of non-tariff measures (NTMs) for their market access opportunities, considering that NTMs have increased with the reduction of tariff barriers through trade liberalisation, and can constitute barriers to markets of vital importance to SIDS.
169. We acknowledge the WTO's fast track accession system for LDCs, which has supported the accession of some SIDS, and further call on enhanced trade related assistance to allow for the remaining SIDS in the accession process in the WTO, which are not LDCs, to also be placed on the fast track. We call for the application of WTO rules in a flexible manner for SIDS and for the WTO Work Programme on Small Economies to take into account the special vulnerabilities of SIDS, which limit their ability to fully integrate into the global economy.
170. SIDS call for the development and strengthening of partnerships, such as those undertaken by UNCTAD in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and other organizations, to enhance their participation in the international trade in goods and services, build their productive capacities and address their supply-side constraints. We further call on UNCTAD to place greater emphasis on the needs of SIDS to assist their further integration into the global trading system.
171. We urge partners in various trade and economic agreements to recognize the special circumstances of SIDS, and in view of the exceptional situation currently prevailing in the global economy, to extend the provision of trade preferences, for a sufficiently long period of time, to assist them in their response to the global economic challenges as they seek to achieve economic growth and development.

### ***Participation in the international financial system***

172. SIDS call for international support to national and regional initiatives that serve to enhance the voice and participation of SIDS in the decision making and norm setting processes of the international financial system.
173. SIDS call for international support to national and regional initiatives that help to increase the capacity and developmental impact of the financial services industry in SIDS.

### ***Debt Sustainability***

174. We call on the international community and financial institutions to exercise increased flexibility with respect to the Debt Sustainability Framework and the eligibility for debt relief, the provision of increased funds for debt rollover, innovative debt swap criteria, and increased concessionality, and to accelerate previous commitments regarding debt relief, taking into account the extreme vulnerability of small, indebted, middle-income countries whose size, fragile economies and open markets have made them highly susceptible to external financial shocks.
175. We call for the expansion of grant and concessional financing to small, indebted, middle-income countries to mitigate the significant sustainable development challenges that have been exacerbated by the ongoing global and financial crisis. Access to such financing should be based on factors that go beyond GDP, which itself is a poor indicator of economic sustainability.
176. We reaffirm the need for a “smooth transition” of SIDS that have recently graduated from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. All but one of the countries that have recently graduated or are about to graduate from LDC status have been SIDS, and once they graduate and lose their access to concessional financing, commercial loans become their only option as they seek to diversify and strengthen their economies. As a result, many have fallen heavily into debt. We call for urgent action to extend the transition period until the vulnerability of the graduating country has been adequately addressed.

## **IV. SIDS priorities for the post-2015 development agenda**

177. We affirm that the priorities for SIDS in the design of the post-2015 development agenda should build on the outcome of the Samoa Conference.

178. We further affirm the need to establish a global enabling environment inclusive of national and regional dimensions for the post-2015 development agenda that takes into consideration the need for the full implementation of the BPOA, MSI and the outcome of the Samoa Conference.
179. We call on the international community to support SIDS to continue to undertake dialogue at the regional and interregional levels, to allow for the further analysis and elaboration of SIDS priorities to ensure that SIDS effectively participate in the global process for the design of the post-2015 development agenda.
180. SIDS are of the view that the post-2015 development agenda should include SIDS specific issues given their unique and persistent structural vulnerabilities; the fact that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development; and the need for global cooperation, partnership and continued commitment to build their resilience. We therefore call for a post-2015 development agenda that places sustainable development at its core, and that promotes prosperity for all SIDS.
181. SIDS call for a post-2015 development agenda that is people-centred and that focuses on eradicating poverty, engendering equality, and achieving environmental sustainability.
182. SIDS recognize that sustainable resources management in the context of land, water and food security, agriculture, and biodiversity is a critically important consideration that deserves to be supported as it encompasses the political, social economic and environment dimensions of the post-2015 development agenda. The need for land for agriculture, food and water security and economic and social development must be balanced with the need for ecosystem conservation and biodiversity preservation.
183. SIDS recognize their critical need to address the emerging health crisis represented by NCDs and call for health issues to feature prominently in the post-2015 Development Agenda.
184. In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, SIDS call for a continued commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns, including through the 10 YFP and the SIDS-specific support platform contained within it.
185. SIDS call for the elaboration of appropriate indices which better reflect the vulnerability of SIDS and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience. In that respect, all aspects outlined in the BPOA and MSI should be taken into account in

formulating these indices. Resilience building should underpin the creation of SDGs and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

186. Establishment of a robust global monitoring system would strengthen accountability at all levels and ensure adequate and timely analysis of the implementation of the BPOA and MSI, as well as the outcome of the Samoa Conference, as an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda. The post-2015 development agenda must therefore, where appropriate, include clear targets and indicators in this area that are relevant and meaningful to SIDS.
187. SIDS also require dedicated support for the ongoing processes in follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference and in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, in particular the OWG on SDGs and the Intergovernmental Committee on Financing for Sustainable Development.
188. We call for the inclusion of climate change as a cross-cutting issue in the elaboration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
189. We underscore that healthy, productive, and resilient oceans are a critical source of livelihoods and are an important element of identity for the people of the SIDS, and we concluded that oceans are a thematic priority and should be prominently reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda, including through consideration of a thematic Sustainable Development Goal.