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Tuvalu Comments at the CSD15 Debate: Initial Reactions to the IPM Chairman's Text New York 2 March 2007

Mr Chairman

Tuvalu commends you and your Co-Chair Colleagues for the text that you have introduced as your compilation of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting debate this week in preparation for the CSD15.

At the outset, we fully support the comments made by the distinguished Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cape Verde on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States. We wish however to reinforce some of the points.

First, SIDS as a Group and individually, have contributed and submitted views on critical options for policy decisions to address their special challenges which are well recognized by the international community under and since Agenda 21. These, unfortunately, have not been properly reflected in the text, particularly the recognition for special dedicated funding windows for renewable energy and adaptation and insurance to impacts of climate change.

Additionally, CSD13 made a specific decision on how to deal with the special case of the SIDS, mandating for the proper reviews of the implementation of the MSI.

In view of all these Tuvalu wishes to appeal that in respect of SIDS special case, their concerns should be reflected in separate sections of the text, but not annexed variously to different sentences, and decisions targeted for concrete actions.

Second, we agree CSD15 must not repeat what has already been agreed in CSD9 and JPOI. It should therefore focus on areas we have been unsuccessful in implementation such as the lack of substantial increase of renewable energy share in the global energy mix as called for by the JPOI. And in this regard, again, we strongly support the proposal by the EU for policy decisions on measures and processes to increase development and use of renewable energy.

Thirdly, on the section on climate change CSD15 must not duplicate the work of the UNFCCC. However, especially in view of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and the Stern Review on climate change Tuvalu strongly feels the role of the CSD in urgently mobilizing the widest and strongest public opinion and political will for

actions by all sectors and communities is critical including support for the convening of a world leaders summit as earliest.

Needless to say my own country of Tuvalu and many like us are already suffering and reported to be going under sea water because of climate change, if we the international community fails to do something urgently. CSD15, in our view, cannot fail to make a meaningful contribution through practical decisions to compliment the mitigation and adaptation work of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes.

Tuvalu earnestly hopes the above comments are taken into account in improving the text for the CSD15, and we look forward to working with all Parties in May.

Thank you