

**Statement of
The Arab Republic of Egypt**

Before

**The Third United Nations Conference
on Small Island Developing States**

Delivered by

H.E. Ambassador Hassan EL-LAITHY

**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to
Australia, Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea
and Marshall Islands**

Samoa,

2nd of September 2014.

H.E. Sani Tanielu, President of the Republic of Samoa,
Their Excellencies Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Ministers present,
H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
H.E. WU Hongho, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs,
Secretary-General for the International Conference on Small Island
Developing States,
H.E. Ambassador Marlène Moses, Chairperson of the Alliance of Small Island
States,
Honorable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to deliver a message of support from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Samoa as well as the Alliance and group of Small Island Developing States SIDS.

Egypt, being a coastal country, faces similar challenges and share the same aspirations to SIDS in several areas. We unequivocally support the cause and rights of Small Island Developing States SIDS in achieving sustainable development. We also recognize the gravity of the threats Small Island Developing States SIDS are facing, and understand their vulnerability to the consequences of climate change, floods, desertification, land degradation, drought, among others, which call for an ever-stronger and wider international network to garner the necessary support to tackle them, integrating the Barbados Program of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the outcomes of the Samoa Pathway, and of this conference into the Post 2015 Development Agenda in order to realize real sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Egypt recognizes that the survival of small island states against the adverse effects of climate change is indeed a matter-of-life-and-death. Thus, the delivery of resources and finance to SIDS is essential to their ability to avoid and overcome such challenge.

As a country that shares the concerns of future ailments of climate change, Egypt welcomes the Green Climate Fund board decision of allocating 50% of its Adaptation allocations to vulnerable countries, including SIDS. Moreover, Egypt has indicated at the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw in 2013, its support both to the establishment of the Warsaw Damage and Loss Mechanism WDLM, and that SIDS become members in the Interim Damage and Loss Committee in

Lima, which will then anchor the damage and loss framework leading up to a new legally binding agreement in UNFCCC COP21 in Paris 2015 in transition towards the establishment of a permanent damage and loss committee in 2016. We urge the Interim Committee to exert all efforts to make sure that the new agreement adequately addresses SIDS needs and demands.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is timely to start preparations for the Third International Disaster Conference, due to be held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. The addition of small scale events, which accounts for 70% of disasters and 90% of damages and losses, to the conventional list of disasters, shall improve our ability to successfully address disasters. The role of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction UNISDR, is pivotal to its success. On the other hand, Egypt realizes the importance of ensuring that the second phase of the Hyogo Framework of Action addresses the three main issues, namely risk prevention, risk reduction, and strategic resilience building. Egypt also congratulates our African brothers for their active regional preparations to that conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Oceans and seas have a great role to play in sustaining development and advancing human well-being. According to World Bank and the FAO reports, the world's fishing fleets lose 50 billion US\$ each year through depleted stocks and poor fisheries management, which is a direct threat to food security. Moreover, this depletion increases the rate of biodiversity loss, and results in the overall degradation of ecosystems and the quality of the environment. It is imperative to break this cycle in order to maintain biodiversity.

Consequently, Egypt supports the establishment of appropriate international instruments under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea UNCLOS relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of international jurisdiction, in accordance with relevant General Assembly Resolutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Egypt's support to the SIDS sustainable energy policies and promoting energy efficiency towards the realization of objectives of energy security.

In this context, Egypt adopted its national strategy for electricity generation based on diversifying energy sources, improving the sector's performance, promoting energy efficiency, expanding the national electricity grid, through which increasing the production of new and renewable energy sources, and its share in total energy mix to 20% by 2020.

As a crossroad between three continents, and of a number of energy corridors, Egypt believes that there is room for cooperation and exchange of expertise in this area particularly through South-South Cooperation Frameworks. We are prepared to engage in cooperation with SIDS in most fit areas, including areas mentioned in the conference outcome document, namely, agriculture, ICT, disaster reduction, fisheries and marine resources, renewable energy, and sustainable tourism.

Please allow me to express my congratulations to Mr. Hongbo, on the successful organization of this conference, and which I believe is very timely because of both the importance of the issues it tackles, in addition to its important role in consensus-building prior to the 69th session of the General Assembly and the Climate Change Summit, due to be held later this month in New York.

I wish you all every success in those upcoming meetings.

Thank you.