

**Statement by Pakistan delegation
at the
Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
(SIDS) 1-4 September 2014**

Mr. President,
UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon,
Ambassador John Ashe, the President of the General Assembly,
Chair of AOSIS and the Secretary General of the SIDS Conference,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first congratulate Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, the President of the Conference, for hosting this conference in one of the most beautiful islands of the Pacific. Mr. President, we trust your leadership and assure you of our full support for the successful outcome of this conference.

I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to your government's tremendous efforts while preparing for this conference. I also take this opportunity to thank the people of Samoa for their very generous hospitality.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to fully associate with the statement by Bolivia made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Pakistan attaches high importance to the sustainable development challenges faced by the SIDS and the associated priorities. We are cognizant that these remain special and unique due to peculiar vulnerabilities of the island countries.

Pakistan supported and welcomed convening of this conference, which aims at addressing implementation gaps, seeking renewed political commitment, identifying new and emerging challenges as well as laying down the priorities for SIDS in the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

It was twenty years ago that the Barbados Programme of Action identified priority areas for SIDS that included: climate change, natural and environmental disasters, management of wastes, coastal and marine resources, fresh water resources, land resources, energy resources, tourism, biodiversity, transport and communication and science and technology.

Unfortunately, the priorities remain valid today as well given that the threat has compounded and intensified rather than mitigated over time.

Keeping in view the vital interests of SIDS, Pakistan, in collaboration with the United Kingdom, had organized a high-level Arria Formula meeting of the Security Council on security dimensions of climate change in February 2013.

Mr. President,

The five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy concluded that SIDS have made less progress as compared to others, especially in areas of poverty reduction and debt sustainability.

A number of UN conferences and summits on sustainable development held during the past decade, including the most recent Rio+20 Conference, have reaffirmed global commitment for the enhanced implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

Mr. President,

Climate Change is the biggest development emergency. To date, the pledges made on mitigation suggest that we cannot keep the temperature rise below 2 degrees. This is extremely dangerous for the SIDS as well as the whole world.

The sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose significant risk to SIDS and their efforts to achieve sustainable

development, and for many represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability.

Pakistan firmly believes that it is critical to reach an agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015. It must be built on the principles of Climate Convention particularly that of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Mr. President,

Greater political commitment is needed. Addressing adaptation needs of developing countries, in particular SIDS through the provision of new, additional and predictable financial resources remains critical.

The forthcoming Secretary General's Climate Summit is an important opportunity to raise political ambition for emission reduction and for climate finance. The political commitments at the Summit should feed into the Climate negotiations held under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mr. President,

As we deliberate, global evidence of depleting natural capital, relentless spike in global inequality and stubborn poverty is mounting. The current growth patterns are not just unsustainable but also deeply flawed.

This Conference is an opportunity towards transformation of our development pathways by mainstreaming sustainability in our development strategies. Sustainable consumption and production remains fundamental to this approach. The developed countries must take lead both in taking domestic actions as well as in supporting developing countries for changing their pathways.

Mr. President,

We recognize the need for an integrated, coordinated and balanced approach with support of international community and other stakeholders to ensure sustainable development of SIDS.

The SAMOA Pathway outlays tangible actions. We support their effective employment. The provision of enhanced Means of Implementation remains critical for ensuring full realization of these actions.

We share the view that the results of this Conference will ultimately depend on the credibility and effectiveness of its follow up.

Lastly, Pakistan assures its strong and continued support to SIDS for the meaningful implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

I thank you.