

Synthesis report of the three regional meetings held in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States¹

I. Introduction

1. In June 2012, world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) decided to convene the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in 2014.² The Rio+20 outcome document recognized the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS, and invited the 67th Session of the General Assembly to determine the modalities of the Conference.

2. GA Resolution A/C.2/67/207 subsequently welcomed the offer of the Government of Samoa to host the Conference, and decided that the Conference would seek to achieve the following objectives:

a. Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) building on, *inter alia*, existing reports and relevant processes;

b. Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the BPoA and MSI, *inter alia*, through mobilisation of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

c. Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community; and

d. Identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

3. The resolution also called for the outcome document of the Conference to be a “concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document” that would address the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS.

4. The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will convene from 1 to 4 September 2014, preceded by activities related to the conference from 28 to 30 August, in Apia, Samoa. An intergovernmental preparatory process commencing in early 2014 will be launched by the President of the General Assembly, and an inter-regional meeting will be held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 26 to 28 August 2013.

5. In order to inform the preparatory process for the Conference, regional meetings were held in Jamaica from 2 to 4 July, in Fiji from 10 to 12 July, and in Seychelles from 17 to 19 July 2013. The present document was prepared by DESA, as the Conference Secretariat, for

¹ Submitted by DESA to the Inter-regional meeting in Barbados, 26-28 August 2013

² Resolution 66/288, annex. *The Future We Want*, paragraph 180.

the purpose of synthesizing the outcomes of the three regional meetings to inform the Barbados inter-regional meeting in August 2013. The following sections highlight the main points and proposals that emerged during discussions on the four objectives outlined above, namely: progress and gaps in implementation, renewed political commitment focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for implementation, new and emerging challenges and opportunities, and priorities for the post-2015 development agenda.

II. Progress and gaps in implementation

6. All SIDS have made significant efforts at the national level to implement the BPoA and the MSI. SIDS have become party to a number of important Conventions, developed national sustainable development plans and strategies, and strengthened institutions to address priority areas³. SIDS have also made some progress toward achieving the health-related MDGs, and have advanced in the areas of gender equality, education and environmental sustainability.

7. In spite of some progress, SIDS continue to face significant challenges to the achievement of their sustainable development. SIDS continue to suffer from, *inter alia*, food insecurity, lack of appropriate sanitation infrastructure, inadequate waste management, lack of adequate transport networks and dependence on carbon-based energy sources. In particular, access to fresh water remains a serious challenge for SIDS, and this issue is 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; family planning, maternal, child and adolescent health; and improvement in health systems.

8. The regional meetings identified gaps in the enabling environments at regional and national levels, including inadequate integration of the BPoA and MSI into national plans and strategies in some countries and a lack of monitoring and evaluation capacity. Sustainable development of SIDS has also suffered from deficits in the international enabling environment, and some countries stressed that more could have been achieved if commitments made by the international community regarding financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building had been fulfilled. Support from the UN system has not been adequately strengthened or coordinated, and international financial mechanisms have failed to fully recognize and account for SIDS vulnerabilities. As a result, SIDS have not been able to access the financing for development that they need.

9. As the impacts of climate change become more apparent, widespread concern among SIDS is increasing regarding the lack of ambition and urgency at the international level to reduce greenhouse gasses. International action is not commensurate with the size or scale of the problem, and the need for urgent, decisive and ambitious action to ensure that the global average temperature increase remains below 1.5 degrees Celsius is critical to the survival of many SIDS.

10. The provision of sufficient, additional and predictable financial resources for SIDS to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and support national climate change priorities remains inadequate. Where funds exist, application procedures often

³ Conventions include United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol, the Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Nairobi Convention, Convention on Desertification, Convention on Biodiversity, and others

preclude some SIDS from accessing them, and capacity building efforts have not addressed this persistent problem.

III. Actions for further implementation

11. Concern for the lack of international focus and political will on SIDS priority issues emerged during regional discussions. To address the second objective of the Conference, the regional meetings identified a number of practical and pragmatic actions that could be taken by all countries for the further implementation of the BPoA and MSI.

Capacity building

12. The need to shift from capacity building to institution building is an important component of international support to SIDS, and should be reflected in all 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.

13. People are the greatest natural resource of SIDS. To enable them to reach their full potential, SIDS and the international community alike must invest in programs to develop the human capacity of SIDS through education and opportunities for training, to build the resilience of SIDS societies and economies.

14. SIDS face great challenges in managing chemical and hazardous waste, including electronic waste. Establishment of technical cooperation programmes to enable the creation and the strengthening of regional mechanisms for the management of hazardous waste as well as ship-generated waste would be a step forward. 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. Investment and cooperation in developing integrated waste management and technologies, including those addressing land based and marine pollution, as well as marine debris, need to be increased.

15. It is imperative that the international community assist SIDS in strengthening their national statistical and information systems, including data collection and management; their analytical capabilities for decision-making; and their monitoring and evaluation systems for sustainable development. Capacity building for negotiating trade and partnership agreements, and navigating the complex requirements for accessing certain funds, would also benefit many SIDS.

Finance

16. Financing for climate change adaptation is necessary to support SIDS-specific challenges in the short, medium and long term. Readily accessible, predictable and sustainable financing arrangements and modalities are required for SIDS that can be drawn down at a rate commensurate with their absorptive capacities and needs. In addition, country systems to disburse resources wherever possible and increased funding for mitigation activities which have co-benefits for development are also needed.

17. The Green Climate Fund has potential to contribute significantly to mitigation and adaptation actions as a key pillar in the post-2020 agreement on climate change. In this context, the operationalization of the fund by early 2014 should be prioritized, and developed countries should scale-up financing to reach USD 100 billion by 2020, including the initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund in the first half of 2014. Development partners should also address as a matter of priority the replenishment of the Climate Adaptation Fund.

18. The regional meetings called 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; 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. Expansion of concessionary financing to small, indebted, middle income countries to mitigate the significant sustainable development challenges that have been exacerbated by the ongoing crisis is needed, and access to such financing should be based on factors that go beyond GDP, which is by itself a poor indicator of economic sustainability.

Trade

19. Given the vulnerability of SIDS and their disadvantage with regard to traditional markets, trade policy is instrumental in the developing and strengthening of SIDS resilience. UNCTAD should further develop ways and means to promote movement of SIDS goods, capital and professional services and preferential access to key markets with flexible rules of origin. The impact of Non Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) on SIDS must be effectively addressed.

Technology transfer

20. A dedicated technology transfer facilitation mechanism could be established by the international community to provide environmentally sound and appropriate technologies to developing countries, in particular SIDS, in keeping with the ongoing Rio+20 follow-up processes, in order to support sustainable development projects to be implemented through United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The modalities for supporting the projects might include multilateral, bilateral and triangular cooperation, with special consideration given to proposals from SIDS.

21. Support for and investments in SIDS are needed to develop science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, with specific emphasis on research and development, in accordance with national interests and priorities. The UNFCCC's decision to establish a technology mechanism in the form of a Climate Technology Centre and Network to enhance technology cooperation and transfer to developing countries should garner support.

Partnerships

22. Empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based upon mutual trust, equality, respect and accountability. 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.

23. SIDS have successfully mobilized partnerships of all types, especially SIDS-SIDS partnerships, to advance their sustainable development, and support their continued strengthening and expansion. The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is advancing conservation efforts for island biodiversity, and the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge is championing innovative regional approaches to climate change adaptation. The University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS) has an important role to play in capacity building, innovation and technology that meets the specific needs of SIDS, and adequate resources need to be mobilized by relevant UN agencies to provide further support. The SIDS-initiated SIDS DOCK programme should also mobilize additional financial resources.

24. South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation are not substitutes for, but rather complements to, North-South cooperation. In this context, the regional meetings recognized the importance of SIDS-SIDS cooperation as an expression of political will and solidarity among SIDS countries to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Both government and private sector partners should work with SIDS for the full implementation of sustainable development priorities, including national energy roadmaps, in each region.

Institutional support to SIDS

25. There is an urgent need to review the mandates and operational functioning of UN agencies providing support to SIDS, 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. It is necessary to identify the level of financial resources and institutional capacity needed for the agencies to enhance delivery of projects on the ground and enhance effectiveness, with a view to revise the mandates at Apia in 2014 to ensure clear delineation of the roles, accountability, current realities and the ability of the agencies to address new and emerging issues.

26. United Nations entities need to build institutionalized support to SIDS into their programmes at both national and regional levels, and undertake activities that are responsive to the needs of SIDS, as articulated by the SIDS themselves. In this regard, the UN secretariat should enhance the human and financial resources currently available to the SIDS Unit in UNDESA. SIDS issues should also be placed on the agenda of the High-level Political Forum.

27. A Special Representative on Climate and Security could be appointed by the UN Secretary General, to report to relevant UN organs on threats to international peace and security resulting from current and projected adverse impacts of climate change, and upon request, assist vulnerable countries to assess and address their own security challenges resulting from climate change.

IV. New and emerging challenges and opportunities

Climate change

28. While climate change is in no way a new challenge, its devastating impact on SIDS has become ever more apparent in recent years. The regional meetings reiterated that climate change and its related threats of climate variability, sea level rise, ocean acidification, extreme weather events and natural disasters have wide-ranging impacts that compound existing critical economic, environmental, social and security issues and place additional burdens on humanitarian response and development systems, as well as on national budgets and efforts to achieve national sustainable development goals.

29. Achieving the full implementation of the BPoA and MSI requires urgent global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 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 CO₂-equivalent levels.

30. There is also an urgent need to address the security implications of climate change, including violation of territorial integrity, 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.

Debt

31. The global economic and financial crisis has exacerbated the economic challenges faced by SIDS, and many are struggling under high debt burdens. The classification of many SIDS as middle-income, upper-middle income, or high-income countries limits access to vital concessional and development financing. The use of GDP, by itself, constitutes a limited approach to the measurement of overall development and masks persistent development challenges, including those resulting from their vulnerabilities.

32. For many years, SIDS have called for an alternative to GDP per capita, for measures that take into account the full picture of SIDS vulnerability and resilience in the context of economic development and climate change. Though tools have been developed, they have yet to be accepted as monitoring and assessment measures by SIDS decision makers and their development partners and financial institutions.

33. The international community is urged to give adequate attention to and ensure a “smooth transition” for SIDS that have recently graduated from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. All but one of the countries that have graduated 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. Action should be taken, urgently, to extend the transition period until the economic vulnerability of the country has been adequately addressed.

Oceans and the “Blue Economy”

34. 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, and potential sources of renewable energy: these are the building blocks of a blue or ocean-based economy. By emphasizing the economic power of the ocean, SIDS as large ocean states can seize their competitive advantage and carve a niche in the global economy.

35. SIDS have opportunities to develop their economies by investing in capacity and infrastructures to further benefit from their oceanic resources. The regional meetings stressed the importance of the sustainable use of oceans, and strengthening ocean governance for sustainability of the oceans. In particular, reversing decreasing fish stocks will address food security, and conserving coastal and marine ecosystems will be important for maintaining carbon sinks. Partners should provide adequate assistance to enable the SIDS fishing and related industries to benefit from a greater share of the total catch and value, in particular for highly migratory species.

36. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU), overcapacity of fishing fleets, inadequate enforcement and unsustainable use and management of marine resources are threatening the sustainable development of SIDS. There is a need to implement measures to increase SIDS’ participation in sustainable commercial fisheries to provide equitable, realistic and rewarding opportunities for products from fleets and processing plants, and measures are needed to increase SIDS’ ability to control fishing at levels that provide for ecologically sustainable returns to their growing economies.

37. We stress the need for support from partners in order to facilitate the establishment of the continental shelf for SIDS. It is critical to track the progress in identifying and mainstreaming strategies by 2014 that can further assist SIDS, as mandated at Rio+20, with the aim of completion in advance of the Conference.

38. A dedicated regional oceanographic center, development of land-based ocean industry—including the generation of renewable energy—and the elimination of subsidies supporting IUU and unsustainable fishing activities would help to overcome these challenges.

39. Regional instruments and programs on Ecosystem Based Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) should be developed and strengthened by incorporating knowledge on ocean acidification, climate change impacts and ecosystem-based adaptation into integrated coastal zone management and reef monitoring and restoration.

40. There is also an urgent need to enhance environmental impact assessment requirements for Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and all other relevant bodies with ocean management or governance responsibilities to improve the resilience of marine ecosystems to oceans acidification.

NCDs and other health challenges

41. Health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. 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.

42. The NCD crisis is not only a concern for the health of SIDS people; it also drains limited national budgets, reduces worker productivity, separates families, and robs communities of leadership and wisdom, as adults suffer long-term illness and lifespan is shortened. High childhood obesity rates, if not addressed, will cause a health epidemic and a catastrophe for the future of SIDS.

43. In this regard, increased capacity is needed to strengthen health systems for the provision of universal equitable coverage, emphasizing the role of regional cooperation in timely responses to these emerging health issues.

International crime and violence

44. Peace and security, and stability, are prerequisites for and the foundation of all development. SIDS are increasingly vulnerable to international organized crimes such as drug and human trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, trade in counterfeit goods, piracy, and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which increasingly threatens national and regional peace and security, and progress toward sustainable development.

45. Participants at the regional meetings called for support and international partnership to strengthen SIDS capacity to address these threats. They also recognized that the sustainable development of SIDS is negatively impacted by violence, including gang and youth violence.

Challenges in social development, especially for women and youth

46. 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. Measures for protection and inclusion need to be put in place to improve well-being and guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

47. A people-centered and focused approach to poverty eradication should ensure that people living in poverty have access to education, health, water and sanitation and other public and social services; access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information; and enable citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.

48. Efforts towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on development activities and gains, and women have the potential to be powerful agents of transformation and change. Yet addressing gender inequality and violence against women remain key challenges to sustainable development. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is cross-cutting and must be realized, in particular through economic empowerment and full participation at all levels of decision making.

49. 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. In this regard, there is an urgent need for investment in education, training and skills development for all, as well as improved access to formal and non-formal education, including entrepreneurial skills.

50. SIDS contain 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. The international community should recommit to developing measures to protect the natural, tangible and cultural heritage and increased resources for the development and strengthening of national and regional cultural activities.

V. SIDS priorities for the post-2015 development agenda

51. The elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda provides a unique opportunity to prioritize and address the particular social, economic and environmental challenges faced by SIDS. The regional meetings identified and discussed a number of priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS that should be further elaborated in preparation for the Conference and considered within the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

Climate change

52. Climate change will continue to be the most serious threat to SIDS in their pursuit of sustainable development and survival, since its impacts stretch across all sectors of development. Support for adaptation and mitigation measures are the top priority for many SIDS. Water, sanitation, coastal protection, and protection of critical coastal infrastructures are central to SIDS' capacity to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, and should be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should also include climate change as a cross-cutting issue.

53. The international community should undertake greater political engagement and commitment, in the context of the UNFCCC, to address the adaptation needs of SIDS, which will be on the front lines of climate change impacts. The Secretary-General's Summit on Climate Change will provide an important opportunity to increase mitigation measures, with developed countries taking the lead by putting forward more ambitious targets using the 2014 Kyoto Protocol ratchet mechanism, and for non-Kyoto Protocol Parties to make comparable commitments. All Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that have not joined the second commitment period are called upon to do so.

Oceans

54. An SDG dedicated to oceans is critical and necessary. The oceans are the source of life, livelihood, and identity for the people of the SIDS, and as such, SIDS assert that oceans should be given a prominent place in the post-2015 development agenda, with dedicated support for the blue economy mainstreamed into the development agenda as a whole.

Renewable Energy

55. Energy and renewable energy are central to the post-2015 development agenda. Renewable energy infrastructure has proven to be a powerful force in tackling poverty alleviation and improving living conditions for the remote and most isolated communities in SIDS. Energy generation enables SIDS to meet basic human needs and improve health, education and economic opportunity.

56. Current weaknesses of many parts of SIDS energy sectors have been recognized, including 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.

57. Wind, solar, and ocean thermal energy conversion should all be pursued, and their promotion should be integrated in the SDGs and post-2015 agenda. Support should be provided to enhance regional and SIDS-SIDS cooperation for research and technological development on appropriate renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Such cooperation should include, *inter alia*, the setting up of a financing mechanism for the implementation of Renewable Energy (RE) projects, exchange of best practices, access to efficient technologies, harmonization of standards, smart grid technology development and internationally recognized regulatory frameworks for renewable energy.

58. In order to facilitate implementation, relevant partners should provide resources to create enabling environments. The work of IRENA in facilitating and supporting renewable energy efforts in SIDS should also be strengthened.

Disaster preparedness and resilience

59. The regional meetings stressed the need to enhance and establish, if necessary, means and tools at the international level aimed at implementing a preventative approach for natural disasters in SIDS, reducing risks and properly integrating risk management into development policies and programmes, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

60. The international community needs to support SIDS in their efforts to build resilience and reduce risks associated with natural disasters in areas and sectors vulnerable to climate change threats, and effectively address the multiple effects of their vulnerabilities, while allowing for the adoption of sustainable development strategies that more effectively integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Special consideration should be given to financing for early warning systems in order to reduce economic and social losses, inclusive of human life, recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation.

Sustainable consumption and production

61. The regional meetings reaffirmed that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable in achieving global sustainable development. All countries should promote sustainable consumption and production 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.

Sustainable resources management

62. Sustainable resources management in the context of land, water and food security, agriculture, and biodiversity are critically important considerations that deserve to be supported as they encompass the political, social, economic and environment dimensions of the post-2015 development agenda.

63. Natural resource constraints faced by the SIDS members arise from, *inter alia*, population pressure on limited resource base, and ecosystem fragility and vulnerability. Biodiversity of the land, ocean and seas is an important asset of the region but is increasingly under threat from human activities, deforestation, pollution, overfishing, IUU fishing practices, invasive species, and climate change-induced impacts such as ocean acidification. These issues are growing concerns that often lead to conflicts, which threaten peace and security, and require focused attention from all stakeholders.

64. Some SIDS proposed creation of a legal regime on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and recommended the development of an international instrument under UNCLOS with a decision to be taken before the 69th UNGA.

Health

65. Health systems in SIDS should be strengthened to address, *inter alia*, both non-communicable and communicable diseases through increased financing, recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce; through improved distribution of and access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines and medical technology; and through improving health infrastructure. A focus should be placed on the poor, elderly and persons with disabilities, enhancing their ability to protect themselves.

66. NCDs are a primary concern for all countries. Hence, it is important that NCDs amongst other health issues are included in the post-2015 development agenda. Health issues could be clustered into one goal entitled “universal health coverage,” which would provide a multi-sectoral approach with a view to reducing health inequities and increasing resilience.

Migration

67. The regional meetings recognized the complexity arising from the increasing international mobility of labor, which in turn creates difficulties of unemployment and underemployment in SIDS, but also affords opportunities for economic development. The outcome of the Global Forum on Migration and Development was noted by some participants, who recommended that human resource management of SIDS be strengthened, including through the elaboration of appropriate frameworks for labor mobility.

68. The important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination was also recognized.

Infrastructure

69. Population growth and urbanization in SIDS are putting additional pressures on infrastructure needs such as freshwater, sanitation, and housing. SIDS have renewed the call for access to funding and technology, and exchange of experiences and best practices, including through SIDS-SIDS collaboration.

70. It is clear that improved infrastructure for water and sanitation, waste management, energy, transportation, telecommunications and health is essential for sustainable development. In order to move forward effectively, it is necessary to first conduct an audit of the existing infrastructure and the infrastructure needs. Careful planning and design of infrastructure projects are necessary to ensure resilience.

Data, Monitoring and Evaluation

71. The BPoA and MSI lacked measurable targets and indicators, as well as a clear monitoring and evaluation framework. This presents a challenge in assessing progress and implementation. The post-2015 development agenda must therefore include clear targets and indicators in this area that are relevant and meaningful to SIDS.

72. A data revolution in SIDS is required to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of implementation and indicate our level of success. 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 Conference, as an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda.