



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda
SIDS Day/Preparatory Committee for the high-level five-year review of MSI
10th May 2010
New York

Mr. Chairman, distinguishes delegates,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Jamaica and Grenada on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and AOSIS respectively.

As today's SIDS Day also serves as the preparatory committee meeting for the high-level five year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island States (MSI+5), Antigua and Barbuda takes this opportunity to highlight some issues that we believe require greater focus from the international community in the context of pursuing full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA).

Firstly, we must emphasize the importance and continued relevance of the BPoA and the Mauritius Strategy as the international framework for the sustainable development of SIDS, and that implementation of BPoA also advances the implementation of Agenda 21.

Secondly, our vulnerability as a small island developing State has increased within the last five years due to the combined effects of climate change, high energy cost, increase in the price of food and the impact of the economic and financial crisis. Additionally, the financial crisis has necessitated an increase in borrowing at a very high cost, exacerbating an already high level of indebtedness.

Such increased vulnerability has negatively impacted on our development prospects and has led to a reversal of development gains. Furthermore, many of these factors that increases our vulnerability are not of our own making. For this

reason we believe it is important to conduct a thorough review of the sustainable development of small island states, which, in accordance with paragraph 5 of GA resolution 64/199 should allow for a thorough assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered as well as agree on what needs to be done to further address our vulnerabilities.

Thirdly, all aspects of the MSI and PBoA are in need of enhanced implementation efforts, however, we would highlight the following areas for particular emphasis:

- a) Affordable energy, in particular increasing investments in renewable sources of energy;
- b) Integrated sustainable management of coastal resources and fresh water resources, particularly with respect to adaptation to climate change;
- c) Sustainable land-use, including capacity building for sustainable land management particularly with respect to adaptation to climate change;
- d) Access to grant, and concessionary financing, as well as debt forgiveness to assist SIDS to manage the effects of the financial crisis and to finance sustainable development strategies;
- e) Increased attention to intra- and extra-regional migration, which can exacerbate social problems and is also linked to the lack of effort to address the issue of climate change;

Finally, my delegation would like to emphasize that so far resources promised to assist SIDS to cope with climate change, particularly for adaptation, has not been forthcoming. Further as we follow the climate change negotiations there is a disturbing trend for some developed countries to want to address this situation via loans and concessional financing. Mr. Chairman this we consider a violation of a long held principle of polluter pays and amounts to a perverse incentive for countries, particularly Annex 1 countries when they profit from polluting the environment.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation looks forward to the series of informal consultations which will follow from today's meeting. We hope that the negotiations will result in a document that adequately addresses the situation of SIDS, fully taking into account the challenges that have emerged since 2005 and fully addressing the implementation gap through enhanced and sustained international support.

Thank you.