

Norway's intervention on SIDS 23 February 2009

In view of the magnitude of both present and forecasted climate change in the SIDS, these regions stand out as harbingers of what may be in store for the rest of the planet. Hence, we need to strengthen our efforts to promote action in the area of adaptation and reduction of vulnerability in small island developing states. Support to the Mauritius Strategy is in this respect crucial.

As mentioned by a number of previous speakers, support is essential for the SIDS in order to enable them to tackle climate change, which poses new and unprecedented challenges to these countries' adaptive capacity and resilience.

Norway will continue to provide support for small island developing states. We will do so through contributions to for example the Global Environment Facility and the special funds operated by the GEF; and through support for the United Nations Environment Programme and through research cooperation on adaptation to climate change between Center for International Climate and Environmental Research and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre.

In this respect, Norway attaches particular importance to women's empowerment, sustainable management of natural resources and rural development, which are closely linked etc. in fisheries. However, we find it very important to establish a cross-sectoral approach to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Many measures for mitigating and adapting to climate change also help in reducing the vulnerability with natural disasters which can have a particularly devastating impact on vulnerable island states.

Policies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction should therefore be integrated in sectoral policies as well as in national development plans. This was also the main conclusion of an intersessional meeting on dealing with natural disasters and climate change that we reported on at our last meeting.