



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations
800 Second Avenue, Suite 400A, New York, N.Y. 10017

Phone: 212-937-0074

Fax: 212-937-0079

E-mail: nauru@un.int

Statement by
H.E. Ms. Marlene Moses
Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the
United Nations

on behalf of the

Pacific Small Island Developing States

Comments on Chairperson's draft negotiating text

4 May 2009
New York

Madam Chair,

I am honoured to speak on the behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) represented in New York, comprising of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my very own country Nauru.

Our group would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Grenada, on behalf of the AOSIS. And for those of us that are members of G77 and China, they associate with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Sudan on behalf of G77 and China.

Since I have already summarised the unique challenges under each of thematic issues of CSD-17 in our PSIDS statement this morning, I will keep my comments brief and specific in relations to the language we hope to see in the final version of the Chairperson's negotiation draft.

Given the urgency of the topics before us, we see that the CSD text should more directly acknowledge emphasis of particularly vulnerable nations, including LDCs, SIDS and African countries particularly vulnerable to drought and desertification.

Our Comments on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification

- In highlighting the need to increase local food production and procurement, including national food security for the most vulnerable, we should note that, especially for SIDS including Pacific SIDS, food security challenges can be improved with partnerships which address reliance on imported food (and reduce vulnerability to price shocks) by strengthening domestic agriculture in a climate-sensitive basis
- We should consider language to strengthen the framework on the customary ownership within the land framework
- For SIDS, including Pacific SIDS, we should emphasise the need to encourage local ownership of land conservation and rural development strategies which take a "bottom up" approach integrating local consultation and traditional cultural knowledge;
- In the view of Pacific SIDS, it is important that the text emphasizes the need for cross-cutting climate adaptation strategies, including those addressing soil, land, food security, desertification, erosion, and water management. Such integrated strategies can include conservation-oriented approaches and should directly link planning activities with concrete action.

Regarding our Comments on cross-cutting issues and means of implementation

- It is particularly important to Pacific SIDS that climate adaptation strategies are not only recognized as a cross-cutting issue, but that such integrated and cross cutting climate strategies be both upscaled and mainstreamed across sectoral government agencies. Furthermore, such comprehensive adaptation planning strategies should be linked with visible and physical implementation projects.
- We seek Emphasis the role of rural women including women's involvement in the decision making process with the distribution of resources;
- We seek to Include an emphasis on the importance of traditional cultural knowledge
- We seek to include an emphasis on improving statistical/data management and capabilities, especially for SIDS
- The text should highlight the need to increase the accessibility of funding from multilateral funding mechanisms, particularly emphasising the gaps in financing mechanisms for SIDS and especially in the context of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation; in this regard, it is now time that we expand the scope of such-funding mechanisms beyond just enabling activities, to include as well an appropriate focus of nationally-driven implementation
- It is our experience as Pacific Small Island Developing States that, for us, sustainable development goals can be immediately implemented by direct, concrete action; many of our policy options have already been recognized, if not "overstudied." This approach should be recognized in the text, as for us, it can readily achieve observable benefits in local communities - it is a people-centered and driven" approach that moves beyond policy to activities on the ground.

This is our assessment of the draft Chairperson's negotiating text, and we are ready to cooperate with other delegations to find a way to address these issues.

Thank you