

## **Thematic Discussion on small island developing States**

Review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy focusing on the thematic cluster of CSD-14

### **Interactive presentations of Italy to the afternoon panel on 8 May 2006**

Mr Chairman,

Today's panels added to the numbers of others which reiterate the need for local action.

Such an indisputable need has however to be tackled against both the second panellist elegant illustration of the conspicuous number of vivid scenarios on the challenge behind **local action** toward adapting to climate changes, as well as the first panellist's contention that for any adaptive efforts **to be effective, it has to be institutionalised.**

In fact, particularly when tackling the issue of the management of the impacts of climatic changes, there are little chances for local actions to be effective unless they are coherent with and mainstreamed in broader breath national processes.

In the South Pacific we are, for example, trying to address this concern through the program: "Support to the formulation of **national sustainable development strategies** in South Pacific". In the framework of this program, a workshop for the national focal points has just been held in New York as a kick off event within a twofold set of pursuits. On the one hand the adoption of national sustainable development policies emerges as an essential driver to ensure coherence, consistency and predictability to the assistance provided by the international community, on the other hand, the special needs and challenges of SIDS, when dealing with the **adaptation to climate change**, must be properly reflected in their development plans, so that development projects can be tailored on their specific circumstances.

Let me move now to your repeated evoking the **need for coherence under the framework of the Barbados and Mauritius strategies**, and underscoring to the need to check the risk of proliferation of "initiatives under the label of the name of the town where a conference has taken place".

This surely goes for the global level framework, but then the need arises for national and regional mechanisms and processes to be activated as a bridge between such global and the local dimension.

Consistently, in 2004 Italy has signed an MOU in support of the Caribbean Community Climate Change **Centre for Environmental Monitoring and Assessment**. The Centre aims to develop activities to tackle the negative impact of climate change while strengthening the institutional capacities and improving the regional coordination for risk prevention.

With the goal of linking climate change to risks reduction policies, Italy has also co-financed **the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative** aimed at building capacity within the Caribbean region to adequately address the growing occurrence of natural hazards, through exchanges of best practices and lesson learned in risk reduction as well as trying to mainstream risk reduction and adaptation to climatic changes in SIDS development agendas.

Moreover, Italy financed a feasibility study aimed to establish an **early warning emergency project** covering the whole area of the Caribbean linking climate change observation and monitoring to risk prevention. The purpose of this Project is to establish a modern hydro-meteorological monitoring system, with real time transmission of data, capable of giving the necessary information and alerts for a timely pre-disaster intervention, allowing to greatly reduce damages produced by the disruptive meteorological occurrences.

Let me conclude, Mr Chairman, by concurring with your underscoring the merit of integrating generalised national development and conservation processes, and also working on the institutional acquisition of more specifically oriented energy strategies and plans.