

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 morning panel on 8 May 2006

Mr Chairman,

The panels have underscored the challenge met toward identifying and boosting the potential for **local** generation of energy, with the last panellists, also touching on the ceiling on the actual amount of renewable energy potential which unavoidably limits individual SIDS.

This is, for example, the case of the high costs for the provision of grid connection for remote islands which calls for the urgent application of **renewable energy technologies adapted to the special conditions of SIDS**. In this context, it is worth mentioning, an initiative that the Italian Government is developing in collaboration with UNIDO, on the exploitation of tidal and marine current resources for energy generation, through the installation of specific turbines. Prototypes of such turbines are already in place in Italy, and plans for their production in other coastal countries are in an advanced stage. We firmly believe on the potential replication of this project to a number of SIDS. I would be glad if SIDS countries and interested organizations could join us at a special event today at lunch time, in the Delegates Dining Room, organized by UNIDO, Italy and Indonesia for the launch of the project, in the presence of its initiators.

With regard to your encouragement to expand on **progress and opportunities for building upon partnerships**, let me inform the floor that in the framework of the SIDS partnership launched at the Mauritius' conference by Italy, Ecuador and Yemen, with UNDP and IUCN, a scoping exercise is in progress toward identifying clusters of SIDS sharing specific planning and management problems. Together with effective ad hoc involvement of relevant members, such a pursuit will ensure the appropriate tailoring of the support the partnership will provide in terms of south-south exchanges, technology transfer, and capacity building in system planning and management.

Chairman question on how the south-south cooperation is implemented in our partnership:

The partnership launched in Mauritius has been conceived toward sharing with the SIDS the capacity building and technological transfer contributions of the “Galapagos-Soqotra” Johannesburg Type 2 Partnership initiative. Such an initiative, bridging the two world known archipelagos, can constitute for SIDS an effective laboratory where, in the framework of a multimillion dollars development programme, such sustainable management challenges are being tackled as the integration of energy and climatic changes components in systemic management plans.

By joining the south-south interchange programme SIDS will share with other partners their best practices, culture and ideas, and explore the adaptations of acquired technology (including that north-south transferred) in their respective development environmental realities through:

- participating in exchange programmes between key professional staff (technical and administrative),
- taking part in training activities on-site and in Italy,
- exchanging data and contributing to joint research programmes and field work
- assisting in the development and transfer of capacity for establishing GIS database systems and relevant applications particularly Decision Support Systems,
- contributing to the development of the regional and global networks connecting SIDS with scientific organisations.