

NEW ZEALAND MISSION to the UNITED NATIONS

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HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 12th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

30 APRIL 2004

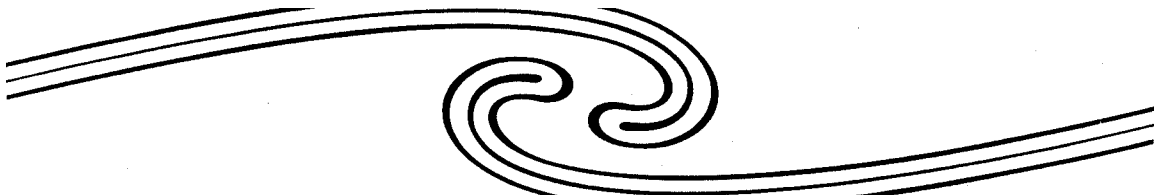
REMARKS BY HON MARIAN HOBBS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (ODA) NEW ZEALAND

Mr Chairman

New Zealand welcomes this opportunity to take some time during CSD12's High-Level Segment to focus on the upcoming Mauritius International Meeting on Small Island Developing States.

The sustainable development of SIDS is of crucial interest to New Zealand and to our Pacific Islands Forum partners. The Barbados Programme of Action established an action-oriented, implementable agenda for SIDS and their development partners and we welcome this review process.

As others have said, there is no appetite to renegotiate the BPOA - it remains a very useful document - but it is timely to reflect on progress with its implementation and also to focus on key issues for SIDS not adequately covered by the BPOA, including HIV/AIDS and other health-related threats, security in all its aspects, and governance. The bottom line for New Zealand is that the International Meeting should deliver value for SIDS through renewed and increased commitments, both domestically and from development and other partners, for their sustainable development.



Mr Chairman

The preparatory meeting at the beginning of this CSD saw positive and engaged discussions on the basis of the outcome from the Nassau SIDS meeting. New Zealand was honoured to chair these and remains ready to do so through the rest of this process. The negotiations still have some way to go: we trust that the constructive spirit displayed by delegations earlier this month will be maintained.

Mr Chairman

Let me briefly also report on the aspirations for the Mauritius International Meeting that Commonwealth environment ministers expressed during the 10th session of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on the Environment, in Jeju, Republic of Korea last month. The Ministers' statement is being circulated but I'd like to highlight some key points.

Small Island Developing States make up a significant proportion of Commonwealth members: SIDS issues are therefore Commonwealth issues. We noted that new challenges have emerged for SIDS including security in all its aspects and health threats, including HIV/AIDS. We were mindful also of enduring issues including the need to address the adverse impacts of climate change and sea level rise, as well those of natural disasters, and to better enable SIDS to participate in and benefit from the global trading system.

The International Meeting can contribute substantially to these outcomes by encouraging renewed focus on SIDS' issues, and renewed partnership between SIDS and the international community to foster their sustainable development. Commonwealth Environment Ministers called on all Governments to participate fully, and at Head of Government level to ensure the success of the International Meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairman

Island Issues are Commonwealth Issues

Statement on the 2004 International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action on Small Island Developing States, Mauritius

Agreed by Commonwealth Environment Ministers at the
Tenth Session of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment
Jeju, Korea, 28^h March 2004

Commonwealth Ministers of Environment look forward to positive outcomes from the International Meeting on Small Island Developing States, to be hosted by Commonwealth member state Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September 2004.

Small Island Developing States make up a significant proportion of Commonwealth members: SIDS issues are therefore Commonwealth issues. Ministers reaffirmed the conclusions of the Sixth Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Small States in Abuja, Nigeria, held on 4 December 2003, which confirmed support for the Barbados Programme of Action and noted efforts made at national level towards its implementation. Ministers noted new challenges to have emerged for SIDS including security concerns in all their aspects and the emergence of highly communicable and vector-borne diseases, such as SARS and HIV/AIDS. They were also mindful of enduring issues for SIDS including the need to address the adverse impacts of climate change and sea level rise, as well those of natural disasters, and to better enable SIDS to participate in and benefit from the global trading system.

Commonwealth Ministers of the Environment consider the International Meeting represents an important opportunity to assess the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, to identify successes, and to focus attention on areas where implementation has fallen short of what is needed. SIDS remain amongst the most vulnerable countries on the planet. They require ongoing support from donors to build capacity and resilience. In addition to the capacity to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system, SIDS need a supportive international environment involving efforts by all WTO members to enable them to better integrate into the multilateral trading system. They need effective action by all members of the international community to address climate change. They need to have sound and transparent governance to create an enabling environment for poverty eradication and sustainable development. They need enhanced foreign direct investment and effective partnership with appropriate actors of the international community in order to achieve the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ministers noted the call by SIDS for assistance to: meet their obligations towards implementing the International Maritime Security Regime and the UN Security Council Resolution 1373; establish, develop and have facilitated access to appropriate technology that can be used to improve food production systems; and develop and/or implement renewable energy programmes.

The International Meeting can contribute substantially to these outcomes by encouraging renewed focus on SIDS' issues, and renewed partnership between SIDS and the international community to foster their sustainable development. Ministers:

- encourage delegations to the preparatory meeting during the 12th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development from 14-16 April to ensure the draft Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action fully reflects the issues above and focuses clearly on priorities for further implementation of the BPOA;
- undertake to promote to their international development colleagues the desirability of supporting SIDS in their development of National Sustainable Development Strategies by 2005 (as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation).
- undertake to urge their respective Governments to support and participate fully in the International Meeting on Small Island Developing States to be held in Mauritius, and call on the international community to participate fully and at Head of Government level to ensure the success of the International Meeting.