

CSD-16 IPM
STATEMENT BY THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION
ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPMENT STATES (SIDS)

Thank you, Madam Chair

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.

Madam Chair,

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.

In this respect, let me highlight the project "Many Strong Voices", which has enabled mutual exchange of competence and knowledge between SIDS communities and communities in the Arctic, thus paving the way for building and developing coastal communities' capacity for dealing with climate change. Further information is available on the website manystrongvoices.org.

Madam Chair,

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 Center.

In this respect, Norway attaches particular importance to women empowerment, sustainable management of natural resources, as for example coral reefs and forests, and sustainable rural development. It is also important to establish a cross- sectorial approach to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Many measures for addressing climate change also help in dealing with natural disasters which can have a particularly devastating impact on vulnerable island states.

In conclusion, let me underline once again that we need to help direct attention to and increase understanding of the impacts of climate states on small – island developing states and vulnerable communities in the Arctic, and support measures that can give them a stronger voice, including an exclusive SIDS day at the CSD.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

