



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

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On Behalf of the
Pacific Small Island Developing States

Cross-cutting issues and means of implementation
Commission on Sustainable Development – CSD 17

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Madam Chair,

I am honoured to speak on the behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) 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, the Kingdom of Tonga.

My delegation would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguish representative of Sudan on behalf of G77 and China, and the statement made by the distinguished representative of Grenada, on behalf of the AOSIS.

Madam Chair,

We have identified three cross-cutting issues, climate change, gender and food security. Which we hope will be incorporated into your Draft Negotiating Text.

Climate change

The effects of climate change affect all aspects of sustainable development, which land, water, agriculture and rural development. The PSIDS recognises the serious threats faced by the region as a result of climate change and would like to highlight areas which require further action:

1. Environmental/Conservation approach aimed at recovery and safeguarding watershed areas and marine inshore resource management, through actively engaging the participation of traditional leadership, who govern rural communities. The application of by-laws to assist in responsible management of resources is fostered;
2. Introduction of responsible resource management practices, including resilient crops, Aquaculture and Agro-forestry as efficient options;
3. Ensure market structures are in place;
4. Intensify training and education of communities on responsible management of resources, including water, as a scarce resource.

In highlighting the above general policy options, PSIDS have identified several supporting policies requiring further assistance:

- Increase investment in Research activities to up-scale agriculture and fishery production, integrating traditional knowledge;
- Increase investment in appropriate technology to improve efficiency and sustainable production and breeding programs for more resilient crops and livestock;
- Foster participatory research involving local communities (field sites) and village governance;
- Improve statistics/data management capabilities, and ensure timely early warning systems are in place;
- Increase investment in Infrastructure to support production and marketing systems.

Gender and sustainable development

Women, particularly rural women play a significant role in sustainable development and agriculture production. Many rural women depend on agricultural and small scaled subsistence farming for their livelihood, thus it is important to include women's contribution. We would like to highlight some of the challenges faced by rural women:

- Limited access to land ownership over agricultural produces
- Many rural women are under-represented in leadership positions and have minimal input in the decision making process; in setting the development agenda; and how resources within their own communities are distributed
- Limited access to technology, funding and training
- Limited awareness as to how rural women would be impacted by the effects of climate change, particularly in terms of gender empowerment in climate change adaptation and natural disasters

Food Security

The rising cost of food, land degradation, limited domestic capacity in food production, bio-fuels production, and natural disasters threatens food security. It is our hope that the international system will be properly reformed and so that investment will be redirected towards agriculture and fisheries. We have highlighted our areas of concern and they will be reflected in your Draft Negotiation Text.

- The Rome Summit on Food Security last year and subsequent international meetings provided a menu of policy options and the Plan of Action. We hope the Plan of Action will be matched with resources to allow relevant technologies and know could be implemented into on the ground activities
- The need for assistance to increase our domestic agricultural production to meet the demands of a growing population
- The need to provide direct assistance to local communities that may require the technology and funding in transitioning from subsistence to commercial farming
- The need to eliminate the harmful impacts of agriculture subsidies by developed countries
- We look forward to direct collaboration with Member States in the Doha round to create a fair open market

Thank you