

**Expert Group Meeting to Consider a Comprehensive Framework
for the Mainstreaming and Monitoring of Mauritius Strategy Implementation**

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UNHQ, New York, April 27-28, 2007

Conceptual Framework

Consideration is being given to the preparation of a general framework to serve as a tool for the mainstreaming of Mauritius mandates on SIDS throughout the UN system, and as a mechanism for the monitoring and coordination of system-wide implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. This idea is being explored in response to an increasingly acknowledged need for a comprehensive and systematic approach to monitoring implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda. The conceived framework should thus accommodate more effective management and monitoring of broader national, subregional and regional development strategies, integrating the Mauritius Strategy as a core element in national and regional development planning.

To this end, DESA proposes to initiate consultation on the most appropriate structure and focus for such a mechanism, its scope of coverage and the methodology for its preparation. DESA envisages the implementation of a system-wide plan which may integrally be used as the basis for future planning, programming and coordination of SIDS-related activities by the UN system, in collaboration with the SIDS and key intergovernmental partners.

The meeting is intended to be exploratory in nature; an opportunity to consider as a first step all critical elements which should be taken into account. To stimulate the discussion, UNDESA will invite consideration of the following processes and ongoing priority actions which may have bearing on the framework's design:

1. proposed programming, including joint and collaborative efforts, of all relevant agencies of the UN system in support of national and regional Mauritius Strategy Implementation in SIDS, incorporating also broader mandates of their respective governing bodies relevant to SIDS;
2. a strategy to assist SIDS in translating the outcome of relevant international conferences and summits into concrete national policies and programmes and regional plans of action;
3. consideration of a strategy for mainstreaming the MSI into national and regional programmes, integrating the CCA and UNDAF programming process and harmonizing important existing development frameworks including National Sustainable Development Strategies; the Millennium Development Goals, as well as National Adaptation Programmes of Action and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers where applicable; and
4. In the case of SIDS facing graduation, consideration of a special approach to the programming exercise to facilitate transitioning from LDC status, taking into account anticipated new challenges while meeting the objectives identified above;

Consideration may be given to shaping the monitoring framework around the strategic objectives of the Strategy under each critical area of concern, identifying priority activities to be undertaken by the system in collaboration with regional and other intergovernmental partners to support Mauritius Strategy implementation, and including the establishment of benchmarks where appropriate. Consideration should also be given to an appropriate reporting arrangement to bring the account of progress to the attention of member states, and the periodicity of such reporting.