

Mahé Strategy

The AIMS group considers the Inter-Regional Meeting in the Bahamas as an important milestone on the road to Mauritius for the International Meeting. The AIMS group should therefore contribute fully and in a productive manner in the Bahamas meeting to ensure that the issues of critical importance of the group is fully addressed, and the desired outcome achieved. To this end the following strategy is formulated.

Aim

1. To provide a way for the AIMS group to take the Regional Position Paper forward.
2. To provide guidance on the coordination and negotiating arrangements for the AIMS group at the Bahamas meeting.
3. To indicate the Desired Outcomes arising from the Bahamas meeting for the AIMS group.

Priorities

The AIMS group reaffirms the priorities in the **AIMS Regional Position Paper**, as being ultimate expression of the groups position.

Furthermore, the AIMS group recognise the following as being vital for sustainable development in the AIMS region:

- 1.) Good Governance (role of civil society, legislative frameworks, transparency, accountability, etc.)
- 2.) Security (in all aspects)
- 3.) Trade and Investment (investments to build resilience, alternatives to special and differential treatment – phasing out fund, compensation, flexible agreements)
- 4.) Health (in all its aspects – services, prevention)
- 5.) Enabling Environments at the National Level, particularly through integrated planning and policy development.
- 6.) Sustainable Capacity Building
- 7.) Financial Resources (information on existing resources, facilitating links between needs and resources, donor coordination) and monitoring of implementations
- 8.) Partnerships (with donor countries, with other SIDS regions, etc.)
- 9.) Information for Decision Making (SIDSNet, simplified reporting and metadata)
- 10.) Education for sustainable development (cooperation with other SIDS regions and their tertiary institutions, curriculum development, teacher training)
- 11.) Information and Communication Technology

Means of Implementation

The AIMS group lays strong emphasis on the **Means of Implementation** for the **Mauritius Outcomes** including the priorities listed above. This would entail *inter*

alia political commitment from AIMS countries, effective national and regional implementation frameworks, integrated planning and policy development, concrete and visible international support, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

While sustainable development is acknowledged as a national responsibility, the BPOA also firmly establishes that this shall be done in partnership. Bearing in mind these national responsibilities, it is important for the AIMS countries to show in concrete terms what they are willing to commit to. Hence the strategy is a matter of substance as well as a matter of the specific approach (national actions coupled with regional support and international funding and expertise).

The AIMS group reaffirms that for the **Mauritius Outcomes** to have concrete benefits for SIDS, there must be a more effective and coordinated monitoring process, through existing institutions such as the CSD. Nevertheless, the effective operation of these institutions should be reviewed in terms of the Mauritius Outcomes.

Immediate Concerns

The meeting expresses great concern regarding graduation of Small island Developing States which are LDCs, and affirms that a smooth transition should be made possible to graduating countries. It will be necessary for all SIDS regions to work together with AOSIS in the further development of their views on the graduation process and the implications of graduation, and to present these at appropriate venues such as the CDP, ECOSOC as well as at the International Meeting. It would be of further benefit to the international debate if the requirement to hold international roundtables to discuss the specific situations of individual potentially graduating LDCs be carried out, in accordance with the recommendations of ECOSOC on the convening by the UN of roundtable meetings of development partners to examine the most desirable set of measures to ensure a smooth transition.

Coordination

All non-IOC AIMS countries have to designate focal points and communicate these to the IOC Secretariat.

A dedicated list-serv will be established in partnership with the **AOSIS SIDSNet** and **UNDESA** to ensure improved dissemination of information. It is important for this information to reach all stakeholders.

The **Indian Ocean Commission** will act as facilitator and secretariat for the AIMS group in the process leading up to Mauritius. This would entail the preparation of the synthesis report, distribution of relevant documents, coordination with other regional groups, liaison with the AOSIS chairmanship and UNDESA.

At the Bahamas meeting, the AIMS group shall meet as required for coordination purposes. The group will as appropriate designate specific coordinators on specific issues.

It is expected that at the earliest possible time, well ahead of the Mauritius Meeting, a formal regional cooperation mechanism should be established for the AIMS region.

AIMS Ministers are encouraged to discuss political aspects relating to this mechanism at Bahamas, including seeking international support.

Desired Outcomes

- 1.) Improved Means of Implementation
- 2.) Donor coordination in the implementation of the BPOA to include all relevant international institutions
- 3.) Dedicated international monitoring machinery
- 4.) Strengthening of the UNDESA SIDS unit with a committed budget
- 5.) Proposals for the Agenda for Mauritius
- 6.) Firm political commitment by AIMS Ministers for the setting up of a regional mechanism for the Mauritius meeting and beyond.
- 7.) Clear commitments of the donor community to the Mauritius meeting process
- 8.) Improved coordination within the UN system