

**PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
MAURITIUS STRATEGY
SAMOA, 17-19 OCTOBER 2005**

Background note

**Adoption of UN Resolution Regarding the
Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI)**

1. The United Nations General Assembly, in July 2005, adopted Resolution A/RES/59/311 entitled ***“International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. (See Attachment I)***
2. In paragraph 9 of the Resolution, the General Assembly indicates its support for ***“... the convening by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of Regional Meetings of Small Island Developing States in 2005 or 2006, in partnership with relevant regional organizations and stakeholders, for the follow-up of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation...”***
3. In pursuance of the decision of the Conference and the UN Resolution, the CROP Secretariats, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and other agencies in the Region, have been consulting with a view to organising a Pacific Regional Meeting to pursue implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

Invitation to Regional Follow-up Consultation

4. Invitations to the meeting will go out from the United Nations through DESA for Pacific SIDS and other invitees to attend the Pacific Regional Follow-up Consultation to be held on 17-19 October 2005. The Government of Samoa has kindly agreed to host this Meeting.

Objective/Purpose

5. The purpose of this three-day Consultation – to which all Pacific Countries and Territories are being invited – will be to identify concrete programmes/projects and other actions to pursue implementation of the MSI at both the national and regional levels. In paragraph 84 of the MSI, SIDS undertake, with the necessary support of the international community, including through the facilitation and improvement of access to existing resources and, where appropriate through allocation of dedicated financial resources, to take action in several priority areas in order to address their most urgent sustainable development challenges.

6. The main objective of the consultation will be to facilitate the identification of specific programmes and projects to give effect to the undertakings set out in the MSI.
7. Furthermore MSI (paragraph 100) indicates that ***“The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will continue to be the primary intergovernmental body for the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments related to SIDS”***, though other relevant organs, programmes and organisations of the UN System will also continue to have an important role in their respective areas of expertise and mandates.
8. At its Thirteenth Session held in April 2005, the CSD agreed to ***“devote one day of the review sessions of the CSD to the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation for the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (MSI)”*** (decision 7, under the heading “Follow-up on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”). **The review sessions of the CSD are held every two years. The next review session is scheduled for 2006.** This decision is in keeping with that of CSD-11, April/May 2003, that SIDS issues are to be considered both as cross cutting issues at each CSD session and be included in the thematic cluster for CSD in 2014/2015.
9. Given this responsibility and the decision taken at the April 2005 session of the CSD indicated in the preceding paragraph, it is anticipated that the proposed projects for implementation of the MSI will be elaborated within two-year cycles to provide adequate time for successful and sustainable launch. It should be noted that Member States are not expected to complete programmes/projects during the two-year cycle but rather to have them well established during the period.
10. The Consultation will provide an opportunity for Pacific SIDS to identify their programmes and projects to be launched in two-year cycles beginning in 2006. This will of course require prioritization among the numerous critical and wide-ranging issues identified in the MSI. Opportunities will also be provided during the Consultation for discussions with Donor Partners with a view to identifying any required support.

Coordination Arrangements

11. To successfully undertake the implementation of the MSI, it is anticipated that there will be need for the establishment of coordination arrangements to facilitate a more integrated and inter-disciplinary approach at both the national and regional levels for the purposes of monitoring and reporting.

12. **At the national level, Member States are invited to consider the establishment of new or the use of existing Inter-disciplinary National Committees/National Sustainable Development Councils. Delegations attending the Consultation will be expected to be in a position to commit their respective countries to the establishment of such Committees/Councils or to advise as to alternate mechanisms/arrangements being put in place.**
13. As regards coordination at the regional level, delegations will be provided with the opportunity to reflect on suggestions for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the MSI implementation. Documentation on this issue will be forwarded in due course.

Agenda

15. The agenda for the meeting is also posted on this website.