

**THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW-UP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY
St Kitts and Nevis, 5 - 7 October 2005**

The Caribbean Regional Meeting to Follow-up on Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy was convened in St Kitts and Nevis from 5 to 7 October 2005 at the Marriott St Kitts Resort and Royal Beach Casino. The meeting was attended by Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and United State Virgin Islands, the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat (OECS), the Association of Caribbean States Secretariat (ACS), the Caribbean Regional Negotiation Machinery(CRNM), the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Relief Agency (CDERA), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), the Sub-regional Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Caribbean (ECLAC-POS), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Caribbean Conservation Alliance (CCA), CPDC, Caribbean Civil Society Forum (CCSF), Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN), the Caribbean Water Partnership (CWP), the Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Trinidad & Tobago for the Advancement of Women, Coalition for Community Participation in Governance Jamaica and the Non-Governmental Organizations Women's Resource and Outreach Centre Jamaica. The list of participants is attached as annex 1.

The opening session was chaired by Ms Shirley Skerritt-Andrews, Ministry of Sustainable Development. Welcoming remarks were given by Ms. Diane Quarless, Chief of the SIDS Unit, UNDESA, Mr. Thomas Gittens, on behalf of the UNDP Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS, Mr. Neil Pierre, Director of the Sub-regional Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Caribbean, and Ms Lolita Applewaite, Deputy Secretary General of the CARICOM Secretariat. A keynote address was given by His Excellency the Honorable Timothy Harris, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Commerce of St. Kitts and Nevis. The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Carlisle Richardson, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations.

**Panel Presentation and Policy Dialogue on
Critical Challenges and Opportunities to Be Addressed by the Region**

The session was held on 5 October, and was facilitated by Mr. Thomas Gittens, UNDP. Ms. Shirley Skerritt-Andrews of St. Kitts and Nevis was elected Chairman of the Meeting. Mr. Hector Conde Almeida of Cuba and Mr. Roland Antonius of Netherlands

Antilles were elected Vice-Chairmen, and Ms. Henna Uiterloo of Suriname was elected as Rapporteur.

Panel presentations were made by Mr. Franklin McDonald, Dr. LaVerne Ragster, Dr. Leonard Nurse and Mr. Gordon Bispham. Statements were made and questions raised by CEHI, OECS Secretariat, Cuba, St. Lucia, Guyana, Suriname, Barbados, CKLN, CDERA, Trinidad and Tobago, Netherlands Antilles, CARICOM Secretariat and responses were given by the panelists.

Mr. Franklyn McDonald gave an overview of the priorities and continuing needs of the region, focusing in particular on marine, coastal and natural resources. Dr. LaVerne Ragster focused on capacity building possibilities for the region with emphasis on the newly proposed University Consortium. Dr Leonard Nurse elaborated the role of the UWI in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. Mr. Gordon Bispham gave perspectives on the importance of continued civil society participation in the articulation of national strategies towards the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

During discussion, the following were highlighted:

- There are training and capacity building needs at all levels;
- There is also a need to place emphasis on training persons who are actual practitioners;
- There is an absence of a mechanism for best practices and information and skills sharing at the regional level, which has led to the perception that sustainable development was being implemented in a fragmented manner;
- The need for an enhanced reporting mechanism in the region
- The need to revise systems of land classification for environmental planning, improvement of regulatory arrangements for land use management and the enhancement of physical development plans;
- Further development of regional and local area plans for disaster mitigation;
- The need to adhere to existing standards such as building codes;
- Continued attention to coastal zone and water resource management;
- There is need for greater integration of the private sector in sustainable development strategies;
- Importance was given to building economic competitiveness and social resilience, and the need to focus on implementation of the MDGs and poverty reduction plans;

- Consideration of measures to implement the MEAs;
- The need for partnerships between government agencies, private sector and regional Universities for capacity building;
- Consideration should be given to framing sustainable development plans within the CSME. In this regard there is need for further analysis on how the social and environmental programmes will be impacted by the CSME;
- The need to coordinate environmental standards across the region;
- The importance of generating relevant data for decision-making; and
- The need to improve synergies among regional organizations in areas of importance to SIDS.

Consideration of Integrated Approaches to the Implementation of the MSI - Linkages and Synergies between Sectors, using Climate Change, Energy, Atmosphere and Industrial Development as Examples

The session was held on 6 October, and was chaired by the Vice-Chairman. Presentations were made by Ms. Skerritt-Andrews, Dr. Hugh Sealy and Professor Albert Henry Binger. Statements were made and questions raised by Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia, Haiti, CCA, CEHI, Guyana, CCSF, UNDP, CCST, CARICOM Secretariat, ECLAC-POS, CWC, and ACS Secretariat.

Ms Shirley Skerritt-Andrew and Dr. Hugh Sealy described the experiences of St Kitts and Nevis and Barbados in their implementation of a national mechanism for the implementation of a national sustainable development strategy. Their experiences underscored the following:

- The importance of an integrated rather than sectoral approach to programming for sustainable development;
- The challenges of limited human resource capacity in specialized fields such as GIS, building management and environmental impact assessment;
- Note was made that CARICOM has a technical assistance programme, subsumed under the Work Programme of the CSME. This is an entry point that could be expanded to take on board the needs of sustainable development, as noted by the meeting.
- The need for reconciling policymaking functions with practical implementation;
- The continuing need for financial resources and the national level;

- The desirability of establishing a pool of regional experts for deployment on short term assignments in the service of national governments;
- The importance of developing national sustainable development policies The Barbados Model was based on the following principles and objectives: quality of life; conservation of resources – recognizing that there are bio-physical limits to growth; determining the carrying capacity of the island; ensuring economic efficiency and equity It should also ensure true participation of all stakeholders;
- The importance of developing sustainable development indicators.

Professor Binger discussed the importance of maximizing synergies among sectors to build resilience in small states, using as example the energy, tourism, agriculture, wastewater and land management. He also discussed the importance to SIDS of improving energy efficiency and on developing alternate energy sources, with emphasis on OTEC. He noted that SIDS tend to discount the vast resource that the oceans offer as an energy option. He also presented a case study on the use of sugar cane as biofuel for electricity production. He highlighted the importance of cutting import expenses for fuel which would in turn lead to social and economic benefits. SIDS should carry out energy audits, resource evaluation and energy usage profiles. They should assess and take action on the most suitable renewable energy and energy efficiency measures available. OTEC and biomass were in his view the most promising applications, but there is also ample scope for using simple solar applications.

Consideration of a Regional Mechanism/Consultative Framework for Most Effective, Coordinated, Coherent Implementation of The Implementation of the BPOA/MSI

The session was held on 6 October, and was chaired by the Vice-Chairman. Presentations were made by Mr. Arthur Gray (ECLAC-POS) and Ms. Glenda Itiaba (CARICOM Secretariat). Statements were made and questions raised by Trinidad and Tobago, ACS Secretariat, CEHI, Guyana, CSTC, CCSF, CPDC, CDERA, ECLAC-POS, CRNM, and CCA.

The session was continued on 7 October, and was chaired by the Vice-Chairman. Statements were made and questions raised by St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Montserrat, Guyana, Netherlands Antilles, Cuba, OECS Secretariat, UWI, CDERA, CPDC, Grenada, CCA, CCSF, ECLAC-POS and CARICOM Secretariat.

The presentations from ECLAC-POS and CARICOM Secretariat described the region's experience in attempting to establish a permanent regional coordinating mechanism to support national implementation of sustainable development and the Barbados Programme of Action. They made recommendations on possible approaches for the creation of a new mechanism.

The meeting reaffirmed that there was need for a regional coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the BPOA/MSI. It should be pan-Caribbean in scope, and should mirror national coordination efforts and reflect national priorities. Some functions of the mechanism were discussed such as coordination of implementation across the region through liaison with governments and agencies, provision of advice on global and regional sustainable development issues for governments, agencies and civil society, identification of transboundary issues for the region, and supporting national implementation via technical and other resources, arranging and coordinating consultative meetings. Furthermore, there was a need to establish commonly agreed sustainable development indicators to be utilized by the mechanism for reporting and monitoring purposes.

It was noted that there should be a clear political directorate for oversight, as well as a need for agreement on the functions of the mechanism, to identify gaps in the region. The very serious issues of coordination at the national level and reporting need to be addressed

It was noted that SIDS and regional agencies should apply the MSI to their current activities and development plans. It was suggested that a meeting could convene at end of CARICOM Council as a Caribbean sustainable development council. Other alternatives could also be explored. It was concluded that the mechanism needs to be financially sustainable and properly resourced. Finally it was emphasized that the mechanism should promote cooperation among the countries of the region.

A core group was established for considering elements for the new mechanism, with the following members: ACS Secretariat, ECLAC-POS, CARICOM Secretariat, OECS Secretariat, United States Virgin Islands, St Lucia, Belize (not present), Cuba, Jamaica, Guyana, CCA (facilitating and coordinating with NGOs, CAIC and CCL). The recommendations of the core group are attached in Annex 2.

Consideration of National Mechanisms and Frameworks for Most Effective Implementation of the BPOA/MSI

The session was held on 7 October, and was chaired by the Vice-Chairman. Statements were made by Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica, Guyana and St. Lucia. A number of countries presented their experiences with national coordination of sustainable development issues. Key principles identified for constructive processes include transparency, inclusiveness of all stakeholders, and adequate resources. Some countries emphasized that sustainable development principles had been included in their national planning processes, including consideration of cultural aspects to development. While there were many best practices identified, it was recognized that each individual country must adapt these according to its national circumstances.

Consideration of Programmes for Operationalization of the MSI with focus on Regional and Sub-Regional Programming based on Priorities Identified by the

Region.

The session was held on 7 October, and was chaired by the Chairman. Presentations were made by the CARICOM Secretariat and UNDESA.

A chart describing the operationalization structure proposed by UNDESA is attached as Annex 3.

Statements were made and questions raised by United States Virgin Islands, Guyana and Cuba.

Conclusion of the meeting

The session was held on 7 October, and was chaired by the Chairman. The report of the meeting was presented by the Rapporteur. Statements were made and questions raised by CPDC and Netherlands Antilles. A clarification was given by the Secretariat. The Chairman proposed that the report of the meeting be adopted by acclamation and that the Rapporteur be entrusted with completing the editing of the report supported by the secretariats, for subsequent circulation to all participants.

CARICOM also circulated their document on “Partnerships for sustainable development in the Caribbean Region” which documented a series of partnership proposals developed by the region in preparation for the Mauritius International Meeting. A Youth caucus representative presented a statement on behalf of civil society participants, which is included as annex 4.

The Chairman thanked the organizers and declared the meeting closed.

Annex 1
List of participants

Antigua and Barbuda

Gillian Joseph
1st Secretary
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Ato Lewis
Ministry of Environment

Bahamas

Tishka H. Fraser
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Barbados

Hugh Sealy
Chairman
National Commission on Sustainable Development

Cuba

Hector Conde Almeida
Deputy Director
International Cooperation Department
CITMA

Dominica

H.E. Ambassador Crispin Gregoire
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Dominican Republic

H.E. Ambassador Leonardo Antonio Abreu
Economic Advisor

Grenada

Christopher Joseph
Ministry of Health

Guyana

Navin Chandarpal
Presidential Adviser

Haiti

William Exantus
Minister Counselor
Permanent Mission of Haiti to the UN

Jamaica

Rohan Richards
Director Environmental Management
Division Ministry of Land & Environment

Montserrat

Sarita Francis
Permanent Secretary
Office of Chief Minister

Netherland Antilles

Roland Antonius
Ministerial Advisor

Puerto Rico

Josefina A. Gonzalez
Special Assistant
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board

St. Kitts and Nevis

Kaye Bass
Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Denese Berridge
Community & Social Development Officer
Department of Community & Social Development

John Charles
Education Planner
Ministry of Education

Tehara Clarke
Economist
Ministry of Sustainable Development

Randolph Edmeade
Senior Environmental Officer
Ministry of Environment

Clifford Griffin
Administrative Officer
Ministry of Health

Carl Herbert

National Disaster Coordinator
NEMA

Amicia Mussenden
Chief Policy Analyst
Ministry of Sustainable Development

Carlisle Richardson
Counsellor
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Ernie Stapleton
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Physical Planning & Environment

Ghislane Williams
Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Patrick Williams
Physical Planning Department
Senior Physical Planning Officer

Shirley Skerritt-Andrews
Senior Project Analyst
Ministry of Sustainable Development

Lillith Richards
Director
Planning Department

St. Lucia
Marcia Philbert Jules
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Physical Development Environment & Housing

Michelle Joseph
2nd Secretary
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Earl Paynter
Asst. Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commerce & Trade

Decimal C. Corea

Senior Economist / Planner

Suriname

Henna Uiterloo

Ministry of Labour, Technology, Development and Environment

Trinidad and Tobago

Sarah Briggs

Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment

United States Virgin Islands

Dr. Carlyle Corbin

Minister of State for External Affairs

Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

Diane Quarless

Chief, SIDS Unit

Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson

SIDS Unit

Espen Ronneberg

SIDS Unit

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Neil Pierre

Director, ECLAC Port of Spain

Authur A. Gray

Regional Economic Affairs

Anthony Mitchell

Research Assistant

United Nations Development Programme

Rosina Wilshire

Resident Representative

Barbados

United Nations Environment Programme

Dr. Mark D. Griffith

Senior Programme Officer

UNEP / ROLAC

Franklin J. McDonald

Adviser
UNEP CEP

Association of Caribbean States
Luis Carpio
Director Transport National Disaster

Caribbean Community Secretariat
Patricia Stevenson
Clerk / Stenographer
Caricom Secretariat

Glenda Itiaba
Special Assistant to the Secretary General

Jacquelyn Joseph
Director Human Development

Garfield Barnwell

Caribbean Environment Health Institute
Patricia Aquing
Programme Director

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat
Dr Vasantha Chase
Director Social & Sustainable Development

Valarie Isaac-St. Hill
Programme Officer

Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
Dr. Claudius Preville
Trade Policy Advisor

Caribbean Water Partnership
Jacob Opadeyi
Vice Chairman

Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
Hollis Charles
CCST Representative

Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network
Ken Sylvester
Chief Executive Officer

NGO Representatives

Joan Grant-Cummings

Coalition for Community Participation in Governance Coordinators, Jamaica

Stephanie Hutchinson

NGO Women's Resource & Out Reach Centre Manager, Jamaica

Suzanne Nunez

The Network of NGO'S of Trinidad & Tobago for the Advancements of Women

Annex 2

Recommendations of the Core Group Regarding the RCM

Core Group Membership

Member States

- Belize – Not present - membership to be confirmed by Belize
- Cuba
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia
- U S Virgin Islands - current Chair of CDCC

ECLAC/CDCC

OECS Secretariat

CARICOM Secretariat

ACS Secretariat – not present

CCA

1. With respect to the guiding principles and proposed objectives, it was agreed that:
 - The CARICOM-OECS and the ECLACC/CDCC Submissions would be merged, taking on board the comments from Member States during the discussions.
 - The merged document – to be called the Interim Report on the RCM - would be completed by 21 October for circulation to Member States and to facilitate the preparation of briefs for Ministers and other Officials attending the (UNEP) Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Venezuela in October/November 2005;
 - The opportunity of the UNEP Meeting should be taken for further discussions among Caribbean SIDS on the Interim Report.

2. As regards the Structure of the RCM, the Core Group agreed that;

Taking on board the recommendations of Member States and bearing in mind the Pan-Caribbean scope of the RCM Membership,

- The Secretariat functions for the RCM would be performed, in the first instance, by the CDCC Secretariat. The RCM Secretariat would work collaboratively with the Core Group;

- The Core Group should continue to provide coordination services to the RCM Secretariat in the form of a Coordinating Committee. This Committee should be formally established at the time of the CDCC Ministerial Meeting to be held in January 2006. Its functions will be elaborated on in a report which will be submitted to Member States for comment by mid-November with a view to finalization in time for consideration and endorsement at the CDCC meeting.

To facilitate the smooth functioning of the RCM at the national level, the Core Group recommends that steps be taken to identify national focal points. To this end, Terms of Reference of the focal points will be elaborated in the report to be submitted to Member States in mid November with a view to finalization in time for consideration and endorsement at the CDCC Meeting.

3. With respect to the recommendations set out in decision 4 of the Fourteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama, November 2003),

The Core Group underscores that the Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development being established through this MSI implementation process is being created on the basis of a "... well-established, well defined regional co-ordinatory mechanism.." as articulated in decision 2(e) which calls for "Support for a well-established, well defined regional co-ordinatory mechanism for the further implementation of the BPoA."

The Core Group therefore:

- Calls on UNEP to lend support to the RCM
- Agrees that it would be critical for the RCM to collaborate with UNEP and other Agencies in the implementation of the RCM's Work Programme

Annex 3
UNDESA operationalization structure

Annex I: Matrix of Actions to Operationalize the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation

SECTOR	MANDATED INITIATIVES	UN SYSTEM PARTNERS
CLIMATE CHANGE	national and regional initiatives on adaptation to climate change; support for the development and or transfer of appropriate technology to address climate change adaptation and mitigation; and support for the formulation and implementation of CDM Projects.	GEF, UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat
ENERGY RESOURCES	programmes to enhance energy efficiency and further develop renewable energy options; support for the formulation and implementation of integrated and interdisciplinary bio-energy policies and programmes; promotion of public/private partnerships and market oriented approaches in diversifying energy sources. Support from regional development banks; implementation of public awareness programmes in communities and among stakeholder groups on the impact of fossil fuel based energy use on the environment; support for training programmes to change traditional attitudes in the use of energy, to promote wider use of renewable energy sources; and support for the establishment of regulatory frameworks and supportive public policies regarding the development and use of renewable energy.	FAO, UNDP/GEF, UNEP, UNESCO
NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS	support for SIDS effort to build human, technical and managerial capacities for disaster reduction and prevention; strengthening of national capacity for natural disaster preparation, response, mitigation and rehabilitation; review of regional mechanisms and establishment	FAO, ISDR, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat

SECTOR	MANDATED INITIATIVES	UN SYSTEM PARTNERS
	/strengthening of early warning capacity; increased public education and awareness on disaster preparedness and mitigation measures; design and implementation of interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral partnerships in national environment management plans; mainstreaming risk management in the planning process; and support for SIDS review and reform of the insurance sector to strengthen response to natural disasters.	
MANAGEMENT OF WASTE	identification of cost-effective, environmentally sound waste management systems; exploration of innovative mechanisms to finance waste management initiatives; strengthening of national and regional regulatory regimes; and promotion of reduction, re-use and recycling strategies.	UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat
COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES	support for national efforts to complete the delimitation of maritime boundaries; support for the completion of Continental Shelf Claims; programmes to strengthen the monitoring, reporting, enforcement and control of fishing vessels, so as to reduce the incidence of IUU fishing; acquisition and installation of surveillance and monitoring systems; support for efforts for early ratification of/accession to relevant Fishing Agreements; and support for the design and implementation of integrated policies for the management of MPA, coral reefs and related marine ecosystems.	FAO, UNEP, UNESCO
FRESHWATER RESOURCES	support capacity development in water quality and water demand management; programmes to improve infrastructure for water catchment, storage and distribution; programmes to strengthen sanitation and sewerage systems; and design and implementation of strategies to contain pollution, including through public awareness campaigns.	FAO, UNEP, UNESCO

SECTOR	MANDATED INITIATIVES	UN SYSTEM PARTNERS
LAND RESOURCES	programmes and legislation to improve land management and strengthen land tenure; programmes to reduce watershed and land degradation; implement sustainable forest management strategies to reduce forest degradation and loss; support strategies to enhance food security and promote agricultural diversification; support national and regional research initiatives in the use of appropriate technology, particularly for small farmers; strengthen agricultural extension services; support the development of aquaculture; support the development of early warning systems to monitor food security; and programmes to improve food processing, marketing, product development and quality control.	FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO,
BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES	support for control of the primary pathways for potential invasive alien species; support for the development of local capacity to protect and effectively use traditional knowledge; educate and build community capacity to protect and conserve indigenous species and their habitats; and support the development in SIDS of natural resource accounting systems.	CBD, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION	programmes to support increased ICT literacy and skills development; support for the development of ICT community multimedia centres and for the creation of subregional hubs; support low-tech communication mechanisms for rural and remote locations; support increased local content and applications; programmes to bridge the digital divide especially in rural communities; develop/strengthen postgraduate programmes in ICT; develop information systems and data bases; explore strategies to exploit opportunities in areas like e-commerce, telemedicine, distance learning, sharing of best practices; and assist SIDS in the	UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO

SECTOR	MANDATED INITIATIVES	UN SYSTEM PARTNERS
	development and strengthening of intellectual property laws.	
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION	support national strategies to promote comprehensive access to primary education; support programmes for on-the-job training and adult education; support regional and national programmes to promote technical and vocational education; strengthen distance learning arrangements; improve teacher training programmes; explore the establishment of/participation in Regional Centres of Excellence; support for the SIDS University Consortium initiative; development of programmes to engage the human, technical and financial support of the SIDS Diaspora; and support programmes to strengthen SIDS national and regional NGO networks and civil society structures.	
HEALTH	review/strengthen strategies to control HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases; support the pursuit of partnerships for programmes to combat HIV/AIDS; support for enhanced data collection on demographic and epidemiological trends; support public health strategies and public awareness campaigns to reduce incidence of non-communicable diseases, and enhance immunization programmes; and programmes to support the development/appropriate use of traditional medicines.	
CULTURE	assist SIDS efforts to strengthen national policies and legislative frameworks to support and protect cultural industries; support capacity building to promote cultural industries in music, art, festivals, theatre, film and cultural tourism among others; support the development of measures to improve institutional capacity for marketing cultural products; support the development of capacity in	UNESCO, UNCTAD

SECTOR	MANDATED INITIATIVES	UN SYSTEM PARTNERS
	<p>SIDS for rights management and for patent, trademark and copyright administration to protect all forms of creative innovation; assist SIDS in implementation of legislation to protect indigenous intellectual property; support programmes to protect natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including public-private partnerships; encourage community based participation in policy-making to safeguard cultural heritage; assist SIDS in the preservation of local languages through locally developed curricula; assist SIDS strategies to improve the management and maintenance of cultural and natural heritage sites; support programmes to record traditional knowledge and preserve customary cultural values, traditions and practices; support the development of programmes to teach and transmit traditional community values to infuse basic education with local and indigenous knowledge; and programmes to support strategies to attract increased venture capital for small and medium sized cultural enterprises and to promote the establishment of culture support funds in SIDS.</p>	
GOVERNANCE	<p>support for the design and implementation of national sustainable development strategies in SIDS; support for efforts to strengthen community involvement in decision-making, planning and programme development; support for programmes enhancing a participatory approach to sustainable development with civil society; support SIDS strategies to enhance the representation of women in decision-making at all levels; programmes to more actively engage corporate and other private sector actors in sustainable</p>	<p>FAO, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat</p>

SECTOR	MANDATED INITIATIVES	UN SYSTEM PARTNERS
	development; promotion of public-private partnerships; strengthen regional mechanisms in support of sustainable development in SIDS; and identify/design programmes for SIDS-SIDS, South- South cooperation, particularly in sharing of best practices, capacity development and transfer of appropriate technology.	
TRADE AND FINANCE	provide technical assistance in support of SIDS efforts to prepare for WTO accession; assist SIDS in analyzing the impact of trade liberalization, with a view to implementing appropriate adjustment strategies and enhancing their competitiveness in international markets; support product diversification and the development of niche markets; support through research and analysis SIDS advocacy towards ensuring that their environmental vulnerability is appropriately taken into consideration by the multilateral trading system; support the development and strengthening of legal, regulatory and physical infrastructure to assist SIDS in promoting a domestic environment conducive to entrepreneurship; support the design and implementation of measures to strengthen the private sector and promote micro-enterprise; support the establishment of innovative financial mechanisms to respond to the structural disadvantages of SIDS; capacity building to strengthen SIDS participation in international trade negotiations at the national and regional levels; strengthen SIDS institutional capacity to develop trade-related policies and relevant regulatory measures; assist in the analysis and formulation of policies and the development of infrastructure required to address issues relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures	FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO

SECTOR	MANDATED INITIATIVES	UN SYSTEM PARTNERS
	(SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT); support research and analysis toward re-examination of the criteria for graduation from LDC status, taking into consideration the special vulnerabilities of SIDS; analysis of SIDS debt sustainability to support effective debt management; and assist SIDS in the design and implementation of programmes to encourage foreign investment and facilitate remittances.	
OTHER ISSUES	support SIDS strategies to expand employment opportunities for youth and the poor; support SIDS strategies to expand education opportunities for youth and the poor; support the integration of the MDGs into the planning and development processes of SIDS; and assist SIDS in strengthening legislative framework and in implementing regulatory and other measures to address their security needs.	UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO

Annex 4

Civil Society Statement at the Caribbean Regional Meeting to Follow-Up On Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy October 5-7, 2005

We thank the government and the people of St. Kitts and Nevis for their warm hospitality, and we thank those governments, CARICOM, and UN agencies especially UNIFEM and UNDP, for facilitating and supporting our participation.

We Caribbean civil society representatives, participating in these deliberations, have produced this statement, focusing on some priority issues and recommendations.

We reiterate our commitment to working with the governments in our respective countries towards incorporating sustainable development principles in our daily activities. We have journeyed with our governments on these issues since Rio and we are still here, committed and focused in our efforts to achieve the sustainable development of SIDS.

We are pleased with the movement of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) towards action with Caribbean SIDS and we are heartened by the current presence of the head of UNEP in the region, notably his very recent discussions not only with the Prime Minister of Jamaica but also with a broad cross-section of Jamaican civil society. We also continue to be appreciative of the efforts of the SIDS Unit to include us in the process. We also congratulate warmly CARICOM's introduction of the Sustainable Development Programme with a desk and warm body in the person of Mr. Garfield Barnwell and other colleagues. Such a focal point is a strong indication that CARICOM intends to take the issue of Sustainable Development forward.

The deliberations over the last three days have raised some 'old' issues and have also presented us with hints of new ways of planning, preparing for and managing the risks to our sustainable development. We are pleased to hear of the progress being made with: the University Consortium; the active role of the UWI; the development of CKLN, and the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands. We also take energy and strength from the developments in the OECS and the bold vision of St. Kitts and Nevis in their 'post-sugar' era.

We are however disappointed that the 4th pillar of sustainable development, that of Culture, has not yet been mentioned and accorded the importance it deserves as key to the implementation strategy, in particular with regards to sustainable livelihoods, and the distinct identity of our people.

Civil society strongly urges our governments to strengthen or develop strong, inclusive, effective, and efficient national coordinating mechanisms that feed into an equally

effective, efficient and inclusive regional coordinating mechanism. The development of the Barbados Sustainable Development Council as a national mechanism is one example of a possible national mechanism; we urge colleague governments to move in a similar direction as a possible means of developing a National Coordination Mechanism. In these deliberations we urge that in the establishment of the RCM, the strengthening of and respect for the work that regional organizations have been doing on our behalf, in many cases tirelessly and without recognition, be in our minds at all times.

Colleagues, civil society is committed to working with our governments and development partners on the further implementation of the BPOA/MSI. In this regard, a non-negotiable part of the framework for implementation is the meaningful, active, and inclusive participation of civil society. Civil society must be represented in any mechanism national or regional for it to be relevant, workable or successful. In too many of our states, alienation, isolation and apathy towards the political process reign in the minds of our people. A people-centred approach to development and SIDS-SIDS cooperation are fundamental to these mechanisms.

Governments need to live up to their commitment to include civil society as stakeholders in all spheres of planning; implementation; monitoring and evaluation of programmes and mechanisms, including the development of benchmarks and indicators.

The 10 year review process revealed a deep lack of awareness of the BPOA within all of our countries among our peoples. A strong public awareness and education process must be put in place, in order to ensure that the energies, innovation, expertise, capacities and resilience of our people will inform and work towards the success of the BPOA/MSI.

Colleagues, there are many issues and competing priorities that we must attend to. However, we believe that some issues have to be prioritized. From our perspective we believe that the future is now in regards to some issues ; these include acting boldly on the issue of renewable energy with all its implications for poverty eradication, food security, social cohesion, cultural identity, industry, and sustainable livelihoods; the HIV and AIDS pandemic and its impact on social development, gender equality, health, poverty and sustainable livelihoods; climate change and sea level rise – the implications for land use, industry, sustainable livelihoods; the use of science and technology to advance our development and the implementation of participatory governance.

Agriculture is critical to sustainable development of our region, a truth that cannot be over-emphasized at trade negotiations, including the upcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting

Calling to mind the commitment made by Caribbean governments to the development and implementation of A Gender Impact Assessment of the BPOA to be led by UNIFEM, we strongly urge you to live up to this commitment.

Youth empowerment, gender equality, and inclusion of the poor in decision-making all form part of the framework for successful sustainable development. Capacity building has a key role to play in achieving success.

We urge our governments not to act within the narrow confines of partisan political goals, but to demonstrate their capacity to effect a bold inclusive and participatory vision towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean SIDS.

Civil society's lifelong work is the creation of a resilient, self-reliant, socially cohesive, and equality-based Caribbean society where equal rights and justice prevail. We strongly urge our governments to journey with us towards this goal.