

**THE AIMS REGIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW-UP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY**
Seychelles, 26-28th October 2005

The AIMS Regional Meeting to Follow-up on Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy was convened in Seychelles from 26th to 28th October 2005 at the Plantation Club Hotel, Baie Lazare. The meeting was attended by Cape Verde, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Singapore, the Indian Ocean Commission (COI), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UNESCO, UNAIDS, FAO, Global Forum of Oceans, Coasts and Islands, Liaison Unit of NGOs (LUNGOS) and Centre de Documentation et Recherche et Formation indianocéanique (CEDREFI). The meeting noted the absence of Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe whose participation was expected. The meeting also noted that Bahrain, Cyprus and Malta had expressed through their Permanent Representatives to the UN the wish not to be represented. The donor community were invited by UNDESA to attend but were not represented. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

The meeting was convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/311 calling inter alia for the three regional follow-up meetings.

The opening session was chaired by Mr Claude Morel, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Statements were made by Ms. Diane Quarless, Chief of the SIDS Unit, (UNDESA), Madame Monique Andreas-Esoavelomandroso, Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (COI), and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles, His Excellency The Honourable Patrick Pillay. The statements are attached in annex 2 of the report.

Mr Claude Morel, Seychelles was elected Chairman of the Meeting, Cape Verde was elected Vice-Chairman, Mauritius was elected as Rapporteur with support from Seychelles, COI and UNDESA.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and evaluate progress in the region and instill a renewed resolve for taking action on the sustainable development priorities for the AIMS region.

Session 1 – Setting the Scene

The session was held on the 26th October, and was facilitated by Mr Claude Morel, MFA. The objective of the first session was to review priorities and mechanisms for implementing the UN MS at national, regional international and levels.

Presentations were made by Ms Diane Quarless (UNDESA, UN SIDS Unit) and Madame Monique Andreas-Esoavelomandroso Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (COI), and brief national updates were given by country participants.

Statements and questions raised by Mauritius, Seychelles, Cape Verde, Comoros, Singapore, Maldives, COI, FAO, UNESCO and CEDREFI.

It was recalled that the SIDS themselves are primarily responsible for implementing BPOA and MSI, but require in the process the effective support of the donor community and relevant IGOs.

The role of the UN system should also be considered for how best support should be mobilized for the implementation of the MSI. The Inter-regional SIDS Meeting to be held in Rome in November 2005 would in this context constitute an important opportunity for the region. It was also recommended that the Rome meeting be discussed in the context of developing proposals for AIMS regional and national action, so that priority activities and projects/programmes could be brought forward. Rome will also give important consideration to SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

While the AIMS region is very diverse with historic, geographic and social differences of the Member States, there are many similarities in the impacts of the challenges faced by the AIMS SIDS that draw the group together in cooperation for sustainable development.

It was noted that improvements in communication between AIMS is needed and the process to develop a coordinating mechanism needs to take this into account, as well as having a process for effective resource mobilization. It was reaffirmed that COI has been playing an important coordinating role as the interim secretariat, yet is constrained by resources in further expanding services. The AIMS website has been launched through the COI structures. It was noted that the COI have proposed to utilize this information portal to publish an AIMS regional bulletin. Consideration should be given to also entrusting this portal as the regional hub for SIDSNet.

The challenges faced by AIMS SIDS are far greater than many of them can tackle by themselves and would thus clearly benefit from cooperation and inter-SIDS solidarity. Issues such as natural disasters and climate change are often beyond AIMS SIDS means.

Noting that the UN GA at its 59th session has now endorsed the MSI, and given a mandate to the UN system to ensure that the MSI is implemented in a coordinated manner, there is a need for the SIDS regions to articulate their concerns. The UN agencies have been constituted in an Inter-agency Consultative Group (IACG) chaired by DESA, and focal points were encouraged to be established in each of the UN agencies.

Participants noted that OHRLLS has a mandate in support of SIDS, but is strictly circumscribed to advocacy for SIDS, while DESA/DSD has responsibility through the SIDS Unit on substantive matters. It was agreed that as a matter of priority and in accordance with GA resolutions substantial strengthening of the SIDS Unit would be pursued at the highest levels, including at the Rome meeting, as would be the need for coordination of the SIDS Unit with OHRLLS, in such a way that OHRLLS advocacy would be informed by the concerns and challenges of the SIDS regions, in particular the AIMS region.

Many delegations continued to express concern at the lack of international support for

SIDS, which requires greater commitment from the UN and its specialized agencies and a strengthening of national and regional mechanisms. It was stressed that national and regional mechanisms would be enhanced with concomitant improvement in the international level coordination and cooperation for SIDS.

It was also recommended that in defining the regional support mechanism for AIMS consideration of linking AIMS to the UN system should be pursued. The region should also review how the specialized agencies can and are contributing to sustainable development in AIMS. Channels of communication between AIMS and the UN system should be reviewed with a view to improvement.

The national dialogue highlighted the need to establish or strengthen national processes for sustainable development and called for technical and financial support to such processes, as well as sharing of information of experiences and best practices through the COI portal. In many cases while there is a committee structure at national level for sustainable development there is a need to amend the functioning of such committees to become more of an executive board or executive body with both technical skills and access to funds to achieve targets for sustainable development. This would ensure the linking of for example national road maps for sustainable development to government policy, and for promoting inter-ministerial cooperation. It was also noted that cooperation modalities such as the Seychelles post-tsunami reconstruction and relief efforts could be of interest to the other SIDS.

The Singapore technical assistance program is being extended in the multiplicity of areas within which Singapore has expertise for another 5 years as SIDSTecII (for details see www.mfa.gov.sg/scp/).

It was noted that a number of projects are being launched in support of the MSI, as exemplified by the UNESCO continuing work on education for sustainable development and the work of other international organization. Clarifications were sought as to the degree to which international organizations are providing actual financial resources to these projects and initiatives.

Session 2- Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and the Regional Perspective

The session was held on the 26th October, and was facilitated by Dr J. L Roberts (COI). The Objective of this session was to identify how national, regional and international partners can best work together for the pursuit of MDGs and the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. Presentations were made on three models of programme management; 'HIV/ AIDS' by Dr. Joy Backory UNAIDS, 'Disaster Management' by: J.L Roberts and 'Oceans and Coastal Management' by Dr. Nirmal Jivan Shah.

Statements were made and questions raised by Seychelles, Cape Verde, Mauritius, FAO, UNDESA and UNESCO.

It was noted that it would be of interest to AIMS to promote evidence based programme management, and four model papers were presented on different themes highly relevant

to SIDS in this regard, namely:

- Priority setting and MDGs (a deconstruction of the MDG framework): presented by Dr J L Roberts of COI
- Knowledge based approach for the better response to HIV/AIDS: paper presented by Dr Joy Backory on behalf of the COI/AIMS/UNAIDS partnership
- Disaster management: paper presented by Dr J L Roberts on the Commonwealth Secretariat report commissioned following the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
- Oceans and Coastal Management: paper presented on behalf of the Global Forum on Ocean Coasts and islands

In developing evidence based plans it was recognised that there exists a wide range in stages of development of AIMS countries and their capacity for adaptation. This highlights the need to see the limitations of the MDGs as tools for priority setting and resource allocation and hence the need for careful examination of their use in defining fields for cooperative approaches for the AIMS. While MDG implementation would benefit from an evidence based approach to the diagnosis and selection of most appropriate interventions, there should also be consideration of adapting the MDGs to more relevant development goals at national level.

Participants noted that prerequisites for successful implementation of the MDGs and the MSI include clear support from the Member States, the AIMS coordination mechanism and from donors. Consideration should be given to the recruitment of a facilitating team. All AIMS SIDS need to have national focal point who should ideally be a member of a national multisectoral coordination committee/mechanism. Funding support needs to be secured on a predictable basis, and ideally should have at least some national commitment. Regional action frameworks must be clearly linked with regional strategies and actions as well as national priorities and needs. National projects would in many cases not have been eligible for support from international sources, hence the benefit in having regional projects. But regional projects must start with an appropriate acknowledgement of national priorities and needs, and should build on national reports and needs assessments, such as the GEF national capacity self-assessments and the national sustainable development strategies called for at the Mauritius International Meeting.

Participants highlighted the need to establish standing mechanisms at national level to be responsible for implementation of sustainable development. The development of appropriate indicators for gauging progress in implementation would assist building effective institutions and cooperation between AIMS SIDS.

UNESCO and FAO suggested working with NEPAD as a means of making progress with implementing systems for using renewable sources of energy for production and for investment in the agricultural sector. FAO recommended that the SIDS forum promote the implementation of the mid-term investment program in the agricultural sector. UNESCO recommended use of the training program in the Pacific, which shows the

requirements for very particular skills for delineating claims to exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and for settling boundary issues.

The creation of a AIMS panel experts for deployment in the region and for staff training was also suggested.

Session 3 – Institutions and Co-ordination

The session was held on the 27th October, and was facilitated by Dr.J.L Roberts (COI). The objective of this session was to review the planning, financing and management mechanisms for implementing of the MSI, at national, regional and international levels and to note the progress made with the national sustainable development strategies. Presentations were made by Ms. Diane Quarless (UNDESA), Mr Rolph Payet (Seychelles), Ms. Gina Bonne (COI) and short interventions by country participants.

National sustainable development strategies or their equivalent have been called for since Agenda 21, up to WSSD and MIM. The rationale for sustainable development strategies requires balancing the three pillars but also balancing the participation of stakeholders and coordination with government. A model NSDS consists of a coordinated set of participatory and continuously evolving processes of analysis, debate, decision-making, capacity development, planning, investment, monitoring and evaluation, which seeks to integrate the short and long term economic, social and environmental objectives of society, through mutually supportive approaches wherever possible - managing trade offs where this is not possible.

There should be a move starting from a broader awareness of sustainable development through better coherence and coordination in the short term, to full integration of the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental).

To be effective it was recommended that there should be a shift from government control of the sustainable development agenda to a greater engagement with stakeholders (at least partial engagement in the short term) and shared responsibility of implementation.

There should be a shift from sectoral approaches towards the development of cross-sectoral approaches and ultimately to a fully implemented cross-sectoral approach.

The principles of sustainable development should be promoted in ways that everyone can understand.

In the discussion of national circumstances it was noted that while great progress has been made in many AIMS SIDS on the MDG targets there are still challenges such as pockets of poverty and life-style related diseases. There were also certain important cross-cutting issues. These included the need for building capacities and specialization which are difficult to accomplish in small states which may lack tertiary education and professional training institutions. Other gaps in capacity included skills in performance review and the development of effective partnerships between the public and private sectors. New forms of institutional development were necessary to fill these gaps

common to many SIDS. The development of national indicators to track progress in aspects of development peculiar to small states is however a necessary task to more accurately reflect the national circumstances, development needs and progress made.

Sustainable financing could be considered through the establishment of trust funds, but requires a strategy for resource mobilization. More thought needs to be given to the mechanisms for promoting progress towards MDGs and the types of incentives that might be most effective so that people were encouraged to take action rather than viewing changes as an imposition.

It was important to have a legally defined framework for ensuring effective and meaningful participation of all stakeholders in planning and implementation of sustainable development. Consultative processes must take into account the different working procedures of civil society and governments, as well as the changes in personnel that regularly occur in governments and in NGOs.

Consideration of possible regional mechanism

It was noted that the current situation of staffing at COI may only be continued for 10 months. There is a need to mobilize funds for meetings and consultative processes, and this requires a political process and a commitment from the non-COI SIDS to proceed with any proposed programmes. For this reason an operating arrangement may be required to be developed.

It was also important to note that the future political forum for governing the AIMS partnership needs to be made clear. Questions were raised in relation to the differences in membership between COI and AIMS whether it is possible to differentiate the activities of COI for COI alone versus activities of COI in support of AIMS.

It was also noted that there is a need also to get the views of the absent AIMS countries.

It was agreed that technical planning should continue whilst consultation proceeded on the nature and scope of a more formal management agreement for the AIMS Group. There was agreement that three parallel processes would be pursued, namely the development of technical plans for the AIMS Group, proposals for a more formal management framework, and fund raising for implementing the technical programme and to ensure that appropriate participation at a future ministerial meeting can be assured.

COI have prepared options for the content of future technical programmes, but the Group called for a series of political (governance) discussions on future management arrangements. The Group asked the COI to consult the AIMS Group in advance of formal ministerial discussions to finalize a proposal on the future regional programme and management arrangements as per annex 3 of the report.

Session 4 – Work Programmes

The session was held on 27th October. The objective of the session was to identify the common national priorities, to agree on the outline work programme and to propose specific areas for partnership for implementation. Mr. Espen Ronneberg (UNDESA) gave brief information about the University Consortium of the Small Island States, Ms. Gina Bonne (COI) presented options for the AIMS Group Programme and Ms Diane Quarless (UNDESA) on the MSI Matrix.

The University Consortium of the Small Island States (UC-SIS) was noted as an important capacity building opportunity, and progress in the development of near, medium and long term aspects would be circulated to all SIDS.

In terms of the DESA matrix, the participants looked at the actionable mandates and what current programs, or planned activities would arise because of MSI, that could be used as the key information for the SIDS to access resources. Focal points would be established in most agencies, and a commitment given to meeting regularly and updating information. For this purpose the agencies will also have to provide funds.

The comprehensive completed matrix will provide information to the countries and agencies to see where support can be found, provided that the integration of sectors perspective is maintained. Participants also noted the information from UNDP on the changing ethos of assistance away from projects to a more programmatic approach through direct support to government and IGO budgets. There is therefore a need to look at the programme priorities for AIMS with a view to identifying supporting partners in the UN system.

Participants noted that having an AIMS secretariat would also be helpful to ensure that the UN serves the AIMS region more adequately and effectively. It is also important to ensure that there are complementarities in the activities of the different agencies.

Session 5 – Country work programmes and their regional and international support Requirements.

The session was held on 27th October and facilitated by Mr. Rolph Payet (Seychelles) and Dr.JL Roberts (COI). The objective of the session was to introduce the draft work programme Matrix proposed by Seychelles, as a tool for review of the scope and content of national programmes for sustainable development and their regional and international support requirements.

Seven priority issues were identified by the participants – HIV/AIDS, disaster management, water and food security, oceans and coasts, climate change and sea level rise, and trade. Three working groups were established to look at the priorities.

The main issues and actions recommended from the working groups were as follows: Support national efforts to complete the delimitation of maritime boundaries; support programmes to strengthen the monitoring, reporting, enforcement and control of fishing vessels to reduce incidences of IUU fishing; acquisition and installation of surveillance and monitoring equipment; support efforts to early ratification and accession to relevant fishing agreements; support the design and implementation of integrated policies for the management of MPA's; support national and regional initiatives on adaptation to climate

change and appropriate technology; action on the Clean Development Mechanism; review or strengthen national and regional strategies including public education to control and combat HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases taking into account country and regional specificities; seek and enhance partnerships for programmes to combat HIV/AIDS with national, and regional entities with international development partners, relevant UN agencies ie. WHO, UNESCO, UNAIDS; Water: to broaden access to water for all SIDS; to enhance SIDS-SIDS Cooperation; International Community Support for Capacity Building; ntegrated water Resources Management through different initiatives; Food security: Enabling environment for food security, self reliance and agricultural diversification; Seed production & integrated pest management; Promotion of agro-industry; Promotion of aquaculture; Promote research and development and use of modern technologies; Ensure affordable provision of essential nutrition; Management of waste: promote sustainable waste management; best practices & innovative solutions to waste management; control of transboundary movement hazardous waste; disposal of quantity of waste at sea (London Dumping Convention); trade; and natural disasters.

Recommendations of the working groups are detailed in annex 4 and form an integral part of this report.

Session 6 – Way forward

The last session was held on the 28th October. The Objective of this session was to identify the milestones in the process for implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the national, regional and international programmes. Presentations were made by UNDESA SIDS Unit on the main conclusions of the other regional meetings, on the Linkages of the CSD14/15 themes and by FAO on the ministerial meeting on SIDS 18 November 2005.

Statements and questions were made by Mauritius, COI, FAO and UNESCO.

UNDESA presented a summary of the conclusions and recommendation adopted by the Caribbean and Pacific regional meetings.

It was noted that the 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD14) offers an opportunity to highlight the link between climate change, energy, atmosphere and industrial development through innovative options. For example if SIDS themselves show how biofuel can be a substitute for fossil fuel, this promotes to the international community options they can take to decrease the use of fossil fuels that are at present contributing to Climate Change.

Participants acknowledged that energy is a key factor in the sustainable development of SIDS and their levels of foreign exchange. To increasing SIDS resilience to external factors such as oil prices, requires innovation and examination of best practices in making better use of local resources.

Engaging research through SIDS-SIDS partnerships such as the University Consortium can facilitate sharing of experiences and appropriate technologies to promote biofuels.

AIMS SIDS can learn from each other and other SIDS regions. The use of biofuels in the Pacific region is a good example of the feasibility of such initiatives which can be shared. There are many solutions within the AIMS region to sustainable use of resources and substitution for costly imported products and these need to be highlighted. There are many innovative ideas that need to be explored particularly through SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

Participants noted though that all islands are different and there are no single solutions for all. What is important is to promote review of alternative and to stimulate innovation. Participants strongly urged that renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes to be pursued as a matter of priority and called for international support in this regard.

FAO made an introduction to the Special Ministerial event to be held on 18 November 2005 on Food Security and Sustainable Development in SIDS, and highlighted the specific actions undertaken in support of the SIDS. Participants noted FAO's initiatives in the Regional Food Security Programmes in the Pacific and Caribbean regions and requested similar initiative for the AIMS region to be raised in the Ministerial Meeting referred to above.

Conclusion of the meeting

The session was held on 28th October, and was chaired by the Chairman. The report of the meeting was presented by the Rapporteur. Statements were made and questions raised by Seychelles, Mauritius, Cape Verde, Maldives, COI, CEDREFI, FAO, UNAIDS, UNESCO and UNDESA.

The background documentation from the meeting was considered very helpful by the participants, and will be put on a master CD. This will be distributed to participants as well as posted on the AIMS website with hyperlinks to more detailed material available elsewhere (www.coi-inf.org click on AIMS), including the AIMS Synthesis report and the AIO report (now in English, French and Portuguese). In addition, the UN DESA road map provides a timetable of events in the process of implementation from 2005-2006

Singapore, on behalf of all the delegates, thanked the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, and the host Government and the people of Seychelles for the excellent arrangements for the meeting.

Diane Quarless expressed deep appreciation on behalf of UNDESA for the cooperation and excellent conditions for the meeting, thanked the COI and the UN system representatives for their cooperative spirit and wished the delegates safe travel home.

Gina Bonne expressed the thanks of the COI to the Seychelles Government, the UN system colleagues and the delegates for their excellent contributions to a successful meeting.

The Chairman made a closing statement, highlighting the success of the meeting and the

progress achieved, noting the spirit expressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles in his statement, and thanked the organizing committee and Secretariats for their hard work, and declared the meeting closed.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Cape Verde

H.E. Mrs. Maria de Fatima LIMA DA VEIGA, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Cape Verde to the United Nations

Mr. Pedro CARVALHO OLIVEIRA RAMOS
Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries

Comoros

Ms. Amina ALFEINE,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Maldives

Mr. Abdullahi MAJEED
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water

Mr. Mohamed ZUHAIR
Deputy Director, Protected Area Management
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water

Mauritius

Mrs. Sarita MEEHEELAUL
Acting Divisional Environment Officer
Ministry of Environment and National Development

Mr. Mugur VISHWAKARMAH, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
International Trade and Cooperation

Seychelles

H.E. The Hon. Patrick Pillay
Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Ambassador Claude Morel
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Rolph Payet
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Selby Pillay
Director, International Relations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Alain De Comarmond

Director, Environmental Engineering Section
Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

Ms. Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne
International Convention Unit
Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

Daniel A. Rosette
Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

Ms. Jeanette Larue
Environmental Education Unit
Ministry of Education & Youth

Mr. Kenneth Racombo
Economist, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Gerys Cole
Director, Industrial Development
Ministry of Economic Planning and Employment

Singapore

Mr. Navin RAJAGOBAL
Assistant Director International Cooperation (Multilateral)
International Relations Division
Ministry of the Environment & Water Resources

UN AIDS

Dr. Joy Backory
UNDP, Mauritius

UNESCO

Mr. Dirk Troost
Chief/Chef CSI
Coastal Regions and Small Islands

Mr. Marcel K. Tchaou
Programme Specialist (Science), UNESCO Dar es Salaam

FAO

Mr. Martin Smith
Représentant de FAO à Madagascar, Comores, Seychelles, Maurice

Mr. Antoine Marie Moustache
Seychelles Office

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
Diane Quarless
Chief, SIDS Unit

Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson
SIDS Unit

Espen Ronneberg
SIDS Unit

Commission de l'Océan Indien (COI)
Madame Monique Andreas-Esoavelomandroso
Secrétaire Générale

Dr. John L. Roberts
Conseiller en développement durable

Ms. Gina Bonne

Mr. Etienne Denis

Global Forum of Oceans, Coasts and Islands
Dr. Nirmal Jivan Shah
Nature Seychelles

Liaison Unit of NGOs (LUNGOS)
Mrs. Marie-Nella Azemia
Board Member of LUNGOS

Centre de Documentation et Recherche et Formation indianoceanique (CEDREFI)
Mr. Pynee A. Chellapermal
Directeur
CEDREFI

**Annex 2
Speeches**

OPENING STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mr. Patrick PILLAY
Minister for Foreign Affairs Republic of Seychelles**

Ministers,
Members of the National Assembly,
Distinguished delegates and guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Seychelles - in my capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs and in the name of the co-host, my colleague, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources - allow me to welcome you all to this AIMS Regional Meeting which is a timely follow-up to the UN International Meeting which took place early this year in Mauritius.

Before proceeding, I would like to thank all participating countries and express our gratitude to the regional and international organizations for their assistance in making this meeting possible.

Since your arrival, you have probably heard and noticed that Seychelles is now celebrating its 20th Festival Kreol. I think this context is extremely auspicious for our discussions as most of our Small Islands Developing States are also fighting for the preservation, development and promotion of a multicultural heritage which is an essential component of national identity and unity, in our respective countries.

This is even more relevant to us now that UNESCO has adopted a convention aiming at protecting and promoting cultural diversity, both at national level and in international trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are thankful to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, of the United Nations, and to the Commission de l'Océan Indien, for the care with which they constantly revisit and update the concept of SIDS, and ensure that our philosophy and common rationale are consistent with the way SIDS are perceived and mobilized together in other fora, especially in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

I mentioned UNESCO earlier as this organization has been advocating - for some time already - the case of Small Islands Developing States, putting the weight of its

international stature in the debates.

I also want to pay a tribute to other organizations active in this field, in particular La Francophonie, the Commonwealth, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries and the FAO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do believe regional and international organizations are primarily aimed at channeling and networking solidarity.

Today, solidarity is the emerging strength of developing countries and this is particularly true in the case of small islands.

I also believe that South-South solidarity has been for too long the *missing link* between what we should do by ourselves and what we can expect from the developed countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All priority areas on our agenda for this three-day meeting are areas in which active cooperation requires a considerable amount of solidarity, in terms of political momentum and in terms of management of resources.

This can be explained by the very simple reason that so many among the challenges we are now facing are out of proportion with what we can do alone, or in an isolated manner, with our limited national resources.

Never before, to such an extent, has it been vital to assess not just the risk but also the absorption capacity of our natural environment to external shocks, as a consequence of climate change, be it under the form of temperature or sea-level rise or any kind of disaster.

This absorption capacity is the combination of various parameters aimed at making a response possible, at anticipating such response and - as in the case of disasters - at initiating a recovery process, based on shared information and knowledge, as well as technical support and collective preparedness to act.

As far as the resources of our land and marine territories are concerned - and the way we use and at the same time try to preserve these resources, through food security programs, trade and economic diversification, energy policies and tourism, among others - we do have to continue exchanging views on common priorities for action, and this remains central to our reflections together.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

New threats require new ways of thinking, of thinking globally to act locally and regionally, each time we are confronted to unpredictable, irrational or unfair situations.

- We are all exposed to unpredictable events, and here in Seychelles, as you know, we were hit by the 12/26 tsunami followed by days of torrential rain. And without sounding alarmist we do realize we need to be ready to adjust our way of life to the cruel reality of such events occurring in our immediate vicinity and on our own shores.
- We are also exposed to irrational events, which are the negation of our modern conception of human dignity and human freedom. I am referring here to the criminal logic of terrorism and I have in mind its implications which may unsettle our fragile economies and also affect in a very pernicious way the social fabric of our communities.
- Finally we are exposed to unfair situations.
 - In some islands states, it results from the lack of human and financial resources to fight poverty and HIV/AIDS.
 - In other islands states, it is linked with inequity in market access and international trade negotiations.
 - For some island states like Seychelles, which are now undertaking prudent macroeconomic reforms and adopting debt management policies to put right their economies, step by step, it results from the refusal by some developed countries to understand development assistance as a responsible time-consuming process ending when an economy really takes off, not half-way.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

La Réunion Internationale des Nations Unies qui s'est tenue à l'Ile Maurice au début de cette année a sans aucun doute donné une nouvelle impulsion au suivi du Plan d'Action de la Barbade.

Nous avons pris ensemble la mesure des forces et des faiblesses qui sont les nôtres, Petits Etats Insulaires en Voie de Développement.

Si la Barbade, en 1994, a donné une direction à notre action, Maurice a permis de faire le point et de dresser un rapport d'étape.

Il importe aujourd'hui que nous finalisions la mise en œuvre de ce qui a été arrêté en

janvier.

Il importe aussi que nous adoptions un programme réaffirmant notre adhésion au principe d'une approche régionale des objectifs des Petits Etats Insulaires en Voie de Développement

Dans de très nombreux domaines, le dénominateur commun de ces objectifs, est de pouvoir être atteints de façon plus performante et plus durable, au niveau régional.

Cela est vrai dans les secteurs prioritaires que j'ai déjà évoqués.

Cela est également vrai dans ces autres secteurs qui touchent aux transports et à la communication, aux transferts de technologies et finalement à l'ensemble des registres dans lesquels nous avons besoin les uns des autres pour donner individuellement le meilleur de nous mêmes.

Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre d'être les retardataires – et encore moins les oubliés - de la mondialisation et c'est en parlant d'une même voix et en nous appuyant sur notre représentativité régionale que nous réaffirmons notre crédibilité et que nous amenons la communauté internationale à mieux tenir compte de nos spécificités et de nos droits.

Il nous appartient ensemble de proposer les partenariats dont nous avons besoin dans la mise en œuvre de ce programme issu des travaux de Maurice et de nos travaux ici, aux Seychelles.

Je ne saurais trop redire l'importance que nous attachons à ce type de coopération avec les organisations régionales, les bailleurs de fonds, le système des Nations Unies et la société civile, en générale.

Ce n'est qu'avec leur appui que nous pouvons, nous, petits états insulaires, nous approprier notre avenir et notre développement.

Je souhaite donc plein succès à vos travaux et c'est avec beaucoup de plaisir et d'intérêt que je déclare cette réunion « ouverte ».

Merci de votre attention.



Discours de Mme la Secretary General de la COI pour la réunion du groupe AIMS des PEID au Seychelles (26-28 octobre 2005)

Mesdames et messieurs les Ministres,
Mesdames et messieurs les Représentants des pays du groupe AIMS,
Distingués invités,

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi, d'être parmi vous aujourd'hui pour participer à la réunion régionale du groupe AIMS, pour la préparation d'un plan d'action au niveau national et régional, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de Maurice.

Tout d'abord, je tiens à exprimer toute ma reconnaissance au gouvernement et au peuple Seychellois pour leur accueil chaleureux et pour leur hospitalité depuis notre arrivée dans cette belle île de Mahé.

Excellences, mesdames et messieurs,

Ensemble, nous avons parcouru un long chemin depuis le Sommet de la Terre de Rio jusqu'à la conférence de Maurice en janvier 2005. Et cette semaine, nous sommes aux Seychelles pour évaluer le chemin parcouru au cours de ces 9 mois de travail intenses.

Vous savez que le groupe AIMS est issu d'une région particulière, et qui a sa propre spécificité, parmi les Petits Etats Insulaires en Développement (PEID). En effet, c'est une région répartie entre quatre zones maritimes, liée à trois continents, et qui présente de grandes variétés géographiques, historiques, linguistiques et culturelles. Néanmoins, le défi qui se présente aux pays membres n'est pas différent, en terme de priorités, de celles qui ont été défini par les gouvernements lors de la réunion interministérielle de Maurice.

La stratégie de Maurice et la déclaration de janvier 2005 insistent sur l'engagement politique des pays du groupe AIMS, sur la définition de cadres d'intervention nationaux et régionaux, sur une politique de développement planifiée et intégrée, sur un support international concret et visible, et enfin, sur le suivi et l'évaluation.

Pour notre part, au sein de la COI, trois principaux axes d'intervention pourraient être retenus dans le futur, pour faire face à son rôle de coordinatrice du groupe AIMS :

Il s'agit :

1. Du développement de sources d'énergie propres et renouvelables, qui vont permettre notre développement tout en évitant la pollution et le réchauffement climatiques,
2. De la formation, pour s'assurer que les ressources humaines soient prêtes à faire face aux changements présents et futurs, notamment la lutte contre les diverses maladies
3. De l'amélioration de la communication et de la coordination pour surmonter les difficultés liées à l'isolement et à l'éloignement.

Nous avons du limiter notre volonté de jouer pleinement ce rôle de coordination du groupe AIMS, car la tâche n'a pas été facile, dans la mesure où nos ressources disponibles étaient faibles. Nous avons eu à convaincre la COI de l'importance de ce rôle étendu qui se rajoute à un programme déjà très chargé au service des Etats membres de la COI. Néanmoins, la COI a maintenant donné son accord formel pour apporter son soutien et récemment nous avons vu notre personnel augmenter, ce qui nous a permis de consolider les liens avec les autres organisations régionales et internationales qui

soutiennent les pays de la COI et du groupe AIMS, afin d'avancer dans la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de Maurice.

Nous avons considéré la liste détaillée des tâches à réaliser, qui ont été décidés lors de la réunion du Cap Vert. Nous sommes intervenus sur chacune de ces tâches. Nous avons publié nous-mêmes ou en collaboration avec nos partenaires une série de rapports importants, la plupart en anglais et en français, et je suis heureuse de vous annoncer que le rapport sur l'Atlantique et l'Océan Indien existe aussi en portugais. Nous avons maintenant un site Internet « groupe AIMS » à l'essai, à l'adresse www.coi-info.org, et nous apprécierons vos commentaires et propositions d'amélioration à ce sujet. Ce site est destiné à être un outil d'échange d'information, afin de réduire les distances entre nous.

Vous savez aussi que, là où la COI est impliqué avec des institutions internationales telles que l'OMC, l'UNCTAD, le PNUE ou la Banque Mondiale par exemple, l'intérêt particulier des PEID est systématiquement mis en avant.

Dans l'immédiat, le défi qui se présente à nous est le développement des plans d'action stratégiques nationaux pour 2005, dans la perspective des engagements de Johannesburg, renforcés par la stratégie de Maurice. Nous sommes ici pour décider de ce que nous devons réaliser ensemble pour s'attaquer à nos différentes priorités, là où un travail commun est nécessaire et pourrait apporter une réelle plus-value à notre groupe.

Nous sommes face à de nombreux défis liés aux menaces économiques et environnementales. Les ressources de nos pays et les capacités d'intervention sont très limitées. Mais je suis certaine que si nous travaillions ensemble sur nos besoins prioritaires, nous pourrions faire une utilisation plus efficace de nos moyens, en partageant nos connaissances et notre expertise.

C'est la deuxième réunion du groupe AIMS pour cette année. A travers les publications, le site Internet AIMS en construction et dans le cadre de futurs projets commun, la Commission de l'Océan Indien, avec votre soutien et votre implication, ira encore plus loin dans la communication et la coordination à travers cette vaste région. Nous allons continuer à travailler pour vous avec nos partenaires du système des NU, la Banque mondiale, l'Union Européenne et le Secrétariat du Commonwealth, pour apporter l'assistance nécessaire à la réalisation des objectifs de la Stratégie de Maurice et de développement du Millénaire.

Nous avons préparé des propositions pour le futur, qui dépendront des ressources mobilisables. Cette réunion est la clé pour atteindre un accord sur les priorités communes et les moyens que nous devons rechercher.

Nous avons étudié la situation des pays, qui sont résumés dans le rapport synthétique AIMS réalisés en matière de développement durable et ces rapports contiennent de nombreux exemples de réussites.

Mesdames et messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et messieurs les Représentants des pays

du groupe AIMS, Distingués invités, la COI est une petite organisation soutenue par ses Etats membres. Elle bénéficie d'un engagement et d'un soutien financier de l'UE, mais cela pourrait être affecté par les changements de priorités en terme de développement du continent africain. Par conséquent, je pense qu'il est très important de définir et de présenter des propositions concrètes et réalistes en terme de coût, pour la mise en œuvre des éléments les plus critiques de nos stratégies, issues de la déclaration de Maurice.

Je suis convaincue qu'à la fin de notre rencontre, nous aurons un document qui reflétera notre détermination à mettre en place un programme qui pourra être réalisé à tous les niveaux, c'est-à-dire aux niveaux national, régional et international. La COI sait pouvoir compter sur votre expertise et elle est prête à accueillir vos suggestions et conseils pour l'amélioration de sa tâche dans l'exécution de sa mission en tant que coordinatrice de votre groupe.

Mesdames et messieurs, je souhaite pleins succès à nos travaux et je vous remercie pour votre attention.

AIMS REGIONAL MEETING ON FOLLOW-UP TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Statement by Diane Quarless

Chief, SIDS Unit, United Nations

It is wonderful to be here in beautiful Seychelles. We have been thoroughly enjoying the lush green beauty of this island. May I express the appreciation of the UNDESA team for the wonderful hospitality which we have received since our arrival.

Why are we here this week and what do we hope to achieve? These are the critical questions for which we must find clear answers so as to reach a common understanding as a region on how best to move forward within the framework of the Strategy for the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted in Mauritius at the start of this year.

We at UNDESA see your consultations this week as bringing full circle the journey of review, evaluation, recommitment and renewed resolve for enlightened action which we began some two years ago with preparations for the Mauritius International Meeting. We began that process with exhaustive national and regional introspection and analysis, to determine whether the Barbados Programme of Action was still a valid tool for advancing the sustainable development agenda of our small islands, and if so, to assess why its implementation over the past ten years had met with only modest success.

We suggest that it is from the broad result of that self-evaluation that this region should now draw to shape its unique strategy to ensure more effective implementation of Barbados and Mauritius. Let us be clear. The Mauritius Strategy calls integrally for increased support on the part of the international community to assist SIDS in their effort to achieve sustainable development. Our attention to national and regional action here should in no way detract from or diminish the importance of that international

commitment.

However, the Mauritius review process revealed that there is much work to be done at the national level. There was need for increased understanding and renewed political commitment on the part of national governments to sustainable development as the essential underpinning of national development strategy; the need for strengthened capacity both human and institutional to manage that development; the need for more integrated administrative structures to accommodate the interdisciplinary approach required for effective sustainable development. There was also need to promote wider awareness and understanding at the local and national level of the importance of sustainable development within the context of the BPOA and MSI; broader participation of civil society and stakeholder groups.

This meeting, then, offers an important opportunity to regroup, as we say, as we begin to consider how best to implement the MSI. GA resolution 59/311 which endorsed the MSI supported the convening of these meetings for this very reason. It is our hope that from these consultations will come practical recommendations and firmer resolve to establish or strengthen national mechanisms which would support more focused integrated action toward sustainable development.

The meeting also offers a critical opportunity to examine the existing regional mechanism supporting implementation of the SIDS agenda with a view to enhancing synergy and improving coordination of the valuable service provided so far to the countries of this group. We have known for some time the peculiar challenges that the AIMS region faces insofar as the establishment of a regional support mechanism is concerned. In this context, the Indian Ocean Commission has played an integral role as Interim Coordinator of the AIMS group, and has thus far offered very meaningful support toward the provision of technical assistance for these countries. Member states will therefore wish to consider seizing the opportunity presented by this meeting to considering how best to strengthen and expand the regional mechanism for Mauritius Strategy Implementation so far offered by the COI.

Certainly the agencies of the wider UN system will continue to offer programmatic support within the scope of their respective mandates, so we should also use this opportunity to begin to examine the programmatic opportunities which respond to the Mauritius mandates and which meet the priority needs of national governments. In this regard, it is important for me to advise the meeting at the outset that through the generosity of the Italian Government, an interregional meeting of SIDS will be held in Rome during November 15-16, on the eve of a special Ministerial Meeting on SIDS being convened by the FAO on November 18 in Rome. This meeting should therefore spend some time in considering how best to utilize the opportunity presented by that meeting to engage with the international community, particularly the donor community on how best mobilize additional assistance in support of Mauritius Strategy Implementation. It will be an important opportunity to demonstrate the commitment of our countries to our sustainable development agenda and our preparedness to use any support offered efficiently and effectively through well conceptualized and well

organized delivery mechanisms. Preparing for this Rome meeting is therefore another important outcome to be achieved at this meeting.

It only remains for me to pledge the continued support of UNDESA, and to express the hope that our work over the next three days will be productive and positive.

Annex 3

Draft document for a proposed memorandum of understanding

Draft note for the AIMS Group Report

Management arrangements for the AIMS Group

The AIMS Group regional meeting discussed the issue of the continuation of the present management arrangements for the AIMS Group within the COI with regard to the implementation of the MS.

It was noted that the COI Secretariat had confirmed their continued support for the current arrangement in line with the decision of the Council of Ministers in January 2005 and the support of the COI Summit in July 2005. The meeting also noted that the COM SEC had agreed to continue with their financial support for a technical adviser for the work of the Group for a further ten months ending August 2006.

It was agreed that the Secretariat of the COI should formulate a proposal on future management arrangements within the COI paying due regard inter alia to:

- a) The proper functioning of the COI,
- b) Formal links between the AIMS Group and the COI,
- c) Links between the AIMS Group, AOSIS, UN DESA and the other two SIDS regions,
- d) Country focal points and their functions, and
- e) Links with UN agencies and other international agencies.

The draft proposal, including a memorandum of understanding could then be refined after consultation with COI members, with the UN DESA office, with the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific and the Caribbean Community, whose experience in developing their own management arrangements could be helpful, and with other relevant IGOs.

A preliminary review of this matter could be undertaken within the sidelines of the forthcoming Inter-regional meeting in Rome in November 2005. It could then be considered at a special Ministerial AIMS meeting, to be organized in the margins the CSD meeting in April 2006. It was agreed that the current arrangements with COI continue, pending the outcome of consultations at CSD.

Mahé, Seychelles 27 October 2005

Annex 4

Recommendations of the Working Groups, including the following countries.....

AIMS Priority: Water; Food Security ; Waste Management

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Mean by States	Supporting Actions/Mean by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
<p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To broaden access to water for all SIDS ○ To enhance SIDS-SIDS Cooperation ○ International Community Support for Capacity Building ○ Integrated 	<p>Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015</p>	<p>Water supply and demand management</p> <p>Regulatory framework</p>	<p>Singapore: Maintain and improve current standard</p> <p>Mauritius: Ensure 24 hours daily supply</p> <p>Cape Verde: Ensure 24 hours daily supply and</p>	<p>Singapore(100%)</p> <p>Seychelles(92%)</p> <p>Mauritius(100%)</p> <p>Upgrading the network</p> <p>Security of water Supply</p> <p>Unaccounted for water detection</p> <p>Maldives(100% before Tsunami)</p>	<p>Singapore: Situation under control</p> <p>Mauritius: Addressing water demand management; Attempting to harmonize regulatory body for water;</p> <p>Cape Verde: Better corporate governance & more investment</p>	<p>Exchange of Information</p> <p>Integrated Water Management & South-South Technical Assistance</p>	<p>Africa Water Initiative (ADB)</p> <p>Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico City 2006)</p> <p>Third World Water Forum Portfolio of Water Action</p>

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Mean by States	Supporting Actions/Mean by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
<p>water Resources Management through different initiatives</p> <p>FOOD SECURITY</p> <p>Enabling environment for food security, self reliance and agricultural diversification,</p> <p>Seed production & integrated pest management</p> <p>Promotion of agro-</p>	<p>Halve, between 1990-2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</p>	<p>Diversification of Food supply</p> <p>Development of food security policy (Contingency Plan)</p>	<p>enforcement of water standards</p> <p>Plan operationalized</p>	<p>Guinee Bisau (56%)</p> <p>Comoros (96%)</p> <p>Sao Tome & Principe</p> <p>Cape Verde (74%)</p> <p>Infrastructure Development & water standards/regulations upgrading</p> <p>Singapore: Develop bio-technology industry;</p> <p>Mauritius: Promotion of hydroponics culture; Dissemination of technologies and</p>	<p>Singapore: Policies already implemented</p> <p>Mauritius: Project in place for the setting up of hydroponic farms and loan schemes for promoters.</p>	<p>Technical Assistance & more investment</p> <p>Exchange of & access to Information</p> <p>Technical assistance</p>	<p>FAO Conference of SIDS</p>

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Means by States	Supporting Actions/Means by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
<p>WASTE</p> <p>Promote sustainable waste management</p> <p>Best practices & innovative solutions to waste management</p> <p>Control of transboundary movement hazardous waste</p> <p>Disposal of quantity of waste at sea (London Dumping Convention)</p>	<p>Goal 7 to ensure environmental sustainability</p>	<p>Operationalisation of strategy</p> <p>Regular updating of the strategy</p>	<p>Decrease in the rate of domestic and industrial waste</p> <p>More efficient collection & disposal of waste</p>	<p>Enhance waste minimization</p> <p>Mauritius: Enhance waste minimization;</p> <p>Promote the Private-Public partnership;</p> <p>Create economic instruments;</p> <p>Cape Verde: Implementation of a comprehensive Waste Management Plan;</p>	<p>Mauritius: Policy and legislation exist and is a priority action in government plan of action</p> <p>National Hazardous Waste Regulations & party to Basel Convention</p> <p>Simplify manuals for exportation of hazardous waste;</p> <p>Training of custom officers;</p> <p>Upgrading environmental laboratories for testing and</p>	<p>Regional partnerships for various waste streams;</p> <p>Investment and technical assistance for procurement of projects under Public-Private Partnership</p>	

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Mean by States	Supporting Actions/Mean by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
					characterization of hazardous waste; National policy paper for management of ballast water Cape Verde: Implementation Plan of Action II on Environment (2004-2014) Legislation exists		

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Mean by States	Supporting Actions/Mean by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Mean by States	Supporting Actions/Mean by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives

AIMS Priority : COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MIS	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Means by States	Supporting Actions/Means by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
<p>1. Support naval efforts to complete the delimitation of maritime boundaries.</p> <p>2. Support</p>	(Goal 7)	<p>-Finalise bilateral negotiations where there are competing claims</p> <p>-To seek technical assistance from UNEP</p> <p>-Deposit finalised instruments to UNDOALOS</p> <p>-To submit claims to continental shelf</p>			<p>-Finalise Bilateral discussions</p> <p>-Purchase equipments</p> <p>-Finalise collection of coordinates.</p>		-UNCLOS

<p>3-Programme to strengthen the monitoring, reporting, enforcement and control of fishing vessels to reduce incidences of IUU fishing.</p>		<p>-To submit claims to continental shelf commission.</p> <p>-Strengthen enforcement of territorial and EEZ waters</p> <p>-Promote fishing licences to legitimate fishing fleets and to strengthen regional fishing organisations and collaboration</p> <p>-To establish</p>			<p>-Capacity development</p> <p>-strengthen the institutional arrangements. I.e, coastguards, install VMS on fishing vessels.</p> <p>-Legal assistance to draw fisheries agreements.</p>	<p>-Financial and technical assistance.</p>	<p>-Various International and regional fisheries agreements.</p>
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4. Acquisition and installation of surveillance and monitoring equipment.							
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<p>5. Support efforts to early ratification and accession to relevant fishing agreements.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify relevant agreements and get political support. -Establish mechanism to implement. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Facilitate all relevant actions -Direct relevant governmental organisations -Get Cabinet approval -further discussions with UN agency -Sign relevant agreement. 		
<p>6. Support the design and implementation</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Government facilitating process 		

<p>of integrated policies for the management of MPA's</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Initiate survey and baseline assessment -Get stakeholders approval -Initiate stakeholder discussion and establish relevant management mechanism -Establish/ Review and revise policy and legal regime -Setup or enhance 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Political commitment -Get approval from the relevant stakeholders 		
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		<p>management organisation.</p> <p>-Awareness campaigns</p> <p>-Mobilise resources and seek long-term financial mechanism.</p>					
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CLIMATE CHANGE & SEA LEVEL RISE

<p>1- Support national and regional initiatives on adaptation to Climate change.</p>		<p>-Ratify the Kyoto Protocol</p> <p>-Prepare vulnerability assessment</p> <p>-Prepare Adaptation and Mitigation plan</p> <p>-Complete GHG Inventory</p> <p>-Prepare National Communication</p> <p>-Sensitisation/ Education/ educational programmes</p> <p>-Strengthen existing capacity to deal</p>				<p>-Ensure full political will</p> <p>-Mobilise human and financial resources</p> <p>-Strengthen institutions</p> <p>-Seek assistance from donors</p> <p>-Ensure broad understanding and participation</p>	
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2.Appropriate technology		<p>with Climate change issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promote exchange of knowledge and best practices -Establish R&D programme -Monitor international trend in technical development and transfer <p>-Needs assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and promote Regional CDM projects 				<p>of stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue internal advocacy for GEG and that all countries ratify the Kyoto Protocol. -Setup incentive mechanisms -Public partnerships -Set up energy policy/legislations -Set up / reinforce 	
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3.Clean Development Mechanism		-Promote R&D				<p>energy institutions</p> <p>-Work with Utilities organisations for use of renewable energy</p> <p>-Education and awareness programme</p> <p>-Establish Bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements</p> <p>-Put in place human and resource needs</p> <p>-Reinforce existing institutions (set up new ones)</p>	
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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish relevant policy and legislation -Advocacy at government level 	
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AIMS Priority: Health (HIV/AIDS)

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Means by States	Supporting Actions/Means by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
-Review/ Strengthen National and Regional strategies including public education to control and	Goal 6	Continuous preventive programmes and health education at all levels and targeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prevalence rate -Degree of National awareness through regular evaluation, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reduced rate of prevalence by 50% by 2010 -Improvement of health standard including health facilities and accessibility to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strong political commitment - Involvement of all stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Financial and technical support -Effective networking -Full participation 	-Integration of national and regional programmes into global plans, funds, other UN agencies and other global initiatives.

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Means by States	Supporting Actions/Means by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
<p>combat HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases taking into account country and regional specificities.</p> <p>-Seek and enhance partnerships for programmes to combat HIV/AIDS with national, and</p>		<p>special groups, vulnerable and rural communities.</p> <p>-Provision of adequate resources, preventive tools and drugs at affordable prices.</p> <p>-Lobbying for preferential prices and quality of</p>	<p>monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>-Phased approach implementation</p>	<p>these facilities by 2010</p> <p>-Integration of preventive health programme in education curricula at formal and informal level</p> <p>-Ratio of physicians to population increased to regional standard by 2010.</p>	rs	of all partners	

MSI	MDG linkages	Priority Actions (translating strategies & targets)	Indicators	National targets/milestones	Supporting Action/Means by States	Supporting Actions/Means by Partners	Linkages to regional/international processes/initiatives
regional entities with international development partners, relevant UN agencies ie. WHO, UNESCO, UNAIDS...		drugs.					

Working Group on Trade & Finance

MDG Linkage Goal 8 : Develop a global Partnership for Development

Priority Actions

- To Seek and obtain International acceptance of the specific trade and development-related needs and concerns of SIDS in their efforts to smoothly into the multilateral trading system in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies and relevant decisions adopted in various international for a.
- To continue to work with all the WTO members towards a successful completion of the Doha round of WTO negotiations with a balanced overall outcome that takes into account the specific trade and economic situation including their inherent vulnerabilities of SIDS.
- Work for the facilitation of the accession of SIDS to the WTO with, wherever appropriate enhanced technical assistance.
- Work within the WTO and other multilateral for a for the maintenance of longstanding trade preferences and for adequately addressing the issue of preference erosion primarily at the WTO.
- Seek and obtain long term mechanisms to facilitate the adjustment of SIDS to post Doha trade liberalisation and implementation of the trade integration mechanism for SIDS to address inter alia balance of trade payments shortfalls arising from multilateral trade liberalisation.
- Seek and obtain appropriate support for product diversification, where such diversification is possible and viable, and the development of niche market.
- Seek and obtain necessary assistance in the analysis and formulation of policies and the development of infrastructure to address issues pertaining to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade.
- Seek and obtain appropriate support for enhancing the effective participation and negotiating capacity of SIDS in the WTO trade negotiations including in the deliberations and decision making processes and to obtain in this regard the renewed commitment of the international community to the Doha development agenda trust funds.
- To seek and obtain support for a re examination of the criteria for graduation from LDC status taking into account the special vulnerabilities of SIDS.
- To seek and obtain analysis of SIDS debt sustainability to support effective debt management

- To obtain necessary assistance for the establishment of an enabling environment to encourage foreign direct investment especially in the productive sectors of the SIDS economy.
- To obtain necessary support for the establishment of innovative financial mechanisms to respond to the structural disadvantages of SIDS.

Working Group on Natural Disaster Management

MDG Linkage 7 : To ensure Environmental Sustainability

Priority Actions

- To seek and obtain necessary support to the efforts of SIDS to build human, technical and managerial capacities for disaster preparedness and management.
- To take all actions necessary for strengthening national capacity for natural disaster preparation, response, mitigation and rehabilitation.
- To design relevant programmes providing for a review of regional mechanisms and establishment/ strengthening early warning capacity.
- To increase public awareness on disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.
- To design and implement interdisciplinary, intersectoral partnerships in national environment management plans paying due regard to risks management.
- To take necessary action at National, regional and international levels for addressing the issue of insurance and financial mechanisms for disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- To identify ways and means to address losses in key economic sectors as a result of natural disasters (eg. Losses in the tourism sector in Maldives in the aftermath of the tsunami)
- To carry out the necessary risk assessments at the national and regional level with the aim of addressing unplanned or unexpected emergency risks such as Avian Bird Flu and SARS pandemics, including appropriate institutional response capacity building.
- To explore the possibility of establishing a regional emergency fund to provide immediate assistance and relief, as a first preliminary measure, members of AIMS severely hit by Natural Disasters.