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Sixty-fifth session

Agenda item 20 (b)

**High-level review meeting on the Implementation of the
Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the
Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of
Small Island Developing States**

**Background Note for the Interactive Dialogue
on Cross-regional Perspectives**

Introduction

According to the outcomes of the three regional reviews held earlier this year, substantial progress has been made in small island developing States in terms of the implementation of the Strategy and the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals but renewed efforts are needed. The two multistakeholder round tables that are held during the high level meeting on the five-year review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, respectively address the issues of: (i) reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience of SIDS; and (ii) enhancing international support for the SIDS.

The Interactive Dialogue on Cross-regional Perspectives will be the final segment of the high-level meeting. As such, it is suggested to focus on the **way forward** addressing partnerships and institutional issues, particularly of cross-regional nature, which are highlighted in the last section of the Secretary-General's report (http://www.sidsnet.org/msi_5/docs/hlr/A-65-115-English.pdf).

Issues for consideration

What kind of cross-regional south-south, SIDS-SIDS and triangular partnership initiatives could be promoted to further advance the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy?

The reviews agreed that the focus, in terms of the way forward, needed to be on the implementation of initiatives that build resilience, which required support from the international

community through partnerships. They highlighted the need for strengthened cooperation and suggested building on existing mechanisms, with coordinated roles for regional organizations and the United Nations system. They also called for strengthening of public-public and public-private partnerships, including South-South cooperation and cooperation among small island developing States. The interactive dialogue could address ways and means to promote cross-regional partnerships building on knowledge, experiences and lessons learned so far.

In what concrete ways could existing institutional frameworks be enhanced at the regional and global levels and specific measures instituted to further support SIDS?

There has been a repeated call for additional and improved measures to more effectively address the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of SIDS. A need for such measures has been demonstrated not only for the poorest, but also for middle-income SIDS. The interactive dialogue could focus on examples of successful institutional measures implemented and proposals for future consideration.