

GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS

High-Level Meeting - 5- year Review of Progress made in Addressing Vulnerabilities of SIDS through Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA).

Please note that the deadline for submissions is 30 November 2009.

BACKGROUND

The UN General Assembly Resolution 63/213 (February 2009) Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, reaffirmed the GA decision 62/191 to “review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly”. Resolution 63/213 stressed “that the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct an assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the MSI and agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of SIDS.”

The MSI acknowledges that sustainable development is primarily a national responsibility, but for SIDS to succeed, given their acknowledged vulnerabilities, the Rio Principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, must be given specific expression for SIDS. As outlined in paragraph 6 of the MSI, SIDS are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of their peoples by the implementation of strategies that build resilience and capacity to address their unique and particular vulnerabilities. It is crucial therefore, that any forward looking assessments of progress in addressing vulnerabilities of SIDS need to build upon national level assessments, in order to inform the development of further concrete projects and programmes for the implementation of the MSI.

In accordance with the GA resolutions above, the overall objective of the National Assessment Report (NAR) is to gather national level information, as the basis for a review of progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS through the implementation of the MSI, at the five-year mark after its adoption in Mauritius in 2005. These NARs will be synthesized at the regional level and supplemented by Assessment Reports prepared by SIDS regional intergovernmental organizations and international agencies focusing on assessing the support they provide to SIDS in implementation of, and as called for, in the MSI.

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The implementation of the MSI at the national level is ultimately manifested in national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) or equivalent. In this regard, kindly provide a brief update on the status of development and implementation of your country’s NSDS, or update the attached status report of your country’s NSDS – which the Secretariat received as part of the national reporting to the CSD. In particular, please provide information on:

- Key constraints that restrained successful development and implementation of NSDS (or equivalent).
- Best practices in the integration of economic, social and environmental objectives in development and implementation of your NSDS and key sector strategies/plans.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS

To reduce the burden on reporting, the national reports for this High-Level Meeting will build upon, rather than duplicate, the BPOA+10 national assessment reports prepared for the Mauritius International Meeting in 2005, as well as on other national reports already available to the international community. *The submitted BPOA+10 report from your country is hereby attached for your easy reference* *. We have also attached for ease of reference, your country's MDGs country table from the Millennium Development Goal website as well as the development data "At-a-Glance (AAG)" compiled by the World Bank, which provides key indicators tracing the trends in social and economic development from the last three decades.

For each of the sectoral/thematic areas identified in the BPOA and MSI, you are invited to provide information on issues of importance to your country in relation to the list of topics given below (drawn from the relevant intergovernmental decisions on sustainable development), highlighting in particular:

Concrete actions taken and specific progress made in implementation;
Lessons learned and good practices;
Effectiveness of implementation support and mechanisms, including monitoring systems;
Special constraints and challenges; and
Recent trends and emerging issues.

The thematic areas identified in the BPOA and MSI, include:

- (i) Climate Change and Sea-level rise;
- (ii) Natural and Environmental Disasters;
- (iii) Management of Wastes;
- (iv) Coastal and Marine Resources;
- (v) Freshwater Resources;
- (vi) Land Resources;
- (vii) Energy Resources;
- (viii) Tourism Resources;
- (ix) Biodiversity Resources; and
- (x) Transportation and Communication.

The updated information should focus on actions undertaken to address vulnerabilities of SIDS, particularly in relation to the means of implementation outlined in paragraph 85 of the MSI, i.e., financing, trade, access to environmentally sound technologies, education and awareness-raising, capacity-building and integration into national sustainable development strategies.

Given the current global financial and economic crisis, coming on top of the 2008 food and energy crisis, the MSI 5-year review process provides an opportunity to assess policy measures adopted by SIDS to address the adverse impacts of this multiple crisis, including the degree of alignment of these responses with achievement of MDGs and sustainable development objectives. In this regard, you are invited to include a brief discussion of broad-based policy measures introduced to address the multiple crisis and to strengthen resilience against exogenous shocks.

* *For countries that were not able to submit national assessment reports during the 2005 Mauritius International Meeting preparatory process, it is suggested that as well as the information requested in the guidelines, an introductory section be prepared to provide the socio-economic context for the progress report on means of implementation in the sectoral/thematic areas listed. This introductory section should briefly outline the general socio-economic characteristics of your country, including key socio-economic challenges, key constraints and responses in addressing these challenges.*