

13 September 2010

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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 Multistakeholder Roundtable II:

Enhancing International Support for the SIDS

Introduction

The unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by SIDS need to be simultaneously addressed at all levels. Although SIDS are cognisant of the need for national actions in support of their sustainable development the Mauritius Conference on SIDS that was convened in 2005 acknowledged that there is need for strengthened cooperation and partnership in support of sustainable development of SIDS at the national, regional and international levels¹. Furthermore, the efforts of SIDS in promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of their peoples, can be facilitated by international cooperation and partnership, including through further efforts by multilateral partners, that is more responsive to the particular needs of SIDS².

Despite the various commitments by the international community and recommendations made at the International Meeting in Mauritius in 2005, the five-year review of progress made in the implementation of the MSI (MSI+5) has highlighted that SIDS are still encountering structural, institutional and financial constraints which have slowed down or impeded their progress, and they are reported as less successful than other vulnerable groups in terms of progress in achievement of MDGs.

Key Issues for Discussion

The Roundtable II will focus on key policy issues and measures related to enhancing international support for SIDS. Three annotated questions are presented below to help guide the discussions

¹ *Ibid.* Para 3, Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action

² *Ibid.* Para 6, Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action

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Q1: How can the effectiveness of international support to SIDS be strengthened to help build their resilience?

The MSI+5 review has so far pointed out that development assistance, in general, remain fragmented, unpredictable and difficult to access. In this regard, it was noted that donor partners and regional and international organizations should work together in building resilience of SIDS.

The Roundtable is invited to focus on such questions as: what can be done to improve the coordination and harmonization of various development assistance being offered and resources that are committed and made available? What is the best strategy to streamline these resources to maximize impact with SIDS having ownership? How best to improve capacity of SIDS to access and effectively utilize available resources? Is it feasible to channel the longer term commitment of Official Development Assistance (ODA) through direct budgetary support, particularly at the national level? Are there any success stories to be shared where a particular donor support helped in resilience building in a specific area?

Q2: How best can international support contribute to accelerated achievement of sustainable development objectives in SIDS?

In addition to the BPOA and MSI, Member States made various commitments to implement the outcomes of various UN Summits and Conferences. Given the limited resources and capacities of SIDS, how could synergies be created to optimally pursue these commitments to ensure that the implementation of various goals are done in a complementary and mutually

reinforcing manner? How can the UNCSD process help to further advance implementation of the MSI?

The Roundtable is invited to consider how international support could be effectively channelled to create synergies so that all the relevant commitments are pursued in parallel or simultaneously, and the optimum impacts are achieved.

Q3: What need to be done to enhance partnership mechanisms in support of SIDS?

The MSI+5 agreed that the focus in terms of the way forward needed to be on implementation of initiatives that build resilience with support from the international community through various partnerships. How can functional cooperation and partnerships be strengthened while building on existing mechanisms? What needs to be done to strengthen the SIDS component of the CSD partnership mechanism? What should be the roles for regional organizations and United Nations organizations in promoting international partnerships for SIDS? How can public-public and public-private partnerships, including South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation be strengthened? What role could the private sector play in the area of partnerships for sustainable development?

The Roundtable is invited to discuss these issues outlined above.