



# MÉXICO

**REMARKS BY AMB. PATRICIA ESPINOSA CANTELLANO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO, AT THE HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW MEETING ON THE PROGRESS TO REDUCE THE VULNERABILITIES OF THE OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)**

*Check against delivery*

September 24, 2010

**His Excellency Mr. Joseph Deiss,  
President of the General Assembly of the United Nations;**

**His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon,  
Secretary General of the United Nations;**

**Ministers;**

**Dear Friends:**

It is a great pleasure for me to take the floor on behalf of Mexico during this High-Level Session of the General Assembly. As incoming President of the Cancun Conferences, I would like to address the challenges that Small Island Developing States face as a result of climate change.

Mexico welcomes the Declaration on progress for reducing vulnerabilities of these island states. As a developing country with more than 11 thousand kilometers of coasts, we share many of the challenges that Small Island Developing States face. Your challenges are also ours.

Addressing the risks resulting from disasters and water scarcity, improving waste management, dealing with the management of coastal and marine resources, and reducing the loss of biodiversity, and at the same time, satisfying the aspirations of development and combating climate change are shared priorities. These are areas that require enhancing existing schemes for international cooperation and that require strengthening the partnerships with Small Island Developing States.

**I acknowledge the role that Small Island Developing States have played in positioning their challenges and expectations in the international agenda.** This is now reflected in the adoption of the Barbados Programme of Action (1994) and the Mauritius Strategy (2004).

However, we are concerned that the implementation of these collective decisions has been partial. Mexico considers that, as international community, we shall honor our commitments and take concrete actions for the effective implementation of these proposals.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The food, energy and financial crises have further strengthened the arguments to promote sustainable development in those countries. In a globalized world, to meet their challenges is to meet ours.**

I would like to acknowledge **the constructive and fore-front role of Small Island Developing States** in the current negotiations on climate change. Their voices are a **constant reminder** of the tangible and the serious risks of climate change; and **the urgency of reaching agreements on this matter.**

As you all know, in Cancun, Mexico will host the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sixth Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol.

**Cancun offers us a unique opportunity to achieve substantial progress in our fight against climate change. We cannot afford to lose it.** There are encouraging signals of advance in key areas as adaptation, financing, and technology transfer. Nevertheless, there are also some pending issues to resolve. We are, for instance, far from reaching agreements on sensitive matters such as mitigation and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV).

**We must reach a solution to this global challenge through the multilateral system;** one in which all countries participate and can express their concerns and aspirations.

**We should not only adopt an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced package that take us to efficient actions, but also establish the framework for a better implementation of the existing climate change regime.**

We are in a critical phase of negotiations. Time is running short. It is imperative to make an effective use of the brief time available, moving past differences and irreconcilable positions.

**The worst scenario is not to reach any agreement. The small island developing States will be the first ones to benefit if we reach agreements to combat climate change.** Negotiators require our guidance. We shall take decisions and make compromises.

**We cannot afford to wait. Scientific evidence is clear.** As time goes by, opportunities to achieve our goals will be less and the costs will be greater.

With the support of the international community and with a pragmatic approach aiming at immediate action, **Cancun 2010 could become the beginning of a new era of agreements for climate change.**

We must act with the sense of urgency that this situation demands. We must avoid that those procrastinating in the fulfillment of their obligations find excuses to keep doing so.

Vulnerability implies substantive damage to infrastructure, human lives losses and, for many nations, a step backwards in their development pathway.

Economically it is not only better, but less expensive to act without delay.

**Bearing in mind these circumstances, we cannot delay to achieve agreements in Cancun. The only missing piece in this scenario is political will. The moment is now.**

I thank you.