



BRAZIL

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Director-General for Environment and Special Affairs, Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, at the Multi-stakeholder Roundtable on “Reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening the resilience of the small island developing States (SIDS)” of the High-level Review of the Mauritius Strategy

24 September 2010

The challenge of SIDS to reduce their unique vulnerabilities and strengthen their resilience is shared by all of us. This review of implementation of what we agreed to in Mauritius, and also in Barbados, has shown that advances in sustainable development have been made. Progress, though, has been uneven, and serious challenges remain.

The Declaration to be adopted at the end of this meeting will provide renewed impetus for redoubling our efforts for the development of SIDS. I commend the Permanent Representatives of Singapore and Luxembourg for facilitating the negotiations of this important document.

Adaptation to climate change poses unique challenges to SIDS. A lasting solution can only come through a global, comprehensive and ambitious agreement. Brazil looks forward to a positive outcome in COP-16, with real progress in financing for adaptation and mitigation, forests and the reaffirmation of the Kyoto commitments.

The promotion of sustainable development is a collective responsibility. International cooperation plays a central role. In particular, South-South cooperation can support SIDS efforts in achieving sustainable development and in meeting the MDGs.

Brazil recognizes the unique and particular vulnerabilities faced by SIDS. Brazil has been partnering with SIDS, bilaterally or through other avenues such as the India-Brazil-South Africa Forum (IBSA), to overcome challenges in many areas, such as: energy, including support for zoning for biofuels production; food security; human resources; marine environment; sports; health; and climate change. One of the areas which we look forward to exploring possibilities for cooperation with SIDS is on the delimitation of the outer limits of the continental shelf.

I should highlight two SIDS with whom Brazil remains deeply engaged.

In Haiti, Brazil has a long-standing commitment not only to help them maintain order and defend democracy, but also to Haitians' sustainable development. The commitments of the international community must go beyond rhetorical statements.

In Guinea Bissau, we need intelligent modalities of cooperation which can promote development and stability and encourage indispensable reforms to meet the challenges they still face.

In the Caribbean region, Brazil has been determined to establish resident embassies in all CARICOM countries, while also naming ambassadors to CARICOM and to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. President Lula had the honor to host leaders from that region in the first Brazil-CARICOM Summit, in April 2010.

In Africa and Asia, Brazil has partnered with the Portuguese-Speaking SIDS (São Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Timor-Leste) to share our experience in different areas that are key to development.

With the Pacific SIDS, our efforts have been to strengthen and expand our ties. Our commitment to engage with countries from that region was further reaffirmed during a visit to Brazil of the P-SIDS Permanent Representatives in New York, where potential areas for cooperation were identified.

I conclude by renewing Brazil's commitment to work together for the sustainable development of SIDS.

Thank you.