

Statement of the State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr. Hans-Jürgen Beerfeltz

High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Roundtable 1: Reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience of small island developing states

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- This conference is an important milestone for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. This conference is also our common opportunity to set priorities for future cooperation **between** the countries concerned **as well as** with the international community.

So let us talk not so much about the problems but more about the fascinating opportunities within the further process.

- The special situation of the SIDS was long ago recognised by the international community. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – referred to as the “Earth Summit” – was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, 18 years ago. For a long time we only analysed the problems of the SIDS. **Now** is the very moment for **more** concrete action.
- The German government is lobbying for these problems to give them the high level of attention they deserve. We would like to see a good division of labour. Therefore Germany’s engagement in this area is taking place within the framework of multilateral and European development cooperation.
Germany is particularly active in support of the SIDS via the European Development Fund (e.g. in the 10th EDF (2008-13), with more than 500 million euros for the Caribbean and the Pacific island states. The Oceania region has the world's highest net ODA Quota.
- But special support for SIDS can also be seen in the concrete action we are engaged in as part of our bilateral development cooperation. We have increased the funding for our

regional programmes. You should take **all this** as a sign of Germany's strong solidarity with the people in your countries.

- Our most important message is that we keep our promises. But that is only possible if development cooperation becomes more effective, if civil society and the private sector become more involved, and our partners also step up their own efforts.

- Germany's objective is to reach an ambitious, comprehensive, legally binding climate agreement.

But we also want to create new opportunities for sustainable development. We want to realise new opportunities. Many SIDS countries are **role models** for other countries in moving towards a sustainable economy with the promotion of renewable energies, with energy efficiency, with sustainable tourism, and with the creation of fair labour.

- And this all together is an opportunity as well as a sign of shared values, of our shared belief that your problems are our problems and that we have to fight them together.