HIGH LEVEL REVIEW MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY FOR THE SOSTENIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

STATEMENT MADE BY H.E. HAROLDO RODAS MELGAR,
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Excellencies,

It is an honor to participate in this high-level meeting and listen to the achievements Small Island Developing States have made. Guatemala aligns with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I would like to add to this debate the following three points:

1. Guatemala reiterates its support and commitment to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, confirming that small island developing States are a special case for sustainable development. Since this document was adopted in 2005, the world has faced a severe economic and financial crisis affecting small economies highly dependent on tourism, on the stability of the financial sector and energy imports, to name a few. This high-level review should renew political commitment to meet their unique needs.

2. With overwhelming scientific evidence that it is beyond question, our development progress has had devastating consequences on our common habitat - the planet - and the ravages of climate change are palpable and dramatic. To address this challenge, SIDS request to limit global greenhouse gas emissions to 1.5 To Stay Alive and these emissions must peak by 2015. Guatemala fully endorses these goals. SIDS have arduously called for an ambitious outcome in climate change negotiations and given their high vulnerability taking action is a must. We reiterate our deep commitment to make significant progress during the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change to be held in Cancun.

3. Before concluding, I turn to one particular topic in our immediate neighborhood, which is the Caribbean Sea, characterized by a unique biodiversity and fragile ecosystems. In this General Assembly we hope to ensure that the Caribbean Sea is designated as a special zone in the context of sustainable development.

Thank you very much.