

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. Mrs. Masnellyarti Hilman
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at the

High-level 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

New York, 24 - 25 September, 2010

Mr. Co-chair,

Thank you very much for organizing this event—which gives us a rare opportunity to review the Mauritius Strategy.

We look forward to the adoption of a meaningful Political Declaration at the conclusion of this meeting.

Mr. Co-chair,

Since we adopted the Barbados Plan of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, small island developing states have intensively worked together to address shared concerns.

They have been promoting sustainable development at the national and regional levels. However, their vulnerabilities have limited their options.

They face risks and dangers unique to their situation—the most notable being a rise in sea level. These hazards are hampering their development. Even when their capacity for coping is bolstered, they still have to deal with global shocks that increase their vulnerability.

They have therefore brought this concern to the attention of the international community—because part of the solution to their problems lie beyond their borders.

The Mauritius strategy represents a massive effort by the Small Island Developing States to overcome their vulnerabilities through partnership with other countries.

So this is not a programme exclusively owned by the small island states. It has been adopted by all members of the UN, by all partners. And all partners have their respective obligations.

We are all morally bound to honour our commitments to the Mauritius Strategy. Together we must seek solutions to the problems that the Strategy addresses.

Mr. Co-chair,

As a nation that is also an archipelago, Indonesia recognizes and understands the challenges and risks confronting the SIDS.

Our territory includes thousands of small islands and low-lying coastal zones that are highly vulnerable to sea level rise and irregular weather patterns. We are no different from them.

With a one-meter increase in sea level, thousands of small islands, including those in Indonesia, will simply and suddenly disappear. The oceanic impact of global warming will not only wipe out thousands of marine species of flora and fauna, but will also bring terrible devastation to millions of people.

Considering the probability of such a catastrophe and the importance of oceans to development, Indonesia organized a World Ocean Conference in May 2009. The meeting adopted the Manado Declaration, which calls for the mainstreaming of ocean issues in any future climate change regime.

The Manado Conference proved that together we can share experiences and best practices in managing our small islands. We can learn from each other on how to optimize our potential. And how to sustainably manage the natural resources of our small islands.

Mr. Co-chair,

We had the SIDS very much in mind when we hosted a Special Ministerial Meeting for the Millennium Development Goals Review in Jakarta last month. The Meeting recognized the urgent need for Asia and the Pacific region, including the SIDS, to intensify collective action to achieve the MDGs.

The SIDS should be given more technical and financial support to address the unique challenges they are facing. Financial assistance should flow on a predictable basis. This should be given due emphasis in the Declaration we are going to adopt.

Mr. Co-chair,

Despite their limited resources and geographic dispersion, SIDS have made great strides in advancing the Mauritius Strategy. For the sake of all humankind they must totally succeed in this endeavour.

For the SIDS may bear the brunt of the catastrophe of climate change, but all without exception will suffer the consequences. Our destiny cannot be separate from theirs.

Thank you.