



**High-level review to assess progress made in  
addressing the vulnerabilities of small island  
developing States through the implementation of the  
Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of  
the Programme of Action for the Sustainable  
Development of Small Island Developing States**

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**Ms Ingrid Fiskaa  
State Secretary of International Development**

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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As the Mauritius Strategy points out, climate change and sea-level rise are serious threats to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Global emissions of greenhouse gases have increased continuously since the strategy was adopted five years ago. We did not succeed in adopting a new climate agreement in Copenhagen. And the expectations are low for Cancun. Meanwhile, scientific findings are getting steadily more alarming.

Poor countries are not the cause of the problem, but they suffer the worst consequences. SIDS are among the most vulnerable – climate change threatens their very existence. Reducing global emissions is the single most important action that can be taken to reduce effects of climate change on Small Island Developing States. Norway is ready to take its share of the necessary reductions and we are ready to pay our part of the bill for adaptation and mitigation action in poor countries.

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

All countries are entitled to development, and a fair share of the limited global carbon space. Economic and social development is key to reducing vulnerability and building resilience against the cumulative crises that have challenged the world in recent years. There are some things that we can take with us as we move forward.

- 1) Disaster risk preparedness begins at home. Building national capacities and structures, including early warning systems, need to be at the centre of our efforts.
- 2) Adaptation strategies must be an integral part of integrated planning strategies. Economic growth, social policies and environmental sustainability must be part and parcel of the same package.
- 3) Knowing what to do and when to do it. We need reliable and measurable data to assess progress made, and identify the gaps. We can build on the lessons learned from assessment of progress on the MDGs.
- 4) Limited resources must be used as strategically and efficiently as possible. We need to ensure that our efforts are mutually reinforcing rather than fragmented. Coordination is a key to making the most of scarce resources.

No man is an island, and no island will succeed on its own. The strength of Barbados Plan of Action and Mauritius-strategy is that it pulls together all these elements and actors globally. One lesson learned from previous crisis is that where there is a will, there is a way. It is time to transform words into action. Reducing greenhouse gases globally, as well as financing adaptation and mitigation efforts in Small Island Development States are key tasks in the follow-up of the Mauritius Strategy. There are many low-lying islands out there, but none to loose.