



# PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

REMARKS BY H.E. HAKKI AKIL,  
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
AT ROUNDTABLE 1 OF THE HIGH LEVEL PLENARY MEETING  
OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY  
(New York, 24 September 2010)

Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to attend this roundtable of the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. This meeting is of great importance not only in terms of the review of progress and challenges with respect to the Mauritius Strategy, but also because it coincides with the ten-year review of the Millennium Development Goals at the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

Excellencies,

Specific vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States are very well known. Their remoteness, narrow resource and export base and exposure to environmental challenges make them particularly vulnerable to exogenous shocks, including the recent economic, financial, energy and food crises. The least developed countries within this group are faced with even more daunting challenges.

Climate change has further aggravated this situation and continues to pose a significant risk to the efforts of Small Island Developing States to achieve sustainable development. The very existence of a number of small island states is under grave threat by sea-level rise and natural disasters. The catastrophic earthquake which struck Haiti and the tsunami which hit Samoa had a devastating impact on the infrastructure as well as the institutional and productive capacities of these countries.

The existing challenges are eroding the hard-won progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. Small Island Developing States lack the necessary capacity to overcome the multi-dimensional development challenges on their own. They need renewed commitments from their development partners for assistance to mitigate the impact of and build resilience against exogenous shocks. Therefore, international efforts must now be geared towards the specific concerns and needs of the Small Island Developing States.

A thorough assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy as well as the existing challenges and gaps is necessary to chart the way forward for the Small Island Developing States. Future measures must build on lessons learned and best practices and at the same time address the constraints encountered in the implementation of the Strategy. The issues at hand must be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into consideration the current work under various processes.

Excellencies,

In the last decade, Turkey has undertaken major initiatives to share the burdens of developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication. In this context, we have also established relations and increased our endeavors to enhance our cooperation with Small Island Developing States, particularly in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

We have given priority to technical cooperation projects, on a demand-driven basis, where our development aides work closely with governments and local representatives. As a country which has experienced devastating natural disasters itself, Turkey can also provide its assistance in disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness, with a view to increasing the resilience of those countries facing such risks.

We will continue to provide development assistance to address specific vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States. Turkey is committed to supporting these countries in their efforts to achieve progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and to accomplish sustained growth and development.

Thank you.