STATEMENT BY DR. CLAUDIA SALERNO

SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES
MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE’S POWER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(Check upon delivery)

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Mr. President,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomes the realization of this High-Level Meeting organized to evaluate a subject of great importance for our country and the world.

Our country wishes to reiterate its support for the efforts of Small Islands Developing States to achieve their development goals and consider that the implementation of the strategy should strengthen the capacity of each country to address their vulnerabilities and their specific situations.

Mr. President,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, has given special attention in its foreign policy initiatives to promote South-South cooperation, seeking a new international order based on justice, solidarity, equity, cooperation, complementarity, fair trade, equitable development and respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples, with emphasis on human and social development.

We believe that any cooperation with the Small Island Developing States must include the respect for their sovereignty over their natural resources, recognition of their autonomy and independence and the promotion of their participation in appropriate mechanisms, without conditions that violate their traditions and national identity.

Mr. President,

In regards to the implementation of the Strategy and subsequent execution of the Action Plan, we consider it necessary to consolidate, in a reasonable period, initiatives that allow for:

• Trade and investment to not be ends in themselves but instruments to achieve a just and sustainable development.

• Strengthening the measures for the integrated and sustainable management of marine ecosystems. In this sense, we should promote cooperation with other States, making use of regional mechanisms. For the Caribbean region, of which my country belongs
to, we must consider, among others, the program of work on marine and coastal biodiversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties in the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the progress towards the institutionalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission, which recognizes it as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

- Recognition of the relationship between the oceans and climate change and the necessary consideration of the interrelationship that exists between the ecosystem functions of the inland and marine natural resources, as well as their reciprocal impacts.

- The transformation of societies, making them more just and based on solidarity, promoting the quality of life, with the effective participation of the peoples of the Small Island Developing States in the creation of their own destiny.

Mr. President,

Fair access to energy is a key element for development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In this context we would like to emphasize cooperation initiatives launched by Venezuela through PETROCARIBE, which has allowed, under fair conditions, the aggregate supply of oil surpassing, to date, 60 million barrels, benefiting 18 countries that make up PETROCARIBE, of which 11 are Small Island Developing States.

The funded portion of the oil bill which totaled $2,007 million USD, represents, for the countries that received the delivery, a saving of $921 million USD, estimated at $14 per barrel. This initiative also allowed the establishment of joint ventures between Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and the state oil companies of eight Caribbean islands, with joint investment reaching 552 million USD for infrastructure development of refining, storage and dispatch of fuel.

The resources saved will enable these island States to advance sustainable development projects.

Within the framework of the Alba-Caribe Fund, created from
contributions from financial and non-financial instruments, as well as contributions that may be agreed upon from the financed portion of the oil bill and the savings from direct trade, it has served to finance social and economic programs in the period 2006-2010 to which $106 million USD have been allocated for 69 projects in the 10 Caribbean countries participating.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela maintains diplomatic relations with seven of the fourteen countries within the pacific basin (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the islands of Fiji, the Republic of Nauru, Solomon Islands, and the Kingdom of Tonga) and hopes to increase its relationships until it covers the totality of this geographical zone and to work together in the creation of strategies for overcoming these adversities and to offer all the necessary support at the bilateral as well as multilateral level.

It is worth mentioning that in 2006, Venezuela made a voluntary donation of 2 million USD to the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with the objective of contributing towards the creation of a fund to implement projects in the Oceania countries.

Mr. President,

We also want to note in this discussion the issue of climate change and the adverse effects of this economic, environmental and social phenomenon.

As rightly reflected in the document that we will adopt in this session, to the environmental impact of the climate change phenomenon, we will also have the economic and social impacts of this phenomenon. We add that, in some scenarios, response measures to climate change can generate perverse equally devastating effects.

However, our country recognizes that Small Island Developing States have a special vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. It should therefore be an imperative that developed countries comply with the relevant obligations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the ultimate goal to ambitiously reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases.
In December of 2009, Venezuela rejected the so-called Copenhagen Accord due to the way it was prepared behind doors, violating the norms of multilateralism, but above all because it falsely established as an ambitious goal, 2 degrees in temperature, which would have meant the death of thousands of human beings and the disappearance of countries. Venezuela supports for the accord to set a compromise of below 1.5 degrees C temperature.

Today, we work with firmness and clear political commitment to ensure that in the 16th Conference of the Parties in Cancun we achieve truly ambitious and balanced results, with a view to adopting a legally binding instrument that complements and strengthens the existing legal regime consisting of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

The survival of the planet is at stake, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the fight against the climate threat, and therefore, its special solidarity with the Small Island Development States and support initiatives that promote sustainable development.

For Venezuela, the calls for pragmatism and realism must be founded on an ambitious agenda, not on a negotiation based on the minimum aspirations.

The challenge is great. For that reason, the only realistic and pragmatic approach must be a high political ambition and that depends on us.

THANK YOU