



*Permanent Mission  
of Barbados to  
the United Nations*



**INTERVENTION BY**

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**IN**

**ROUND TABLE 2  
“ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR SMALL ISLAND  
DEVELOPING STATES”**

**AT THE**

**HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF THE BPOA/MSI**

**OF THE**

**65<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**25 SEPTEMBER, 2010**

**United Nations Headquarters**

**New York**

Mr. Chairman,

Sixteen years ago Barbados had the honour of hosting the First Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. That Conference represented the first attempt at translating the framework of Agenda 21 into a specific and operational Action Plan for a particular category of countries.

This category of countries – the Small Island Developing States, had not readily been accepted as such by the wider membership of the United Nations. It was against these odds that the Barbados Programme of Action was born.

It is therefore of great concern to Barbados that 16 years later, the unique and particular vulnerability of SIDS is being challenged by some, even as the circumstances of SIDS have worsened. This review has shown that even with international recognition of the special case of SIDS the level of international financial support has been disappointing. Furthermore, with fractional support many Small Island Developing States have done their part to integrate the goals and objectives contained in the BPOA and MSI into their national development planning processes.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the recognition that SIDS are a special case for development considerations, Barbados remains deeply concerned that this is not taken into account when considering our developmental, financial and trade needs.

All the assessments of the BPOA/MSI implementation indicate that the best national and regional efforts can only be enhanced with an international environment that is supportive and sensitive to the needs of SIDS.

The implementation gap will not be closed by words but rather by actions taken at fora such as these, and more importantly in other fora where decisions related to our economic and financial viability and survival are taken. Small Island Developing States remain on the periphery of norm-setting and decision-making arenas where issues of critical importance to our economies are decided upon. It is therefore critical that the voice and participation of SIDS be enhanced at the international level and that limited membership groupings do not unfairly target important areas of activity for our economies.

Trade represents an important means for promoting sustainable development and building resilience in SIDS. Trade allows our local fishers, our small agro-processors, our port workers, our chefs, trade unions and local cooperative credit unions to feel a part of this global economy.

In this regard Barbados calls for meaningful progress on the small vulnerable economies work programme in the WTO.

Most Caribbean SIDS are categorized as middle income countries based on our level of per capita income, which therefore precludes them from accessing concessionary financing.

They are therefore dependent on expensive financing from the international financial institutions, exacerbating already unsustainable levels of foreign debt and thus increasing their vulnerability. If this matter is not urgently addressed by the international community CARICOM SIDS will not be able to meet their sustainable development goals.

Mr. Chairman,

We do not want to return to a situation where our economies are dependent on unpredictable capital nor conditions similar to force labour, therefore we urge the international community to partner with us in strengthening our absorptive capacity and our productive systems.

Mr. Chairman,

We are dedicated to continuing our struggle for the survival of Small Island Developing States, we are determined to ensure that all hands are on deck in this regard and we shall be decisive in ensuring that by 2014 the rate of implementation would have significantly increased.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.