MACOSS

Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)


Reducing Vulnerabilities and Strengthening Resilience of SIDS

Date: 24-25 September - 2010
Venue: MSI+5, High Level Event, New York

Speech by Chairman of MACOSS - Mr Denis Grandport
Chairperson, officials of the UN, Representatives of Institutions, NGO Representatives, my learned colleagues.

First of all, on behalf of the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), the umbrella organisation of NGOs in Mauritius and on behalf of NGOs specially in small islands development states, I would like to thank and congratulate the UN for initiating the concept of SIDS and for giving me the opportunity today to address you and to share with you our concern on the subject: Reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience of SIDS.

We have gone a long way from 1994 to now. We appreciate the fact that important landmarks like this meeting are put up every five years when we take stock of what has happened and what has to be done and where rectification is required.

In this conjecture we bring to task the Government, inter-governmental institutions, international institutions, international financial institutions, civil society and individuals.

Let me now come to the gist of my contribution in this dialogue.

First and foremost we would like to congratulate the organisers for bringing the focus on the subject where I would like to bring up again, that is the vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience of SIDS. This, in fact, reflects the exact concern of SIDS and specially my country, Mauritius.
Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, we are vulnerable specially in consideration of the following factors:

- The world economic crisis
- Market restraints
- Access in terms of fret, distance and competitiveness
- Transfer and sharing of appropriate technology
- Effects of Climate Change
- Energy Crisis
- Globalisation and liberalization

Let me share my concern on the subject per se

**Question 1:**
*What lessons can be learnt for reducing vulnerability and building resilience from the impacts of the recent global crises, such as the climate change, financial, food/fuel, and natural disasters?*

We acknowledge that over the past five years there has been a scaling up of the negative impacts on some of the identified issues.

i. We haven't placed enough structures and infrastructure to address the issues

ii. We are slow in reacting towards putting up those structures

iii. Between the summits we need to have more monitoring, sharing, multi-pronged actions for example, on our economic strategies

iv. Funding does not follow appropriate programmes
I am proud to share with you a new concept and solidarity among island states for the South East Indian Ocean, that is, making of the islands of Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Reunion a common tourist destination.

**Question 2: How can national development planning process help reduce vulnerability and build resilience of SIDS?**

Each country has its own realities and characteristics to be taken into consideration when developing its planning strategy.

We have to recognize that in Mauritius, our leaders have to a large extent, addressed all the concerned issues timely and effectively.

We have a solid democratic system which he has been the propeller for engineering economic, social and cultural, environmental and harmonious society.

This has been a sine qua non for the success and sustainability of our different plans. In this context, let me share a new national initiative,

(i) the stimulus package to the private sector to survive the economic crisis

(ii) the establishment of the M.I.D (Maurice Ile Durable) i.e sustain development in encompassing: social, economic and environmental issues.
Sustainable development has been initiated to inter alia, to mitigate the effects of climate change.

How can we reduce vulnerability and build resilience of SIDS?
I am hereby humbly making 3 proposals:
(i) Demonstrate and implement international recommendations within an appropriate structure with adequate human and financial resources and national level
(ii) International institutions, intergovernmental organisations to support efficiency the national plans of action
(iii) A de facto consensus and a common vision to be obtained to make national objectives the ownership of government, corporate, civil society and individuals.

Question 3:
What may be the ways and means to achieve tangible results to reduce vulnerability and build resilience in a few priority areas identified by SIDS?

We agree that all the priority areas such as on climate change are in fact interlinked.

Addressing one will have a cascading effect on others.

Special measures we are proposing:
- better communication, implementation and reporting
- making action plan the ownership of all citizens and the very beneficiaries for which they are destined.
- All governments should provide substantial financial institution.

Ladies and gentlemen, my dear colleagues, it was for me a real pleasure to share with you these few comments, consensus and proposals for the development of small island states.

If ever you have any question, I shall be most pleased to answer.

On behalf of my organisation, MACOSS and on my own behalf let me thank you for the attention you have paid to me.

Thank you.  

September 2010
High-level Review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
65th Session of the UN General Assembly
UN HQ, 25-25 September 2010

Theme- Reducing Vulnerabilities and Strengthening Resilience of SIDS

- The SIDS national sustainable development strategies include measures to address vulnerabilities, to build resilience, recognize the need for strengthen cooperation and partnership at national, regional and international levels
- Such partnership should broad-based and involve commitment and participation of relevant stakeholders
- Coherence, consistency, good governance, peace, security, political stability, respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural diversity are essential to achieve sustainable development
- Integrated and holistic approaches to attain strategic development at all levels
- SIDS require continous support to address serious challenges and emerging issues
- SIDS recognize that the civil society is playing a key and determining role in promoting sustainable development activities and encourage them in their efforts
- A more integrated approach to be set up within civil society and major groups through experience sharing among members countries
- Attention to be focused the related needs, the priorities and concerns over global challenges—a front line approach (not acting in back office)
- The limited coping capacities should not be a deterrent as civil society should help in the preparedness to tackle global crises
- Supporting efforts from civil society to promote awareness of adverse and vulnerable sectors
- Supplementary strategies from civil society to foster resilience building (natural disaster, pandemic)
- Integrated and planning framework for indicators to be devised among different NGOS of SIDS to collect, compile reliable data to quantify agreed targets for comparison with tangible results. Regular review of recurrent issues as opposed to emerging ones and adoption of corrective and improved measures to reduce further vulnerabilities
- At Macoss, participatory approach through equivalent committees and group works are set up to follow each and every issues raised in the Mauritius Strategy