



SOLOMON ISLANDS

STATEMENT BY

**MR. GEORGE HIELE
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & EXTERNAL TRADE**

BEFORE THE

**HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW MEETING OF THE
65th UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY FOR
THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

*Round table 2—Enhancing international support
for small island developing States*

25th SEPTEMBER 2010, NEW YORK

Please Check Against Delivery

Co-Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor to speak on the important subject of enhancing international support for SIDS.

The 2005 MSI recognizes the vulnerability of SIDS and sets out a set of priorities for multilateral cooperation. Five years ago when the MSI was agreed to, our former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan then stated, the 10 year old implementation of what was agreed and promised in Barbados remains disappointing at best. Today as we focus on the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme, the verdict remains the same.

Co-Chair,

For this reason we need to examine the UN system and see where we should begin our journey in streamlining the MSI within the UN system.

Let me make a few proposals, first a special category of SIDS within the UN system, this is referred in the political declaration. Secondly the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) which unites 32 UN Funds, should play a strengthened role in the implementation of the MSI. The UNDAF through the Secretary General could present a report on progress via the CSD process and the General Assembly, allowing SIDS and partners to monitor progress on a regular basis.

Three, having a one-size-fits-all regional approach in the Pacific by the UN, needs to be revisited and replaced with a stronger UN country presence and operation. Our diverse development challenges and character have seen SIDS in the Pacific reversed from developing to least developed status. Five out of twelve Pacific SIDS UN members are LDCs. We are also mindful that the ocean where the Pacific SIDS are located, covers a third of the earth's surface, the distance between us is huge and are in different time zones. SIDS in this regard with their unique relation to the ocean and its challenges, need tangible resources to enable them to increase their share of benefits from their marine resources.

Co-Chair,

We could reset our relationship with partners to ensure funds committed and placed in multilateral mechanisms, where SIDS has a seat and a say in its utilization. We must set concrete targets and indicators to monitor access to new technologies within the MSI framework, which annually could be reported on. We must develop a strengthened cooperation with emerging economies that have affordable, relevant and tested technologies.

There are also SIDS specific sub-regional intergovernmental mechanisms that are owned and operated by SIDS that will need to be roped into implementing MSI. We reiterate SIDS call

Co-Chair,

Let me close by stating that the need for investment in SIDS, for the full and effective implementation of MSI is fundamentally urgent, to strengthen their resilience to support sustainable development to achieve MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.