

TUVALU

Statement for Review Meeting of the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Roundtable #2 Enhancing International Support for the SIDS

Co-Chairs,
Distinguished Heads of State and Government
Ladies and Gentlemen

Tuvalu did not have the opportunity to speak during the round table yesterday but we actually have wanted to highlight two key vulnerabilities of SIDS: *and these relate to* economic and environmental ^{aspects.} Typically, the global financial crisis and climate change are two external drivers that have threatened and will continue to threaten the sustainable development of SIDS.

To address these vulnerabilities, international support for SIDS needs to be dramatically enhanced. I would like to propose 5 actions that may enhance this support.

First, the key element in enhancing international support for SIDS is to have SIDS properly recognised as a discrete group within the UN system. Our special circumstances, particularly our unique vulnerabilities, should be recognised and supported by all UN agencies. This would ensure that we are given focused treatment within the UN system.

Second, we need direct support for enhancing our own energy production, based on renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. This will be the only way to relieve us of substantial costs associated with fossil fuel importation. Therefore we need a special renewable energy and energy efficiency fund for SIDS.

Third, we need enhanced international support to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing). Linked to this, we need further support to help us delimit our exclusive economic zones. These two actions will assist in

the sustainable management of our fisheries and ensure a sustainable economic future.

Fourth, we need international support directed towards an international climate risk insurance mechanism. On their own, SIDS are not able to afford insurance based on the effects of climate change. We do not have revenues to afford the premiums from large scale climate damage. We need financial support from the international community to establish a climate risk insurance mechanism that could subsidise premiums to make them affordable without running the risk of the moral hazard of relying on a low premium facility. We would also need support to help us climate proof our infrastructure and agriculture.

Fifth, the international community can enhance support for SIDS by taking more decisive action on climate change. Our future is threatened by climate change. We must ensure that the international community commits to legally binding actions to reduce emissions and to provide support for adaptation.

Co-Chairs,

These five basic steps will enhance our sustainability. We look forward to a meaningful response to these proposals.

Thank you.