

# SIDS UPDATE

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## JANUARY 2010

### Mauritius +5 Review process

#### At the national level:

- The National Assessment Reports (NARs) are near completion. In the Pacific, a Development Account project managed by ESCAP/EPOC is providing a framework for assistance in this regard. In the Caribbean, ECLAC/Caribbean office is coordinating the process. The SIDS Unit has provided support to local consultancy in undertaking NARs for some countries in the Caribbean and the AIMS region. UNDP local offices have helped monitor the process.
- Thus far, NARs have been received as follows:
  - From SIDS: Comoros; Guinea Bissau; Sao Tome and Principe; Bahrain; Fiji; Marshall Islands; Nauru; Palau; Tuvalu; Kiribati; Cuba and St. Lucia.
  - From UN agencies: UNEP; ESCAP/EPOC; UNESCO; CBD; UNDP Dominican Republic.
  - From non-SIDS countries: Australia; Germany; and Mexico.

#### At the regional level:

- Consultations are held regularly with the Inter-agency Consultative Group both globally and on a regional basis to plan and discuss preparations for the Mauritius +5 regional review meetings in early 2010.
- Three regional review meetings are planned as follows:
  - The Pacific meeting: Vanuatu, on 8-9 February 2010, has been held back to back with the planned Pacific Conference on *The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis in the Pacific*. A draft outcome statement and regional report have been produced.
  - The Caribbean meeting: Grenada, on 17-18 March 2010, to be held back-to-back with the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) meeting. The meeting agenda has been finalized and the invites will be sent shortly.
  - The AIMS meeting: Maldives, on 9-10 March 2010. The meeting agenda is being finalized and logistical arrangements are being made.
- There will be three regional synthesis reports to feed into the respective regional meetings.

#### At the global level:

- An inter-regional meeting will be held immediately prior the SIDS Day during the week-end between the first and second week of CSD-18 to take stock among SIDS delegations of the outcomes of the three regional meetings and national assessments.
- SIDS Day at CSD-18 to be held on Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, will serve as the preparatory committee for the Mauritius +5 high-level review to be held during the 65th session of the GA.
- The SIDS Unit has also continued its consultative process with AOSIS. On 14 January, the SIDS Unit convened a meeting in which AOSIS members expressed their views on what might be achieved through the MSI+5 high level review meeting, and what should be the nature of its outcome.
- Consultations are also underway to determine the exact dates of the high level meeting, which remain to be determined.

### Projects

#### 1. Project on Capacity Development through Education for Sustainable Development and Knowledge Management in SIDS (funded by the Government of Spain)

- With regard to the SIDSnet component of the project, on 26-27 January, the SIDS Unit convened an expert group meeting focusing on the revitalization of SIDSnet. The purpose of the meeting was to

provide strategic input into the revamping of SIDSnet, as well as to elaborate a 3-5 year strategy that will help to ensure maximum value-added and sustainability of the project. The meeting was attended by experts in the fields of sustainable development, knowledge management and SIDS.

- The next step of this component will be the convening of an inception workshop, possibly in May.
- With regard to the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS) component of the project, on 9- 12 December, an inception workshop took place at the UCSIS Secretariat hosted by the University of West Indies, in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop was co-organized by the University, UNESCO-Kingston Office and the SIDS Unit. The workshop met its objectives of developing and agreeing on a specific work plan and a time frame for the component of the project focused on formulating and delivering virtual training and Master's level education on sustainable development for SIDS.
- Next steps for this component include: a) follow-up meeting of the Programme Committee to refine the implementation details including defining respective roles of the participating universities; and b) a meeting of the UCSIS Board of Trustees to authorize the agreed work plan.

## 2. Website Enhancement

A Mauritius+5 review web-section will soon be featured on a provisional **sidnet.org** site to provide greater visibility while work will be launched to develop and revitalize a renewed SIDSNet. In the meantime, the relevant information is available on DSD website at:

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_sids/sids\\_milemajomeetmsi5.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milemajomeetmsi5.shtml).

## 3. Documentary: Taking Action on Climate Change to Build Resilience and Promote the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

- A series of three Climate Change-related documentaries, conceptualized by the SIDS Unit in consultation with the AOSIS Media Working Group, are being produced in partnership with UN-TV of DPI as follows:
  - Grenada film highlights recovery efforts from the Hurricane Ivan – completed and broadcasted through CNN;
  - Maldives film focuses on sea-level rise – filming completed;
  - Tuvalu film highlights the impact of saltwater intrusion on Food Security - filming completed.

## Normative Work

### 1. Preparations for CSD-18

- Work is ongoing on the two Secretary-General's reports related to SIDS that will be prepared for CSD-18: a) a global assessment report based on the outcomes of NARs, regional review meetings and other research, focusing on how vulnerabilities have been addressed in the MSI implementation in the last five years; and b) review of CSD-18 themes (Chemicals, Mining, Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, Transport and Waste Management) in relation to SIDS.
- Identification of SIDS thematic experts as possible panelists, instructors for the Learning Centre is in process – ***any suggestions are welcome.***

### 2. Contribution to review requested for CDP

- In relation to ECOSOC resolution 2009/17, the SIDS Unit has been consulted by the secretariat of the Commission on Development Planning (CDP) and has agreed to provide available reference materials in order for them to prepare the grounds for CDP to conduct the requested independent review on UN support to the SIDS.

- On 27 January, the SIDS Unit gave a presentation and contributed to the discussion during the expert group meeting on special measures for least developing countries (LDCs) and on UN support for small island developing States (SIDS), which was convened in preparation to the next meeting of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP). The contribution of the SIDS Unit focused on the current UN framework and activities in support of SIDS, and also outlined some of the special circumstances that pose unique development challenges to SIDS.
- The SIDS Unit is currently in the process of collecting further information from UN entities to support the CDP process.

**Any comments or request for assistance?**

Please feel free to contact us at the SIDS Unit at any time.

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