

**Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting of Small Island Developing States for the  
Third International Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island  
Developing States**

**NEEDHAMS POINT BRIDGETOWN DECLARATION**

1. We, the Ministers of Governments and Heads of Delegations of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), having met in Needhams Point, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26-28 August 2013, in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, renew our commitment to sustainable development as the pathway to the future we want.
2. We represent the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS) region; the Caribbean region; and the Pacific region and have come together at this Inter-regional preparatory meeting to identify our challenges and priorities as well as time-bound, targeted and measurable goals to ensure the sustainable development of SIDS in anticipation of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Apia, Samoa in 2014 (Samoa Conference).
3. We reaffirm the continued validity of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) as the essential blueprints for the sustainable development of SIDS and express our continued commitment to the principles and priorities in the BPOA and MSI, as well as the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on sustainable development (JPOI), and the outcome of the Rio + 20 Conference (“The Future We Want”).
4. We reaffirm that Small Island Developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular

vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external shocks, including to a large range of adverse impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters; that many SIDS experience high levels of poverty and inequality, disadvantages in economies of scale, heavy dependency on imports, high vulnerability to energy and food price shocks, and extremely high levels of national debt; and that these combined vulnerabilities have been further exacerbated by the recent global energy, food, financial and economic crises and environmental challenges.

5. We further recognize that SIDS face significant challenges in the area of water, energy, waste management including hazardous waste management and trans-boundary waste and pollution.
6. We have considered the SIDS National Assessment Reports for the Samoa Conference, the outcomes of the three regional meetings held in Jamaica, Fiji and Seychelles, the synthesis reports, and the presentations made during this Inter-Regional Meeting in Barbados.
7. We acknowledge that SIDS have made progress in the implementation of the BPOA and MSI, primarily through their own efforts. We also recognize that the BPOA and MSI are currently being implemented in a very different global environment than that which existed in 1994 and 2005 respectively.
8. We remain convinced that given their inherent vulnerabilities and finite resources, the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS will continue to be constrained, thus necessitating significantly enhanced, prioritized and focused attention by the international community, especially donors and the international financial institutions.

9. We are concerned by the weakening economic performance of many SIDS over the past decade due in part to the ongoing global economic and financial crisis, increases in global food and energy prices, declining levels of ODA, and more adverse terms of trade which have further exacerbated SIDS' vulnerabilities and threaten to reverse hard-won development achievements.
10. We recognize the need for greater attention to the social dimension of development challenges for SIDS.
11. We stress that climate change remains the greatest challenge to SIDS, as adverse impacts continue to undermine progress towards development and, in some cases, threaten their very existence. International actions, particularly by developed countries, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would ensure the survival of SIDS, and to provide new and additional finance for adaptation, are highly insufficient.
12. We emphasize that SIDS have a unique dependency on the health of global oceans and marine resources. Development challenges to SIDS are posed by inadequate conservation resources, overfishing, and barriers to increased participation in fisheries-related activities.
13. We remain committed to guaranteeing our sovereignty and survival and to taking full ownership of our sustainable development to deliver quality and meaningful outcomes for our people and our nations.
14. Mindful of the evolving processes to establish the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, we confirm our commitment to the acceleration of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and assert that our priority sustainable development issues should be integrated into the

post-2015 development framework including the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

15. We decide that the theme of the Samoa Conference is “Sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”.
16. We emphasize that the continuing reaffirmation of the “special case” of SIDS remains relevant while recognizing the increasing acceptance by the international community of the limited options and special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development for SIDS.
17. We stress that strengthened cooperation and partnership at the national, regional and international levels is vital. We recognize the value of partnerships in this process as a means of building understanding, providing support, and expressing and fulfilling commitments over the long term to the challenges faced and identified by SIDS.
18. We commit ourselves to ensuring a successful outcome from the Samoa Conference that will address the following objectives:
  - a. Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the BPOA and MSI building on, *inter alia*, existing reports and relevant processes;
  - b. Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the BPOA and MSI, *inter alia*, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

- c. Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and ways and means to address them including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community;
- d. Identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

19. We express our appreciation to the international and regional development partners that have contributed to the preparatory process and note that their continued involvement is crucial to the success of the Samoa Conference.

20. We consider the Barbados outcome document as providing a clear and focused roadmap that is practical, achievable, readily implementable and in line with national, regional and international priorities and goals and agree that the Barbados outcome document is the basis for the SIDS Zero Draft in preparation for the intergovernmental preparatory committee (prepcoms) that will take place in early 2014.

21. We emphasize the urgent need for new additional and predictable financial resources to SIDS in order to respond effectively to the sustainable development challenges in SIDS, and in this regard reiterate our call to the international community to fulfill all ODA commitments to SIDS; simplify and prioritize access to SIDS to international funds including the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund; and consider criteria other than per capita GDP in graduating SIDS from access to grant and concessionary financing.

22. We call on the international community to finance and facilitate access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to SIDS.
23. We also call on the international community to provide support for capacity building and institutional strengthening at the national and regional levels in SIDS including through facilitating SIDS-SIDS cooperation.
24. We recognize the value of increased inter and intra-regional cooperation among SIDS and undertake to make further progress in this area.
25. We welcome 2014 as the designated International Year of Small Island Developing States to raise awareness of the “special case” of SIDS and to mobilize international support for our sustainable development. We look forward to its launch in New York at the beginning of 2014.
26. Building on the BPOA and MSI, we look forward to engaging with partners and the international community in addressing our sustainable development challenges while ensuring that our people remain at the centre of our development.
27. We recognize the role of Major Groups in the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda, including the SDGs and in the outcome of the Third International Conference on SIDS.
28. We therefore call on our partners and the international community to enhance their support to, and continue to work with, us for the full implementation of our sustainable development priorities as we prepare for 2014 and beyond.

*Expression of Gratitude*

29. We express our heartfelt appreciation to the Government and People of Barbados for hosting of this SIDS Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Islands Developing States and for the excellent arrangements made.