



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-IB/1/2  
28 July 2004

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON  
ISLAND BIODIVERSITY**

Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife), Canary Islands, Spain  
6-10 September 2004  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL  
PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE 10-YEAR REVIEW OF THE BARBADOS  
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Ten years after the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Barbados in 1994, the international community is to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the blueprint for the sustainable development of small island developing States, for an overall assessment of the progress achieved through the efforts of SIDS and to identify structural, institutional and financial constraints that they face.
2. In addition to the priority areas identified in the Barbados Programme of Action, the review process has highlighted the emergence of novel issues such as security, intellectual property rights, bioprospecting, biopiracy, radioactive and nuclear wastes which are further exacerbating the vulnerability of SIDS.
3. During the preparatory meetings for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action, there has been a persistent call for the international community to support SIDS in their activities. The international community is expected to play a vital role in empowering and assisting SIDS in their local efforts to preserve their biodiversity.
4. As far as biodiversity is concerned, all the preparatory meetings for the 10-year review underscored that the vulnerabilities of SIDS have increased over the last decade. Threatened supplies of freshwater in SIDS are further exacerbating land degradation and desertification.
5. The challenges posed by climate change to SIDS such as sea-level rise, are increasing, and there were many calls for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The adverse effects of climate change are

---

\* UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-IB/1/1.

/...

further weakening the resilience of small island developing States. The need for the international community to further reduce greenhouse-gas emissions was stressed.

6. The meetings acknowledged that national disaster mitigation and preparedness capacity is becoming a growing concern for SIDS because of the increased propensity of natural disasters and human-induced disasters such as oil spills. The need for effective waste management as an ever-growing concern for SIDS was also raised.

7. Attention was also drawn to the inadequate integration of the Barbados Programme of Action into national and regional planning process and the need for a greater involvement of civil society. At a broader level, the meetings articulated the wish for greater cooperation between SIDS in order for them to share their knowledge and disseminate regional know-how.

8. All the meetings have repeatedly proposed making use of the relevant United Nations conventions and frameworks as a means to combat effectively the adverse climate change effects and biodiversity loss.

9. Delegates have also recognized that international trade is important for increasing the economic strength of SIDS. The meetings pointed out that SIDS are unable to effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations, which results in further marginalization. There is the need to protect the traditional and indigenous knowledge of island dwellers against the commodification and commercialization interests of corporate institutions. There is an associated need to set up ways to address the trade aspects of SIDS intellectual property rights in respect of biodiversity and genetic resources.

10. The meetings also avowed the high dependence of SIDS on the tourism industry, which undeniably sustains the economy of many SIDS. There is a need to determine the tourism carrying-capacity that these islands can sustain to avoid undue pressure on the local resources, and hence biodiversity.

11. The meetings pointed out that the efforts of SIDS to protect their marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems would be greatly enhanced by reinforcing the institutional policies and legal frameworks of the island States. Here again, delegates called for international assistance to develop these frameworks.

12. As far as the financial mechanism is concerned, the meetings recognized that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been an effective means to fund many biodiversity related projects, but its efficiency should have been further tapped. GEF inherently has the capacity to fund more projects, but it was stated that it must simplify its disbursement procedures so as to take into account the special considerations <sup>1/</sup> of SIDS. Concomitantly, it was suggested that new sources of funding, such as national biodiversity trust fund should be launched.

---

<sup>1/</sup> See page 5, para 5 (d) for a description of "special considerations of SIDS".

**CONTENTS**

<i>Chapter</i>		<i>Page</i>
I.	INTRODUCTION .....	4
II.	THE OUTCOMES OF THE PREPARATORY REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION.....	5
A.	Overview of the outcomes of the Pacific Regional Meeting .....	5
B.	Overview of the outcomes of the AIMS Regional Meeting .....	7
C.	Overview of the outcomes of the Caribbean Regional Meeting .....	9
III.	OVERVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTER-REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING HELD IN BAHAMAS, 2004 .....	12
IV.	THE OUTCOMES OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN NEW YORK, 2004 .....	15
V.	CONCLUSIONS .....	18

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In annex II of the decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare, *inter alia*, a review of the outcomes of the regional and interregional preparatory meetings for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

2. The Executive Secretary has prepared the present note in response to that request. The note reviews the outcomes of the following meetings:

(a) The three regional preparatory meetings for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action, held in Apia, from 4 to 8 August 2003, Praia, from 1 to 5 September 2003, and Port of Spain, from 6 to 10 October 2003 (section II);

(b) The Interregional Preparatory Meeting of small island developing States for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action, held in Nassau, from 26 to 30 January 2004 (section III); and

(c) The open-ended preparatory meeting for the Mauritius International Meeting for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action held in New York, from 14 to 16 April 2004, as part of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (section IV).

3. In each section, reference is made to the implementation of the priority issues identified in the Barbados Programme of Action (see box 1) with a focus on issues relating directly to biodiversity, constraints in implementation, and new and emerging issues. Section V provides some conclusions highlighting issues that could be considered in the development of the draft programme of work on island biodiversity and related recommendations.

### **Box 1- The Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS**

1. The United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994, was called for by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1992 on the recommendation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

2. The Barbados Conference was considered as the first test for the global partnership formed at the Earth Summit, which joined developed and developing countries under the same agenda for sustainable development - development that meet present needs without jeopardizing the welfare of future generations by undermining the environment on which all life depends.

3. At the Barbados Conference, 111 Governments adopted a Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action. These agreements elaborated principles and set out strategies for the sustainable development of small islands developing States, and the protection of their fragile environment.

4. The Barbados Programme of Action called for national, regional and international action in the following 14 priority areas: (i) climate change and sea-level rise; (ii) natural and environmental disasters; (iii) management of wastes; (iv) coastal and marine resources; (v) freshwater resources; (vi) land resources; (vii) energy resources; (viii) tourism resources; (ix) biodiversity resources; (x) national institutions and administrative capacity; (xi) regional institutions and technical cooperation; (xii) transport and communication; (xiii) science and technology; and (xiv) human resource development.

## II. THE OUTCOMES OF THE PREPARATORY REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION

### A. Overview of the outcomes of the Pacific Regional Meeting

4. The Pacific Regional Meeting for the Review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was held in Apia, Samoa, from 4 to 8 August 2003. The report of the meeting is accessible at the SIDSnet website at [www.sidsnet.org](http://www.sidsnet.org). The meeting drew the following general conclusions:

(a) The Barbados Programme of Action continues to be the blueprint for sustainable development in the region and for SIDS in general;

(b) The vulnerabilities of SIDS have increased over the last decade, with an increasing inability of SIDS to respond to them, as the resilience of SIDS is not improving. The specific disadvantages of many island States were highlighted;

(c) The overall level of implementation of the Programme of Action has been weak at the international level as expressed, *inter alia*, by an overall decline in overseas development assistance and unfavourable terms and conditions of trade;

(d) The Pacific SIDS have implemented many aspects of the Programme of Action, but there is a need for greater awareness-raising on the Programme and greater political commitment to implementation at the national level, taking into account the many disadvantages that SIDS derived from their small size and the fact that many island States are not only small but are themselves made up of a number of small islands. The disadvantages include a narrow range of resources, which forces undue specialization; excessive dependence on international trade and hence vulnerability to global developments; high human population density increasing the existing pressure on already limited resources; overuse and premature depletion of resources; and relatively small watersheds and threatened supplies of freshwater;

(e) Many SIDS have achieved progress in the implementation of the Rio conventions and related international agreements. These agreements are complementary to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action;

(f) Bearing in mind that small islands tend to have a high level of endemic species and abundant biodiversity, the relatively small number of individuals of a given species presents high risks of extinction, hence the need for protection. The protection and promotion of traditional knowledge in the Pacific could be important for the building of resilience to these vulnerabilities;

(g) Relative poverty including scarcity of opportunity was increasing in some parts of the region, as well as abject poverty in urban areas and squatter settlements;

(h) Dependency on imported food, fuel, medicines and other products was increasing, as well as the incidence of nutrition-related illness;

5. The Pacific Regional Meeting also renewed commitments to:

(a) Find effective ways and means to develop community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism by 2004 and build the capacities necessary to diversify sustainable tourism products;

(b) The full and effective implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Energy Policy and the Pacific Islands Regional Information and Communication Technologies Policy; and

(c) The continued formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies, including targets, monitoring and evaluation procedures, and streamlined reporting requirements.

***Consideration of the programme priority areas, with emphasis on biodiversity-related issues***

6. In considering progress made in each of the priority areas identified in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Pacific Regional Meeting reiterated some concerns already expressed during the review of the Programme by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 as well as at the fourth Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) Summit held during the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, and formulated some recommendations, as appropriate. The issues considered below are those that are more directly related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its programmes of work:

(a) In view of the impacts of climate change, climate variability, sea-level rise and extreme weather events, which remain important impediments to the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS, the Pacific Regional Meeting, *inter alia*, urged the international community to support implementation of the Regional Framework for Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea Level Rise;

(b) The need for efficient waste management, with a particular focus on national waste management strategies for the reduction, recycling, reuse and appropriate safe disposal of solid, liquid and hazardous wastes, and the growing concern for the transport and disposal of radioactive materials and the lack of liability and compensatory regimes were noted;

(c) Regarding coastal and marine resources, there is a need for a full and effective implementation at the national and regional level, and with international support, of the Pacific Regional Ocean Policy <sup>2/</sup> and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

(d) There is a need for the effective implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management (2002), <sup>3/</sup> which highlights the need to take action in the following six key areas: water resources management; island vulnerabilities; awareness-building; technology transfer; institutional arrangements and financing;

(e) Regarding biodiversity and other resources considered in the Barbados Programme of Action, the sustainable use, conservation and management of Pacific biodiversity is a growing concern. The rich but ecologically fragile biological inheritance of most Pacific islands is seriously threatened as a result of both human impacts and natural events. There are already far too many examples of the illegal access, overexploitation, endangerment and extinction of Pacific island biological resources, and the loss of associated traditional knowledge. To address this issue it is recommended that the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands (2003-2007) be implemented, and that national biodiversity strategies and action plans be completed and implemented, and that the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety be ratified and implemented. There is a need to develop rules to legally protect traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities, taking note of the ongoing work in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity. There is also a need for regulatory frameworks or instruments that will ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing to indigenous and local communities while providing a fair system of access for investors;

(f) Invasive organisms, pests and diseases threaten food and agricultural systems, and critical terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and environmental services. In this regard the Regional

---

<sup>2/</sup> See [www.spc.org.nc/coastfish/Asides/Ocean/PROPScore.pdf](http://www.spc.org.nc/coastfish/Asides/Ocean/PROPScore.pdf). This policy includes the following five guiding principles: improving our understanding of the ocean; sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources, including the promotion and utilization of traditional practices; maintaining the health of the ocean; promoting the peaceful use of the ocean; and creating partnerships and promoting cooperation.

<sup>3/</sup> See [www.freshwateraction.net/resources/regional/oceania.asp](http://www.freshwateraction.net/resources/regional/oceania.asp).

Invasive Species Strategy <sup>4/</sup> should be implemented and further developed to strengthen or develop national invasive species action plans.

***Constraints to implementation***

7. Constraints encountered in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, as identified by the Pacific regional Meeting, include insufficient financial, human and institutional/administrative resources. It was reiterated that additional international assistance is needed to address these constraints.

8. Regarding financial resources, the Regional Meeting called for:

(a) The maximization of access to available resources by submitting to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) proposals under the land-degradation portfolio and for climate-change adaptation projects;

(b) Innovative financial schemes to support activities under the Barbados Programme of Action including by securing greater flexibility in the GEF procedures to take into account the special circumstances and challenges of SIDS, and micro-financing for sustainable development in remote areas.

9. Capacity-building for sustainable development, including capacity to strengthen the legal and legislative framework, and development of transport and communication systems remain high priorities.

***New and emerging issues***

10. The Pacific Regional Meeting identified the following new and/or emerging issues:

(a) Customary tenure systems and local land and resource owners play an important role in driving conservation and sustainable-development initiatives, hence the need for their involvement in planning, implementation and monitoring to ensure sustainability;

(b) There is a need to strengthen efforts towards good governance at all levels;

(c) Women play a special role in ensuring that environment and development issues are sustainably harnessed for the continued health and well being of their families and communities. The youth also contribute considerably to sustainable-development programmes;

(d) The incidence of emerging health issues as HIV/AIDS, drug resistant malarial strains, dengue, nutritional disorders and non-communicable diseases and their impacts on sustainable development is increasing;

(e) The diverse agricultural and food systems that have been a foundation for sustainability, food security and nutritional well-being in the Pacific islands for millennia are breaking down rapidly leading to increasing dependency on imported food, fuel, medicines and other products and the related increase in nutrition-related ill-health. It was strongly recommended that relevant food and agriculture initiatives include components that attempt to build on and enhance traditional systems, rather than replacing or degrading them with monocultural systems and imported foods;

(f) Trading regimes have potential environmental and social effects on SIDS;

***B. Overview of the outcomes of the AIMS Regional Meeting***

11. The AIMS <sup>5/</sup> Regional Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Praia, Cape Verde, from 1 to 5

---

<sup>4/</sup> South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), see [www.hear.org/pier/pdf/invasive\\_species\\_technical\\_review\\_and\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.hear.org/pier/pdf/invasive_species_technical_review_and_strategy.pdf).

<sup>5/</sup> Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the South China Sea (AIMS) island countries.

September 2003. The report of the meeting is available at [www.sidsnet.org](http://www.sidsnet.org). The Meeting explored ways and means to improve regional cooperation to tackle the continuing challenges to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and new and emerging issues.

12. Participants expressed their view that the outcome of the International Meeting to be held in Mauritius in 2005 should be a focused plan to further identify means for implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, in addition to a political declaration. It was noted that considerable work is needed in order to achieve an integrated approach to policy preparation and decision-making, with a view to conserving and managing the natural resource base of islands, in particular coastal zones and marine resources.

#### ***Consideration of the programme priority areas, with emphasis on biodiversity-related issues***

13. In view of the increasing risk of adverse effects of climate change on the AIMS region, the Meeting underscored the added urgency for countries to ratify and fully implement the Kyoto Protocol and the need to further reduce greenhouse gas-emissions.

14. Also mentioned was a need for further assistance in the development of national disaster mitigation preparedness capacity and the creation of appropriate insurance schemes, which is becoming a growing concern for SIDS.

15. Urgent need to control land-based sources of pollution and also to protect and conserve specific areas of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as regards to beach erosion, sand mining and coral reef destruction was invoked during this meeting.

16. Emphasis was laid on the continued challenge faced by AIMS SIDS owing to poor water management as a result of water deficiency, inadequate water catchment areas, bad storage and leakage in the delivery system. The delegates stressed the need for improved use of rainwater harvesting and water conservation and the introduction of novel hydro-technologies

17. It was also stressed that there is a continuous challenge for SIDS to identify the appropriate balance between tourism development and other key sectors of the economy, while maintaining their carrying capacity. The need to enhance sustainable tourism policy development was highlighted. Likewise, it was stated that ecotourism could be used to assist SIDS in protecting and conserving natural resources and biodiversity. It was also suggested that cultural tourism could be incorporated in the national development plans of SIDS, and that, there is a need to develop appropriate protocols and regulations to discourage bio-piracy in SIDS.

18. The delegates recognized the challenge posed by the further utilization of natural endowments of renewable energy sources, which will require further exploration in areas such as ocean thermal conversion technologies. <sup>6/</sup>

19. The AIMS SIDS called for international support in order to fully implement the provisions of the Barbados Programme of Action pertaining to public awareness on sustainable development, improvement of data-collection systems, diversification, capacity development in the management of marine resources and re-insurance schemes.

#### ***Constraints to implementation***

20. The delegates laid emphasis on the poor agricultural and watershed management practices in many AIMS SIDS that have led to serious land degradation, impacting on coastal zones and coral reefs. In this context, there was a call for the application of appropriate mechanisms for improving watershed management and agricultural practices, including the control of fertilizer application and pest management.

---

<sup>6/</sup> See World Energy Council at [www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/](http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/).



21. Specific concerns were also raised regarding illegal unreported and unregulated fishing <sup>7/</sup> and the surveillance of the countries' exclusive economic zones (EEZ). Likewise, assistance from the international community to overcome the difficulties encountered in the monitoring and assessment of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks was highly recommended.

22. While AIMS SIDS welcomed the opportunity to access GEF financial and technical resources to develop and implement projects to address land degradation, there was a call for additional resources to enable them to complete their national action programmes (NAP).

### *New and emerging issues*

23. It was noted that all countries have obligations under Security Council resolution 1373 <sup>8/</sup> to combat any act of international terrorism, but meeting these obligations created particular difficulties for all SIDS, especially for those with large coastal areas and the archipelagic SIDS.

### *C. Overview of the outcomes of the Caribbean Regional Meeting*

24. The Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting to Review the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 6 to 10 October, 2003. The report of the meeting is accessible at [www.sidsnet.org](http://www.sidsnet.org). The Meeting reaffirmed the validity of the Barbados Programme of Action as a framework for sustainable development of SIDS while taking cognisance of the continuing challenges for its implementation, being further exacerbated by new and emerging issues.

### *Consideration of the programme priority areas, with emphasis on biodiversity-related issues*

25. There was a general call for all members of the international community to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and play a greater role in supporting the efforts of SIDS in overcoming the challenges posed by climate change. In order to build resilience, the delegates stressed the need to:

- (a) Seek assistance of the international community for the development of climate-change models appropriate to SIDS;
- (b) Mainstream adaptation to climate change into various sectors, in particular agriculture, fisheries, health and water resources management;
- (c) Improve public awareness on climate change issues in the region;
- (d) Seek collaborative relationships to foster continued research on the regional impact of climate change;
- (e) Maximize the region's access to Clean Development Mechanism; <sup>9/</sup> and
- (f) Promote renewable energy and assist in technology transfer.

26. It was noted that scarcity of sound water infrastructure and adequate water management and distribution systems is a problem among SIDS, and it was suggested that an integrated approach in sanitation and waste management could enhance the efficiency of SIDS in this respect.

---

<sup>7/</sup> See <http://www.fao.org/fi/meetings/tc-iuu/>.

<sup>8/</sup> United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 on international cooperation to combat threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. See <http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/557/43/PDF/N0155743.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>9/</sup> See <http://cdm.unfccc.int/>.

27. Participants considered the loss of biodiversity in the Caribbean to be considered a matter of global concern, and that there is the need to:

- (a) Deepen research in coral-reef protection and regeneration, and sustainable forestry;
- (b) Improve management of mangroves and associated ecosystems including sea-grass beds;
- (c) Establish trans-border land and marine biodiversity conservation areas;
- (d) Develop measures to eradicate or control alien and modified organisms;
- (e) Devise programs for inventorying, documenting and assessing local biodiversity;
- (f) Catalyse SIDS-SIDS cooperation in order to sustainably exploit the potential of local medicinal plants, while ensuring protection of intellectual property rights;
- (g) Promote increased public awareness in the prevalence of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the region.

28. Caribbean SIDS remain particularly vulnerable to natural and human-induced disasters. There is a need to strengthen the hazard mitigation policies that have been developed, taking into account the complex nature of SIDS vulnerability. International support has to be sought to address vulnerability mapping for integration into sustainable development plans.

29. The importance of having affordable insurance and re-insurance schemes as an integral asset for building resilience in disaster-prone SIDS was repeatedly stressed, as was the need to identify an appropriate international institution to undertake a feasibility study on cost-effective and affordable insurance schemes that could be made available for SIDS.

30. The meeting pointed to the need for continued research, mapping and data collection of coastal and marine resources in the restoration and rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems. Local coastal communities could be more involved in the development and management of coastal zone policies particularly for marine protected areas.

31. It was also suggested that national authorities could be established to administer and manage land, watershed, land degradation, soil erosion and desertification and that post-graduate programmes in geographic information systems, natural resource management and forestry science should be encouraged.

32. Delegates expressed their concern for Caribbean SIDS to determine their tourist carrying capacity. Promotion of national heritage, nature-based tourism, cultural tourism and ecotourism were identified as possible ways to sustainable tourism development.

33. With regard to coastal and marine resources, the meeting underlined the need to complete the mapping of the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of Caribbean SIDS and deposit the charts with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). <sup>10/</sup> There is also the need to integrate policies on coastal zone management and watershed management. The meeting would welcome an initiative to promote ocean management, with a view to fostering energy production, such as ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC).

34. The meeting believed that partnerships and cooperation among SIDS could be strengthened in the areas of hazard management and mitigation, and climate-change data collection for the design of regional models.

---

<sup>10/</sup> See [www.unclos.com](http://www.unclos.com).

35. The meeting underscored multiple funding options for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, such as:

- (a) The polluter-pays principle, whereby the polluter disburses money for the environmental harm caused; <sup>11/</sup>
- (b) Environmental entrepreneurship, encouraging environmentally responsible business practices.
- (c) Debt-for-nature swap arrangements, where international organizations propose to purchase the foreign debt of a developing nation, convert that debt into local currency and use the proceeds to fund conservation activities. <sup>12/</sup>

### ***Constraints to implementation***

36. The meeting pointed to the following constraints to implementation:

- (a) SIDS are making considerable efforts to establish protected areas for coral reefs and forest ecosystems, but there still remains the need to reinforce the institutional policies and legal frameworks of these island States;
- (b) It is important to evaluate the existing waste-management systems and identify more SIDS-appropriate systems for recycling, waste minimization, reuse and treatment. There is also the need for cessation of nuclear-waste shipments through the territorial waters. Henceforth, regional mechanisms are needed to protect the coastal areas from ship-generated waste, oil spills and the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous wastes;
- (c) The lack of proposals for funding under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) <sup>13/</sup> and the Convention on Biological Diversity was also highlighted. To that effect, increased funding proposals would be the means to channel more money to biodiversity related projects.

### ***New and emerging issues***

37. With regard to new and emerging issues, the meeting noted that:

- (a) Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) <sup>14/</sup> are an emerging issue for SIDS. There is the need to throw into focus the distinction between the creativity of local people and indigenous people and the commodification interest of corporate institutions; <sup>15/</sup>
- (b) The current international concern and focus on the military dimensions of security was resulting in a diversion of resources from the development agenda. There is concern about the need to focus on the security aspects of SIDS, taking into consideration all possible threats, including narco-trafficking, illegal trade in small arms and terrorism.

---

<sup>11/</sup> See [www.edie.net/gf](http://www.edie.net/gf).

<sup>12/</sup> See [www.fao.org/docrep/w3247e/w3247e06.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/w3247e/w3247e06.htm).

<sup>13/</sup> See [www.unccd.int/](http://www.unccd.int/)

<sup>14/</sup> See [www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/trips\\_e/trips\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/trips_e.htm)

<sup>15/</sup> J.K Epere, "Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge. OAU model law on community rights and access to genetic resources." See [www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2000-07-13/ekpere.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2000-07-13/ekpere.pdf).

### III. OVERVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERREGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING HELD IN BAHAMAS, JANUARY 2004

38. The Interregional Preparatory Meeting of Small Island Developing States for the International Meeting to Review Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States took place in Nassau, Bahamas, from 26 to 30 January 2004. <sup>16/</sup>

#### *Consideration of the programme priority areas, with emphasis on biodiversity-related issues*

39. The meeting covered the biodiversity-related issues of the previous meetings while stressing the need for strengthened cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and partnership at the national, regional and international level in strategic areas such as information and communication technology, trade investment, capacity-building, disaster management, environment, food, agriculture, water, energy, health and education.

40. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of SIDS to sustainable development by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, while at the same time meeting their obligations under international agreements, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of their people by implementing strategies which build resilience and capacity to address the disproportionate vulnerabilities. The meeting also reaffirmed the urgent need for greater democracy, transparency and inclusiveness in the international financial and economic system to allow for the effective participation of SIDS in the highly competitive international trading environment; the importance of good governance at all levels and the integral role of women and the youth in sustainable development. It was emphasized that sustainable development is best achieved through adoption of integrated and holistic approaches, taking into account the importance of culture. The meeting reiterated the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise threatening the sustainable development, livelihood and existence of SIDS.

41. The international community was invited to:

(a) Fully implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (UNFCCC), by urgently reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions through the development and increased use of renewable energy; ratify and ensure immediate entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol; and

(b) Support SIDS in developing and implementing national climate change action plans, and in accessing and using appropriate technologies and financial resources.

42. The meeting noted that small island developing States continue to face water-management and water-access challenges, caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment, water storage, pollution of water resources, saline intrusion exacerbated, *inter alia*, by sea-level rise, and leakage in the delivery systems. There was a call for the international community including international financial institutions, regional development banks and the private sector to support SIDS in adopting and implementing the Programme for Action for Water and Climate <sup>17/</sup> launched at the third World Water Forum (March 2003) in Shiga, Japan, <sup>18/</sup> and in applying new and appropriate technologies required for the achievement of goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals <sup>19/</sup> and implementing water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives.

---

<sup>16/</sup> The report is accessible at [www.sidsnet.org/Mauritius2004/Regional\\_Meetings/Bahamas.html](http://www.sidsnet.org/Mauritius2004/Regional_Meetings/Bahamas.html).

<sup>17/</sup> See [www.waterandclimate.org/home.asp](http://www.waterandclimate.org/home.asp).

<sup>18/</sup> See [www.world.water-forum3.com/](http://www.world.water-forum3.com/).

<sup>19/</sup> Goal 7 of the MDGs is to 'ensure environment sustainability'. See <http://www.developmentgoals.com/Environment.htm>.

43. It was also noted that pressure on land resources that were identified ten years ago have only been exacerbated by competing uses, increased demands and land degradation. SIDS were invited to find opportunities to diversify their economies and markets, especially in the agricultural sector, in order to increase their degree of food security and self-reliance. The international community, in particular FAO, was requested to assist SIDS in their efforts in intensifying and diversifying agriculture. With specific reference to the mining sector, the international community was invited to help SIDS to establish fair and transparent compensation systems that fully indemnify all natural resources loss (water, forests and land), environmental damage recreational loss and adverse socio-cultural effects, and to legislate and manage national mineral policy frameworks and environmental management plans.

44. With respect to biodiversity, many SIDS have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and have initiated or completed their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The international community was requested to support the SIDS by:

- (a) Building effective partnerships between all stakeholders essential to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources;
- (b) Addressing island biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity in a manner that responds to the unique characteristics of SIDS and to the threats related to climate change, land degradation and their particular vulnerabilities;
- (c) Ensuring that the Convention on Biological Diversity takes account of SIDS-specific cultural identities in the preparation of their final guidelines on tourism management;
- (d) Supporting the implementation of a strong programme of work on protected areas and establishing a globally representative system of marine and coastal protected areas by 2012; 20/
- (e) Controlling major pathways for potential alien invasive species in SIDS;
- (f) Developing local capacities for protecting and valorising the traditional knowledge of indigenous groups for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources;
- (g) Developing the capacity to promote cooperation between SIDS for the preservation of biodiversity resources, shared ecosystem management and exchange of experience;
- (h) Establishing appropriate protocols and regulations to ensure that biopiracy is discouraged and prevented;
- (i) Developing research facilities in biodiversity, including taxonomy, at the national and regional levels in SIDS; and
- (j) Supporting through the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol, the development and the implementation of national biosafety frameworks.

45. It was noted that the disposal and transport of radioactive materials, associated with the lack of adequate liability and compensation regimes continue to raise high concerns for their environmental implications and that marine debris, ballast waste and World War II shipwrecks continue to pose several threats to the ecological integrity of SIDS. The international community was invited to assist SIDS in addressing the issue of waste management and disposal.

46. The international community was also requested to assist SIDS in setting up integrated policies and management approaches, such as marine protected areas. There was a further request to develop national capacity to monitor, conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Along this line, SIDS were advised to address as a priority issue the impacts of coastal development, coastal tourism, intensive and destructive fishing practices, pollution, as well as illegal trade in corals. The

---

20/ See [www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-07/information/cop-07-inf-37-en.doc](http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-07/information/cop-07-inf-37-en.doc).

meeting highlighted the following specific areas where financial international support would be of utmost importance:

- (a) Regional monitoring efforts in concordance with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS); <sup>21/</sup>
- (b) Strengthening the networks of marine protected areas; and
- (c) Addressing the impacts of mass coral bleaching.

47. The meeting underscored the importance of regional initiatives such as the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy <sup>22/</sup> and encouraged interregional governance projects.

48. It was suggested that the international community could strengthen the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) as a means to address national disaster mitigation. Opportunities such as the 10-year review of the Yokohama Strategy on Natural Disaster Reduction in 2005 should be used to establish insurance and re-insurance arrangements for SIDS.

49. The international community was requested to assist SIDS to:

- (a) Strengthen national and regional fisheries management mechanisms;
- (b) Fully implement their surveillance and monitoring systems;
- (c) Analyse and assess the status of fish stocks; and
- (d) Strengthen sustainable and responsible fisheries management.

50. The international community was further requested to assist SIDS to:

- (a) Increase awareness, promotion, adoption and the enforcement of legislation to ensure that sustainable rotational logging practices and replanting initiatives are implemented;
- (b) Encourage stakeholder participation in all discussions and negotiations regarding development, management, and conservation of forest and tree resources;
- (c) Ensure adherence to national forest policies and legislation that have been developed to safeguard rights of 'owners';
- (d) Develop and strengthen partnerships for sustainable forest management such as the Iwokrama International Rainforest Programme (IIRFP); <sup>23/</sup> and
- (e) Reduce deforestation rates and promote sustainable forest management.

51. Once more, the international community was invited to assist SIDS in improving national capacity for policy and legislation formulation, catalysing negotiations within trans-national corporations and the evaluation of mineral sector projects. Also noted was the need to include environmental impact assessment, compliance, rehabilitation reclamation and environmental bonds and compensation.

### ***Constraints to implementation***

52. The meeting noted that energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for many SIDS, and requested the international community and the regional development banks to assist in

---

<sup>21/</sup> See [http://ioc.unesco.org/goos/Lmr1\\_txt.htm](http://ioc.unesco.org/goos/Lmr1_txt.htm).

<sup>22/</sup> See <http://www.spc.int/piocean/oceanpolicy.htm>.

<sup>23/</sup> Iwokrama International Rainforest Programme (IIRP) was officially launched in 1990 in Guyana, under the auspices of the Commonwealth, with support from the United Nations Global Environment Facility through the UNDP and the British Overseas Development Administration. See [www.sdn.org.gy/ghdr/BOX1.6.html](http://www.sdn.org.gy/ghdr/BOX1.6.html).

technology transfer and implementation of projects for renewable energy such as wind, solar and ocean energy.

53. All the technical, financial and institutional constraints identified in the regional preparatory meetings were re-affirmed, as well as the proposals to address these constraints through innovative methods.

#### *New and emerging issues*

54. With regard to new and emerging issues, the meeting pointed out that:

(a) Increasing incidence of health issues such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, drug resistant malarial strains, dengue, SARS, West Nile Virus, bird flu and other new and emerging diseases, and nutritional disorders, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases and their impact on the sustainable development is a major concern in SIDS.

(b) In the ten years since the Barbados Conference, the issues of transport and communication have diverged, and now require separate consideration. In transportation, new security issues such as terrorism have to be taken into account.

#### **IV. PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

55. As part of its twelfth session, held in New York from 14 to 30 April 2004, the Commission on Sustainable Development worked as a three-day preparatory meeting for the Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. Acting in that capacity, the Commission review the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action (E/CN.17/2004/8). <sup>24/</sup> At the meeting, the draft strategy prepared on the basis of the outcomes of the regional and interregional meetings reported on in the foregoing sections of the present note was introduced and discussion. It was decided that further consultations would be held on the pending issues before the draft strategy was finalized for submission to the International Meeting in Mauritius. The following paragraphs outline the main issues of relevance to biodiversity raised in the report of the Secretary-General and during the discussion of the draft strategy in the Commission.

#### *Programme priority areas, with emphasis on biodiversity-related issues*

56. Tourism and its economic contribution to the economies of SIDS are threatened by over-development, pollution, loss of biodiversity, climate change, beach erosion, social and cultural conflict, crime and more recently the threat of terrorism.

57. SIDS experience specific challenges and vulnerabilities arising from the interplay of various factors such as small populations, limited economies, weak institutional capacity in both the public and the private sector, remoteness from international markets, susceptibility to natural disasters and climate change, fragility of land and marine ecosystems, and limited diversification of agricultural products.

58. Global warming and climate change have brought an increase in extreme weather events, coral bleaching, coastal erosion, disruption of agricultural activity and vector-borne diseases and also reduced resilience of land and marine ecosystems. Climate change and sea-level rise also threaten to cause

---

<sup>24/</sup> The text of the Secretary-General's report may be found at <http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/267/48/PDF/N0426748.pdf?OpenElement>.

serious economic damages to many SIDS, particularly on the coast that harbours the infrastructure for tourism, fisheries and several important economic activities.

59. Emphasis was laid on the need for international support to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Climate Change Centre recently established by the Caribbean Community. In the Pacific region, similar efforts have been undertaken with the establishment of the Regional Framework for Action on Climate Change variability and Sea Level Rise and the development of the Pacific Umbrella Initiative on island adaptation. To that effect, ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol is an important step towards the effective management of greenhouse gas emissions.

60. There is a need to consolidate the disaster preparedness and mitigation plans of SIDS by the establishment of management agencies. Regional institutions such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) <sup>25/</sup> and the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)<sup>26/</sup> have initiated such projects. Delegates noted that at the international level, the review of the 1994 Yokohama Strategy <sup>27/</sup> is bringing renewed attention to both national and regional deficiencies in the existing strategies. New strategies for the period of 2005 to 2015 are to be developed from the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction <sup>28/</sup> to be held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan.

61. Regional organizations in the Pacific and the Caribbean regions are promoting cooperative mechanisms in the area of fisheries management through the establishment of legal regimes. In concordance with that, international support has been targeted to specific areas such as fish stock assessments, ocean observation and monitoring, and direct payments for fishery licence.

62. Good quality agricultural lands, which are being used intensively pose a challenge for food security. Inappropriate land use, deforestation and lack of adequate planning have caused soil erosion in many SIDS. The delegates observed that at the regional level, SIDS have been implementing UNCCD and have undertaken research into pest management and improved crops.

63. SIDS have many rare endangered species and their rich marine coral ecosystems are under threat. In this context, the GEF through its role as a financing mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity has been a major source of support for helping SIDS to protect their biodiversity.

64. All SIDS, which are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, have developed national biodiversity strategies. The protection of traditional knowledge relating to biodiversity was considered as an important means to prevent biodiversity loss and enhance sustainable use. The need to establish international standards to accord intellectual property rights to SIDS communities was also reiterated.

65. The meeting stressed the need for interregional collaboration among SIDS, as most of these States lack adequate capacity for accurate data-gathering. To date, UNEP has provided regional and national support to SIDS in many fields, including the management of marine protected areas, the control of land-based sources of pollution, coral reef management and assessment, and various conservation initiatives associated with the UNEP regional seas programme. <sup>29/</sup>

---

<sup>25/</sup> *Supra* note 19.

<sup>26/</sup> See [www.cdera.org/index.php](http://www.cdera.org/index.php).

<sup>27/</sup> See [www.iisd.ca/vol26/enb2602e.html](http://www.iisd.ca/vol26/enb2602e.html).

<sup>28/</sup> See [www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/wcdr-index.htm](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/wcdr-index.htm).

<sup>29/</sup> The UNEP regional seas programme was initiated in 1974 as a global programme implemented through regional components. Agenda 21, the General Assembly and the Governing Council of UNEP have all endorsed the regional approach. The programme at present includes thirteen regions involving more than 140 coastal States and territories. See [www.unep.org/water/regseas/regseas.htm](http://www.unep.org/water/regseas/regseas.htm).



66. The support provided by FAO concerning the use of hurricane-resistant crops and the sustainable forestry methods has been particularly helpful to SIDS. The importance of FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, [30/](#) was further recognized.

67. UNDP has contributed significantly to the capacity-building of SIDS through the Capacity 2015 Programme [31/](#) by sponsoring workshops aimed at building resilience of SIDS in key sectors.

### ***Constraints to implementation***

68. A particular drawback identified is the weakness of the watershed management in SIDS, owing to the inadequacy of technical equipment, trained technicians, watershed planning systems and data on groundwater systems. The consequences of poor effluent disposal, excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides and increased saltwater intrusion represent an ongoing threat to limited freshwater sources in SIDS. Furthermore, untreated wastewater discharged into coastal waters has contributed significantly to eutrophication, damaging coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs.

69. Many SIDS have large coastal zones and a very large exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which are threatened by overexploitation, destructive harvesting, land-based pollution, pollution from ships, coastal development, climate change and invasive alien species. The greatest threats to the coastal marine environments, which are addressed at the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, [32/](#) emanate from land-based sources of pollution including human waste, industrial effluent and agricultural run-off.

70. SIDS have limited resources to address bioprospecting and biopiracy. Hence, there is need to strengthen existing networks and partnerships to provide ongoing support to existing community-based conservation areas and to encourage the development of new ones.

71. Many SIDS have enacted legislation and regulations to strengthen national sustainable development strategies. There is a need to give greater attention to action plans in key sectors notably, coastal zone and watershed management, urban planning and waste management. It is noteworthy to mention that most SIDS are parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related agreements such as that on the management of straddling fish stocks. Moreover, SIDS have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships [33/](#) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting pointed out that there still remains the need to strengthen the legislative and policy reforms in SIDS, especially given the lack of expert personnel.

72. Most current education programs in SIDS do not adequately focus on the environmental dimensions that address issues such as waste management, coastal zone management, energy management, water resources management, land use, protection of biological diversity, globalization, climate change and sea-level rise.

---

[30/](#) See [www.fao.org/fi/agreem/codecond/codecon.asp](http://www.fao.org/fi/agreem/codecond/codecon.asp).

[31/](#) Capacity 2015 programme aims at developing the capacities needed by developing countries and countries in transition to meet their sustainable development goals under Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals at the local level. See <http://www.undp.org/capacity2015/>.

[32/](#) See [www.gpa.unep.org/igr/Reports/NEP.htm](http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/Reports/NEP.htm).

[33/](#) See [www.unep.ch/seas/main/legal/Imarpol.html](http://www.unep.ch/seas/main/legal/Imarpol.html).

*New and emerging issues*

73. Recent terrorist events have highlighted the vulnerability of the most productive sectors of SIDS economies such as tourism. All countries have obligations under the United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) <sup>34/</sup> on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorists act. These obligations create particular difficulties for all SIDS, especially for those with large coastal areas and archipelagos to monitor.

**V. CONCLUSIONS**

74. All the meetings covered in the present note indicated some progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels. However, SIDS still face the major challenges to their sustainable development identified a decade ago and new and emerging issues relating, *inter alia*, to poverty eradication; international security affecting tourism, travel and transportation; incidence of health issues such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, West Nile Virus, and the role of culture and cultural development in sustainable development strategies.

75. A significant decrease in Official Development Assistance was noted. Achievement of the major goals will require more time and resources, and a renewal of political commitment by all States to the Programme of Action and to related regional and interregional agreements including the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related treaties.

76. The World Summit confirmed the essential role of biodiversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity in achieving sustainable development. The programmes of work and targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are of particular importance, in particular the programme of work on island biodiversity called for by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting. Participants in the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action recommended that island biodiversity should be addressed under the Convention in a manner that responds to the unique characteristics of SIDS and to the threats related to climate change, land degradation and their particular vulnerabilities.

77. Delegates also supported a number of ongoing activities in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including, for example, the building of effective partnerships for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; the programme of work on protected areas and its 2012 target regarding the establishment of a globally representative system of marine and coastal protected areas; the efforts towards the development of local capacity for protecting knowledge of indigenous communities; the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and recommended:

(a) The development of capacity to promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation for biodiversity resources, shared ecosystem management and exchange of experience;

(b) The development of research facilities in biodiversity, including taxonomy, at the national and regional levels in SIDS;

(c) The integration of SIDS specific cultural identities in the final guidelines on tourism development; and

(d) The control of major pathways for potential invasive alien species in SIDS.

---

<sup>34/</sup> *Supra* note 8.

78. An in-depth consideration of island biodiversity at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2006 will provide an opportunity to explore ways and means to develop synergy in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Convention, taking into account the recommendations of the Mauritius International Meeting to be held in January 2005.

79. As noted by several participants in the Island Biodiversity Electronic Forum organized by the Executive Secretary in March and April 2004, the critical issue of financial resources with respect to the special conditions of SIDS will have to be addressed to enable SIDS to achieve sustained and significant implementation of activities which address island ecosystem degradation and loss, in both the Barbados Programme of Action and the programme of work on island biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

-----