Climate Change

21. We stress that climate change remains the greatest challenge to SIDS. Its adverse impacts, including resulting sea level rise and more frequent and intense weather and climate related natural disasters, will continue to undermine progress towards development and, in the case of some SIDS, pose an existential threat.

22. We acknowledge that SIDS have shown strong leadership in the international efforts to combat against climate change, both in calling for ambitious global mitigation targets and in undertaking innovative adaptation measures at home.

23. We acknowledge the importance of a global effort to address both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, recognizing that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the international process overseeing this work. SIDS look in particular to the international community to advance the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage and to support SIDS in implementing their Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and in meeting their adaptation needs in the short, medium and long term.

24. In this regard, we agree to take the following actions:

a) Work for an ambitious and universal agreement within the UNFCCC in 2015.

b) Work through the UNFCCC to address SIDS issues, including through the provision of new and additional resources.

c) Address the security implications of climate change, including violation of territorial integrity, more frequent and severe climate-related disasters, threats to water, and food security and health, increased natural resource scarcity, and forced displacement and the human dimensions of climate change, including, where necessary, initiatives for preparing communities for relocation.

c)bis [To this end, ] Support SIDS in their efforts to build their resilience to climate change and climate variability by developing the science and knowledge base and the related applications identified as critical requirements within recognized UNFCCC-supporting initiatives such as the UN System-wide Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) spearheaded by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and other partners.

d) Provide for full operationalization and capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund, with developed countries scaling-up financing to reach USD 100 billion per year by 2020.

e) Support Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD Plus) activities, to bridge the mitigation gap, and encourage early agreement on modalities for REDD Plus results-based financing from both public and private sources.
**Background**

- SIDS are particularly susceptible to weather and climate related hazards such as tropical cyclones/hurricanes, storm surge, flash floods, coastal and river flooding, drought and heat waves. Climate change will likely increase the frequency and/or severity of these hazards. Climate change through slow onset processes will also increase communities’ vulnerability to natural hazards due to the combined effects of sea-level rise, ecosystem degradation, reduced availability of water, impacts on agriculture, and resultant changes in peoples’ livelihoods.

- IPCC AR 5, Working Group 3 Report states that “There is evidence that this challenge can be partly overcome through improvements in baseline monitoring of island systems and downscaling of climate-model projections, which would heighten confidence in assessing recent and projected impacts”.

- Effective and tailored Weather and Climate products and services at relevant scales can play a vital role in supporting adaptation to climate variability and change and supporting weather and climate-sensitive sectors (i.e. agriculture, water, energy, health, disaster risk management). Strengthening Weather and Climate Services\(^1\) will promote sustainable economic development and build resilient societies in SIDS.

- Nevertheless, the role of science is not developed in the “Zero draft of the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States” document. Sound weather and climate scientific information and products provide a key input into decisions making processes in climate-sensitive sectors.

- The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) — established by WMO in partnership with FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNISDR, WFP, WHO, World Bank, IFRC and IUCN, — aims to enable society to manage better the risk and opportunities arising from climate variability and change especially for those who are the most vulnerable to climate related hazards by developing and incorporating science-based climate information into planning, policy and practice. By promoting science-based decision-making, the GFCS is empowering governments, communities and companies to build climate resilience, reduce vulnerabilities and adapt to impacts. A Partnership Initiative “GFCS-SIDS”, has been registered as a contribution for the Conference:


  See also the GFCS website: [http://gfcs.wmo.int/](http://gfcs.wmo.int/)

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\(^1\) The provision of more and better climate services (dissemination of climate information to the public or a specific user), will allow farmers to fine-tune their planting and marketing strategies based on seasonal climate forecasts; empower disaster risk managers to prepare more effectively for droughts and heavy precipitation; assist public health services to target vaccine and other prevention campaigns to limit climate-related disease outbreaks such as malaria and meningitis; and help improve the management of water resources.