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Outcome of the Conference

**Draft outcome document of the third International
Conference on Small Island Developing States**

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, for consideration and adoption, the draft outcome document of the Conference as approved by its Preparatory Committee at the 3rd resumed meeting of its final meeting, on 11 July 2014 (see annex).

Annex

Draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathways

PREAMBLE

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and High-Level Representatives, having met in Apia, Samoa, from September 1-4, 2014, at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the full participation of civil society and relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS). This can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations.
2. We reaffirm the commitments we made at United Nations conferences and summits on sustainable development: The Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action-BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI); and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want.” We further underscore that these processes are still being implemented and there is a need for the more integrated approach for SIDS sustainable development with support of international community and all stakeholders to support the sustainable development of SIDS.
3. We recall as well our commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
4. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles.

5. We reaffirm that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their sustainable development in all its three dimensions. We recognize SIDS's ownership and leadership in overcoming some of these challenges but stress that in the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult.
6. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.
7. We also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment, reducing inequalities and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.
8. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.
9. We reaffirm our commitment to move the sustainable development agenda forward and in this regard we urge all parties to take concrete measures to expeditiously advance the sustainable development of SIDS, including through the internationally agreed development goals in order for SIDS to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve the quality of life. We recognize the need to expeditiously implement through genuine and durable partnerships the global effort in support of the Sustainable Development of SIDS through concrete, focused, forward looking and action oriented programmes.
10. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.
11. We recognise that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including for some through the loss of territory.
12. With the theme of the Third International Conference on SIDS as "The sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships", we recognize that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of SIDS.

Such partnerships should be based on the principle of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability.

13. We acknowledge that the further implementation of the BPOA and MSI and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the support of the sustainable development of SIDS would require appropriate consideration in the post-2015 development agenda.
14. We recognize that, in spite of SIDS considerable efforts and the mobilization of their limited resources, SIDS progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs, and in implementing the BPOA and MSI, has been uneven and some have regressed economically. A number of significant challenges remain.
15. We recognize that the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in SIDS and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals. We note the views expressed by SIDS that the financial resources available to date have not been adequate to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigations projects, and we also recognize that, at times, complex application procedures have prevented some SIDS from accessing those funds that are available internationally. In this regard, we welcome the recent GCF board decision to aim for a floor of 50% of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including SIDS, and we note the importance of continued support to address gaps in capacity in accessing and managing climate finance.
16. We note that SIDS consider that levels of resources have been insufficient to ensure their capacity to effectively respond to multiple crises, and that without the necessary resources, SIDS have not fully succeeded in building capacity, strengthening national institutions according to national priorities, accessing and developing renewable energy and other environmentally sound technologies, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development, or fully integrating the BPOA and MSI into national plans and strategies.
17. We underscore the need for adequate and coordinated support from the UN system, and the importance of accessible and transparent support from the IFIs that fully takes into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS, for the implementation of BPOA, MSI and SAMOA Pathway and call for a renewed dedication of UN system support for SIDS-SIDS cooperation and national, regional and inter regional coordination.
18. We recognize that SIDS have made significant efforts at the national and regional levels to implement the BPOA and the MSI. They have mainstreamed sustainable development principles into national and in some cases regional development plans, policies and strategies, and undertaken political commitments to promote and raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development issues. They have also mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base. SIDS have demonstrated strong leadership by calling for ambitious and urgent action on climate change, by protecting biodiversity, by calling for conservation, and sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources, and by adopting strategies for promoting renewable energy.
19. We recognise and call for the strengthening of the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, assisting SIDS to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and supporting their sustainable development efforts.

20. Mindful of the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not cause disruption in the development progress which that country has achieved, we reaffirm the need for a “smooth transition” of SIDS that have recently graduated from LDC and emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated as a priority by each graduating country that can, inter alia mitigate the possible loss of concessionary financing and reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt.
21. While the well-being of SIDS and their peoples depends first and foremost on national actions, we recognize that there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable partnerships at the sub- national, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS to ensure their sustainable development.
22. We reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining momentum realized in implementing the SAMOA Pathway. With renewed political will and strong leadership we dedicate ourselves to work in meaningful partnership with all stakeholders at all levels. It is in this context that the present SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway presents a basis for action in the agreed priority areas.

SUSTAINED AND SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication

23. We recognize that the ability of the SIDS to sustain high levels of economic growth and job creation have been affected by the ongoing adverse impacts of the global economic crisis, declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, lack of adequate transport, energy, and ICT infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity, and inability to integrate effectively into the global economy. SIDS' growth prospects have also been hindered by other factors, including climate change, the impact of natural disasters, the high cost of imported energy, and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise.
24. As it is vitally important to support SIDS' efforts to build resilient societies and economies, we recognize that beyond their rich ecosystems, people are the greatest resources of SIDS. In order to achieve sustained, inclusive, and equitable growth with full and productive employment, social protection and creation of decent work for all, SIDS, in partnership with the international community, will seek to increase investment in the education and training of their people. Migrants and diaspora communities and organizations also play an important role in enhancing development in their communities of origins. Sound macro-economic policies and sustainable economic management, fiscal predictability, investment and regulatory certainty, responsible borrowing and lending and debt sustainability are also

critical, as well as the need to address high rates of unemployment, particularly among youth, women and persons with disabilities.

25. We affirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions which is our overarching goal. In this regard, we consider green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We call on the UN system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen its coordination and support of SIDS that want to pursue green economy policies.
26. We acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development depends primarily on national action and leadership. We recognize that the private sector plays an increasingly important role in achieving sustainable economic development, including through public-private partnerships. We recognize that sustainable development will also depend, inter alia, on intergovernmental cooperation, international cooperation and the active engagement of both the public and the private sectors.
27. Taking into full account national development priorities and individual country circumstances and legislation of SIDS, we call for support for SIDS effort to take the following actions:
 - a) Enhance international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal education and training to create an environment that supports sustainable investments and growth. This includes entrepreneurial and vocational skills development, support for transitions from basic to secondary education and school to work, building and strengthening education infrastructure, better health, active citizenship, respect of cultural diversity, non-discrimination and environmental consciousness for all people including women, youth and persons with disabilities.
 - b) Enhance their enabling environment at the national and regional levels to attract more public and private investment in building and maintaining SIDS' appropriate infrastructure, including ports, roads, transport, electricity and power generation and ICT, and enhancing the development impact of the private sector and the financial services industry.
 - c) Foster entrepreneurship and innovation, build capacity and increase the competitiveness and social entrepreneurship of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and state-owned enterprises in SIDS, as well as to encourage inclusive and sustainable industrial development with the participation of all people including the poor, women, youth and persons with disabilities.
 - d) Support national, regional and international initiatives that develop and increase the capacity and development impact of the financial services industry in SIDS.
 - e) Create local decent jobs through private and public projects and encourage entrepreneurs to start up environmentally-sound businesses through adequate and appropriate incentives.

- f) Promote and foster an environment conducive to increased public and private sector investment and the creation of decent jobs and livelihoods that contribute to sustainable development with full respect to international labour standards.
 - g) Promote and enhance the use of information and communication technologies for inter alia education, employment creation, in particular youth employment, and economic sustainability purposes in SIDS.
 - h) Promote and enhance gender equality and women's equal participation including in, policies and programs in the public and private sector in SIDS.
 - i) Set national regulatory and policy frameworks as appropriate that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of transparency, accountability, and corporate social responsibility.
28. Acknowledging the way in which debt servicing limits the fiscal space of highly indebted SIDS, we support consideration of traditional and innovative approaches to promote the debt sustainability of highly indebted SIDS, including their continued eligibility for concessionary financing from international financial institutions, as appropriate, and strengthening domestic revenue mobilization.
29. We acknowledge the importance of addressing debt sustainability to ensure the smooth transition for those SIDS that have graduated from LDC status.

Sustainable Tourism

30. Recognizing that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of SIDS sustainable economic growth and creation of decent jobs, we strongly support SIDS in taking the following actions:
- a) Developing and implementing policies that promote responsive, responsible, resilient and sustainable tourism inclusive of all peoples in SIDS.
 - b) Diversifying sustainable tourism through products and services, including large scale tourism projects with positive economic, social and environmental impacts and the development of eco- , agro-, and cultural tourism.
 - c) Promoting policies that allow local communities to gain optimum benefits from tourism while allowing them to determine the extent and nature of their participation.
 - d) Designing and implementing participatory measures to enhance employment opportunities, in particular of women, youth and persons with disabilities, including through partnerships and capacity development while conserving their natural, built and cultural heritage, especially their ecosystems and biodiversity.
 - e) Leveraging on the expertise of, inter alia, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Global Observatories on Sustainable Tourism and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism and other UN bodies, as

well as the 10YFP on sustainable consumption and production, to provide platforms for exchanges of best practices and direct and focused support to national efforts of SIDS.

- f) Establishing, upon request, an island, food, sustainable tourism support initiative based on community participation, which takes into consideration ethical values, livelihoods and human settlements, the landscape, the sea, local culture and local products, in collaboration with UNWTO, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, FAO, UNESCO, regional development banks as well as regional and national agriculture, culture, environment and tourism authorities where they exist.
- g) Establishing and maintaining, where necessary, the governance and management structures for sustainable tourism and human settlements, which bring together tourism, environment, health, disaster risk reduction, culture, land and housing, transport, security and immigration, planning and development responsibilities and expertise, and enabling a meaningful partnership approach between the public and private sector and local communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

31. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and acknowledge that climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability.
32. We further reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard we emphasize that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.
33. We acknowledge the leadership role of SIDS in advocating for ambitious global efforts to address climate change, raising awareness of the need for urgent and ambitious action to address climate change at the global level, and making efforts to adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change, and to further develop and implement plans, policies, strategies and legislative frameworks with support where necessary.
34. We stress that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change in order to protect the global climate.
35. We recall the objectives, principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, and we underscore that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries

and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that UNFCCC provides that Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

36. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2° C, or 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels.
37. We reaffirm Decision 3/CP.19 of the UNFCCC on long-term climate finance, noting the importance of climate finance in addressing climate change.
38. We look forward to full operationalization and initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), including the expeditious implementation of its initial resource mobilization process, taking into account that the GCF will play a key role in channelling, new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to developing countries and will catalyze climate finance both public and private, and at the international and national levels.
39. We urge developed country Parties to increase technology, finance and capacity-building support to enable increased mitigation ambition and adaptation actions by developing country parties.
40. We reaffirm the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments and the scientific community, private businesses and civil society and also including youth and persons with disabilities, and that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change.
41. We reaffirm the decision of the parties to the convention to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties at its 21st session in Paris in December 2015 and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020.
42. We take note of the convening of the Climate Summit on 23 September 2014, by the UN Secretary General aimed at mobilizing actions and ambition in relation to climate change.
43. We will work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage through comprehensive, inclusive and strategic approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries, including SIDS, that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
44. We call for support for SIDS' efforts to:
 - a) Build resilience to the impacts of climate change and improve their adaptive capacity through the design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures appropriate to their respective vulnerabilities and economic, environmental and social situations;

- b) Improve baseline monitoring of island systems and the downscaling of climate model projections which enable better projection of future impacts on small islands
 - c) Raise awareness and communicate climate change risks including through public dialogues with local communities to increase human and environmental resilience to the longer-term impacts of climate change;
 - d) Address remaining gaps in capacity in accessing and managing climate finance.
45. We recognize that the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and release of high global-warming potential hydrofluorocarbons to the environment. We support a gradual phase-down in the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.
46. We recognize the importance of scaling up support for REDD-plus activities in SIDS, including the implementation of the Warsaw REDD Plus Framework

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

47. We recognise that dependence on imported fossil fuels is a major source of economic vulnerability and a key challenge for SIDS for many decades, and that providing sustainable energy plays a critical role as a key enabler in the sustainable development of SIDS, through enhanced accessibility to modern energy services, energy-efficiency and use of economically-viable and environmentally-sound technology.
48. We highlight the efforts of SIDS on sustainable energy, including through the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States, aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in the areas of, inter alia, access to affordable, modern energy services, renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including, on a voluntary basis, the commitments by many SIDS to undertake the actions contained in Annex 1 of the Barbados Declaration. The Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy, complemented by international commitments provides a useful framework.
49. We urge the international community including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the UN system, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and other relevant stakeholders to continue to provide adequate support, including capacity building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to develop and implement national, regional and inter-regional energy policies, plans and strategies to address the special vulnerabilities of SIDS. We welcome IRENA's Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN) which helps SIDS through pooling knowledge and sharing best practices.

50. We strongly support actions to

- a) Develop a strategy and targeted measures to promote energy efficiency and foster sustainable energy systems based on all energy sources, in particular renewable energy sources in SIDS such as wind, sustainable biomass, solar, water power, biofuel and geothermal energy.
- b) Facilitate access to existing financing mechanisms to facilitate capital flows to implement sustainable energy projects in SIDS on renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- c) Support investment in SIDS-SIDS initiatives, particularly SIDS DOCK Indicative Project Pipeline of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects, as well as in capacity building and human resources development, and public education and awareness.
- d) Promote international collaboration to ensure SIDS access to energy through, *inter alia*, strengthening integration with regional and international energy markets, increasing the use of locally available sources of energy in the energy mix, joint infrastructure development projects and investment in production and storage capacities in accordance with national legislation.
- e) Fulfil their bold and ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in SIDS for the next decade, taking into account national circumstances, diversification of energy systems, and the provision of funds and technology on mutually-agreed terms.
- f) Enhance international and SIDS-SIDS cooperation for research and technological development and implementation of appropriate renewable energy, energy efficient and environmentally-sound technologies for SIDS, including *inter alia* cleaner fossil fuel technology and smart grid technology through the provision of *inter alia* financing from a variety of sources, exchange of best practices and access to efficient technologies on mutually agreed terms.
- g) Access existing mechanisms, and in SIDS regions with no existing mechanism, encourage the establishment of user-friendly, accurate and comprehensive Regional Data Repositories as online databases on energy. Conduct technical studies and gather information on grid stability and management, including maximising the integration of renewable energy and innovative storage mechanisms.
- h) Work on an integrated approach to establishing and strengthening innovative energy roadmaps in SIDS, with detailed resource planning, which takes into account social, environmental and economic considerations, as well as access to energy for the poor and people in remote areas.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

51. We recognize that SIDS continue to grapple with the effects of disasters, some with increased intensity and some that are exacerbated by climate change, which impedes progress by SIDS toward sustainable development. We also recognize that disasters can disproportionately affect SIDS, and there is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters.
52. In consideration of the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS, we are committed to support SIDS efforts to:
- a) Access technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, and post –disaster response and post-disaster recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programs, including *inter alia* under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management.
 - b) Promote cooperation and investment in Disaster Risk Management in public and private sectors.
 - c) Strengthen and support contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, including *inter alia* women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and people with disabilities.
 - d) Implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and work for an ambitious renewed international framework for disaster risk reduction post 2015 that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation, and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist.
 - e) Mainstream policies and programs related to, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and development, as appropriate.
 - f) Harmonize national and regional reporting systems, where applicable, to increase synergies and coherence.
 - g) Establish and strengthen risk insurance facilities at national and regional levels, and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies where applicable.
 - h) Increase participation in international and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.

OCEANS AND SEAS

53. We acknowledge that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, including that of Small Island Developing States. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for *inter alia* poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development, and essential ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of SIDS. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal tourism, possible use of seabed resources and potential sources of renewable energy are among the main building blocks of a sustainable ocean-based economy in SIDS.
54. SIDS have large maritime areas and have shown notable leadership in conservation and sustainable use of those areas and their resources. We support SIDS' efforts to develop and implement strategies for conservation and sustainable use of those areas and their resources. We also support SIDS' efforts to conserve their valuable underwater cultural heritage.
55. We reaffirm that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.
56. Recognizing the concern that potential oil leaks from sunken State vessels have environmental implications for the marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States and taking into account sensitivities surrounding vessels that are marine graves, small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis.
57. We recognize that an integrated, ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities is needed to optimize opportunities. It should be based upon the best available science, give due regard to conservation efforts and precautionary approaches and ensure coherence and balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development.
58. With this in mind we strongly support action to:
 - a) Promote and support national, sub-regional and regional efforts to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their resources through supporting research and implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem based management, including for fisheries management, and enhancing national legal and institutional frameworks for exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living resources.
 - b) Engage in national and regional efforts to sustainably develop their ocean resources and generate increasing returns for their peoples.

- c) Implement fully and effectively the Regional Seas programmes in which SIDS participate.
- d) Address marine pollution by developing effective partnerships, including through the development and implementation of relevant arrangements, such as the UNEP Global Programme of Action, and instruments as appropriate on marine debris, nutrient, wastewater and other marine pollution, and through the sharing and implementation of best practices.
- e) Undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures, including from ocean acidification and invasive species, and by drawing on measures such as those identified in the International Coral Reef Initiative Framework for Action 2013.
- f) Undertake marine scientific research and develop SIDS associated technological capacity, including through the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centres, and the provision of technical assistance for the delimitation of their maritime areas and submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.
- g) Enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels, to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through institutional capacity building at appropriate levels.
- h) Support the sustainable development of small scale fisheries, improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management, enhanced facilities for fisheries workers, as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small scale fisheries, and enhance access to markets for sustainable small scale fisheries products from SIDS.
- i) Strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing, in accordance with the 2001 WTO Doha Ministerial Declaration and the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.
- j) Consider, if they have not done so, becoming parties to the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.
- k) Promote the conservation, sustainable use and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including through measures that benefit SIDS that are adopted by relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Arrangements.

- l) Enhance SIDS' capacity to sustainably use their fisheries resources and develop fisheries related industries, enabling SIDS to maximize benefits from their fisheries resources and ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to SIDS. –
- m) Urge cooperation from the international community in implementing shared responsibilities under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Arrangements, to enable SIDS to benefit from and sustainably manage straddling and highly migratory fish stocks covered by those RFMOs.
- n) Enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation to tackle the causes of ocean acidification and to further study and minimize its impacts, including through information sharing, regional workshops, integrating SIDS scientists into international research teams, taking steps to make marine ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of ocean acidification and through the possible development of a SIDS wide strategy on ocean acidification.
- o) Conserve by 2020 at least 10% of coastal and marine areas in SIDS, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment.
- p) Address concerns about the long-term effects of munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and resources.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- 59. We recognize that SIDS, primarily net food importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to availability and excessive price volatility of food imports. It is therefore important to support the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, eradicate hunger, and provide livelihoods while conserving, protecting and ensuring sustainable use of land, soil, forests, water, plant and animals, biodiversity and ecosystems. We stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food, and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the SIDS.
- 60. We also recognize the danger caused by an unhealthy diet and the need to promote healthy food production and consumption.
- 61. We recognize the call in the outcome of the inter-regional preparatory meeting for the Third International Conference on SIDS to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in SIDS in order to develop an action program to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS and we invite the FAO to facilitate this biennial forum.

62. We take note of the holding of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), organized by FAO and WHO, which has important implications for SIDS, to be convened in Rome November 2014, and look forward to its outcome.

63. In this regard, we are committed to work together to support SIDS efforts to:

- a) Promote further use of sustainable agriculture practices, crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture practices to improve food and nutrition security, while ensuring sustainable management of the water resources required.
- b) Promote open and efficient international and domestic markets to support economic development and optimize food security and nutrition.
- c) Enhance international cooperation to maintain access to global food markets particularly during periods of higher volatility in commodity markets.
- d) Increase rural income and jobs, with a focus on empowerment of small holders and small-scale food producers especially women.
- e) End malnutrition in all its forms including through securing year-round access to sufficient safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious food.
- f) Enhance SIDS agriculture and fisheries' resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters.
- g) Maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable food production systems through international technical cooperation.

WATER AND SANITATION

64. We recognize that SIDS face numerous challenges with respect to freshwater resources, including pollution and overexploitation of surface, ground and coastal waters, saline intrusion, droughts and water scarcity, soil erosion, water treatment, and waste water treatment, as well as the lack of access to sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, changes in rainfall patterns related to climate change have regionally varying and potentially significant impacts on water supply.

65. In this regard, we are committed to support SIDS efforts to:

- a) Develop institutional and human capacities for effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the integrated management of water resources and related ecosystems, including supporting women's engagement in water management systems.
- b) Provide and operate appropriate facilities and infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management systems, including exploring desalination technology where economically and environmentally feasible.
- c) Facilitate the expansion of wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse in the context of the sustainable and efficient use of water resources.

- d) Improve water-use efficiency and work towards eliminating over-extraction especially of groundwater and mitigate the effects of saltwater intrusion.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

66. We recognize that transportation and mobility are central to sustainable development of SIDS. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth, promote trade opportunities and improve accessibility. Sustainable, reliable and safe transport achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. We also recognize the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods to fully engage in local, regional and global markets, and the potential of sustainable transport to improve social equity, health, resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and productivity of rural areas of SIDS.
67. In this regard, we are committed to continue and enhance support for SIDS efforts to:
- a) Access environmentally sound, safe, affordable and well-maintained transportation.
 - b) Advance the safety of land, sea and air transportation.
 - c) Develop viable national, regional, and international transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies that take a life cycle approach on the development and management of transport infrastructure.
 - d) Increase energy efficiency in the transport sector.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

68. As promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development, we recall the 10YFP and its vision and we recognize that all countries, should promote SCP patterns, with developed countries taking lead with all countries benefiting from the process. This should be in accordance with their national objectives, needs and priorities, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries, with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development and in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.
69. In this regard, we call for support for SIDS efforts to develop and implement programmes under the 10YFP to advance SCP for SIDS, with emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development, and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development.

MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE, INCLUDING HAZARDOUS WASTE

70. We recognize that the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle and waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. For SIDS, as for all countries, environmentally sound waste management is also crucial for human health and the environment, and the small land area and remoteness of many SIDS poses particular challenges for sound waste disposal.

71. In this regard, we acknowledge the following actions to improve the management of chemicals and waste:

- a) Enhancing technical cooperation programmes, including those under the Basel Convention, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the London Convention and Protocol, and International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, to strengthen national, regional and international mechanisms for the management of wastes, including chemical and hazardous waste, ship- and aircraft-generated waste and marine plastic litter, and further strengthen and expand geographic coverage of oil spill contingency plans.
- b) Considering if they have not done so, becoming parties to and ensuring an enabling environment for implementing, including with technical and appropriate support, the Multilateral Environmental Agreements on chemicals and waste and implement, as appropriate, the Globally Harmonized System of the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
- c) Facilitating improved access to existing capacity programs like those under the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR), which call for strengthened management of specific risks including control programs for chemical and other toxic and environmental events.
- d) Implementing reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and return approaches according to national capacities and priorities inter alia through capacity-building and environmentally appropriate technologies.

HEALTH AND NCDs

72. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable development can only be achieved in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable, including emerging and re-emerging diseases, and when populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being.

73. We recognise that the burden and threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain serious global concerns and constitute one of the major challenges for SIDS in the 21st Century. While prevention, treatment, care and education are critical, we call on the international community to support national actions of SIDS in addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases.

74. We take note of the outcomes of the comprehensive review and assessment of the General Assembly in the prevention and control of NCDs.

75. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support SIDS efforts to:

- a) Develop and implement comprehensive, whole-of-government multi-sector policies and strategies for the prevention and management of diseases, including through strengthening of health systems, promoting effective implementation of universal health coverage, the distribution of medical and drug supplies, education and public awareness, and incentivising people to lead healthier lives through healthy diet, nutrition, sports and education.
- b) Develop specific national programs and policies geared towards strengthening health systems, to achieve universal coverage of health services and distribution of medical and drug supplies, with the assistance of UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, key development partners and other stakeholders at the invitation of SIDS.
- c) Take urgent steps to establish by 2015 to 2025 ten-year targets and strategies to reverse the spread and severity of NCDs.
- d) Implement well-planned and value-added interventions that strengthen health promotion, promote primary health care and develop accountability mechanisms for NCDs monitoring.
- e) Enable SIDS-SIDS cooperation for diseases by using existing international and regional fora to have joint biennial meetings of SIDS ministers of health and other relevant sectors to respond to NCDs in particular.
- f) Achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical emerging and re-emerging diseases, including chikungunya and dengue.
- g) Reduce maternal, new born and child mortality and improve their health.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

76. We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment, and the full realization of human rights for women and girls, have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and is a driver of economic growth also in SIDS. Women can be powerful agents of change.

77. In this regard, we support SIDS efforts to:

- a) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
- b) Integrate a gender perspective in priority areas for sustainable development.
- c) Strengthen women's economic empowerment and ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work.

- d) End all forms of violence against women and girls.
- e) Continue taking measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership in in levels of decision making in the public and private sectors through policies and actions such as temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks.
- f) Guarantee equal access to good quality education and health.
- g) Ensure in SIDS the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Program of Action of the ICPD, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- h) Tackle the structural and socio-economic inequalities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination that affect women and girls, including those with disabilities, that hinder progress and development.
- i) Give women equal rights with men to economic resources including access to, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

78. We recognize that social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring development progress by SIDS both now and in the future. We therefore support efforts to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
79. We support SIDS in their commitment to an approach to development that is focused on poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have equal access to education, health, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including *inter alia* credit, land, training, knowledge, information, and know-how. That approach enables citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.

Culture and Sport

80. We recognize that SIDS possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous and traditional knowledge and cultural expression, which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, can meaningfully advance sustainable development and social cohesion.
81. In this regard, we strongly support SIDS' efforts to:

- a) Promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and international cooperation in the cultural field in line with applicable international conventions, in particular UNESCO conventions.
- b) Leverage and build on the joint work by WIPO and UNESCO.
- c) Develop and strengthen, national and regional cultural activities and infrastructures, including through the network of World Heritage sites, which reinforce local capacities, promote awareness in SIDS, enhance tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including local and indigenous knowledge, and involve local people for the benefit of present and future generations.
- d) Develop cultural and creative industries, including tourism, that capitalize on the rich heritage of SIDS and have a role to play in sustainable and inclusive growth.
- e) Develop domestic mechanisms to conserve, promote, protect and preserve the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage practices and traditional knowledge of SIDS.

82. Recognizing the strong capacity of SIDS in sport, we support the SIDS use of sport as a vehicle to foster development, social inclusion and peace, strengthen education, promote health and build life skills, particularly among youth.

Promoting Peaceful Societies and Safe Communities

83. We recognize the importance of supporting SIDS in their ongoing efforts to ensure peaceful societies and safe communities including through *inter alia* building responsive and accountable institutions, ensuring access to justice and respect for all human rights, taking into account their national priorities and legislations.
84. We recognize that the sustainable development of SIDS can be negatively impacted by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. In particular, the lack of sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for further education and the breaking down of community support structures, can lead to increasing numbers of young men and women involved in violence and crime.
85. We support SIDS efforts to combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy by promoting the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions, enacting and using legislation that prohibits trafficking, by promoting strong institutions and by improving protection mechanisms to ensure adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and forced labor in accordance with relevant national and international agreements and treaties.
86. We support the development of action plans in SIDS to eliminate violence against women and girls who are often targets of gender-based violence and are disproportionately impacted by crime, violence and conflict and to ensure they are centrally involved in all relevant processes.

Education

87. We reaffirm that full and equal access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and the importance of local, national, regional and international efforts in this regard.
88. In this regard, we are committed to strongly support SIDS efforts to:
- a) Provide high quality education, and training for youth and girls with a focus on the most vulnerable, in particular persons with disabilities, including in creative, cultural and environment related fields, so that all people have the necessary skills and can take advantage of employment opportunities to lead productive lives.
 - b) Ensure education contributes to further building peace and promoting social inclusion.
 - c) Increase investment in education, training and skills development for all, including vocational training, as well as to improve access to formal and non-formal education including entrepreneurial skills including through formal and non-formal means such as the use of distance teaching and the development of SIDS-appropriate training approaches.

BIODIVERSITY

89. We agree to promote international cooperation and partnerships, as appropriate, and information exchange, and in this context we welcome the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, for the purpose of encouraging the active involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with the vision of living in harmony with nature.
90. We recognize that overall SIDS have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity, and in many cases this is fundamental to their livelihoods and identity. Noting that this valuable biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are at grave risk, we strongly support SIDS efforts to:
- a) Conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
 - b) Export organic, natural, sustainably produced and locally grown products.
 - c) Access financial and technical resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.
91. We invites parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider ratifying and implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, while acknowledging the role of access and benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Desertification, land degradation and drought

92. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought challenges will be critical to SIDS achievement of food security and nutrition, adaptation to climate change, protection of biodiversity, and creation of resilience to natural disasters. We also strongly support SIDS efforts in designing and implementing preparedness and resilience policies relating to desertification, land degradation and drought as a matter of priority and to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources, as well as to promote the sustainability of their limited soil resources.
93. We acknowledge UN Convention to Combat Desertification Decision 8/COP.11 entitled “Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)” which establishes an intergovernmental working group to, *inter alia*, establish a science based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas.

Forests

94. Recognizing that forests are vital to SIDS livelihoods and ecosystems, we strongly support SIDS efforts to:
- a) Implement the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests.
 - b) Slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including, *inter alia*, by promoting trade in legally and sustainably harvested forest products.
 - c) Achieve appropriate and effective reforestation, restoration and afforestation.
 - d) Address obstacles and pursue opportunities to mobilize financing from all sources to support national sustainable forest management policies and improve the state of biological diversity by conserving and safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.
 - e) Participate in the review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) under the UNFF in order to explore the full range of options on the future of the IAF.
 - f) Strengthen their legal, institutional and human capacity for sustainable forest management based on a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable use of forest resources.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

95. Noting that invasive alien species pose a threat to sustainable development and undermine SIDS efforts to protect biodiversity and livelihoods, preserve and maintain ocean resources and ecosystem resiliency, enhance food security and adapt to climate change, we call for support for SIDS efforts to:

- a) Enhance multi-sector collaboration at national, regional, and international levels including through expanded support to existing structures to effectively address invasive alien species.
- b) Improve invasive alien species eradication and control efforts, including through the provision of support for research and development of new technologies by expanding collaboration and supporting existing regional and international structures.
- c) Develop and strengthen capacity to address invasive alien species issues, as well as increased public awareness in SIDS about this issue.
- d) Develop and strengthen capacity to address invasive alien species issues, including their prevention as well as increased public awareness in SIDS about this issue.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING PARTNERSHIPS

96. While acknowledging the primary responsibility of SIDS for their own sustainable development, we recognize that the persistent development challenges of the SIDS require enhanced global partnership for development, adequate provision and mobilization of all means of implementation and continued international support to achieve internationally-agreed goals.

Partnerships

97. We call for the increase in all forms of partnerships with and for SIDS.

98. We recognize that given the vulnerabilities and the need to build resilience of SIDS, and keeping in mind the theme of the Third International Conference of SIDS, there is an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to their sustainable development priorities and needs.

99. We also call for enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, South-South, triangular and especially SIDS-SIDS. We reaffirm that North-South cooperation remains the core for international cooperation and that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. We recognize that genuine and durable partnerships will play an important role in advancing sustainable development, by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, business, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders. We further recognize that partnerships are effective instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge and can be powerful drivers for change, innovation and welfare.

100. We reaffirm that SIDS as equal partners, and empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based upon mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results-orientation, accountability and transparency, and require political will to undertake and implement long-term, predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms, regardless of size and economic value, should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure meaningful engagement of various actors (including local authorities, civil society

and NGOs, foundations, private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs)), and work to achieve the SIDS vision of self-reliance and cooperate with the implementation of national policies which help fulfill the commitments made in the BPOA, MSI, Samoa Pathway, MDGs and other international declarations and instruments.

101. In this regard we request the Secretary General, in consultation with Member States, to present recommendations, including through the use of existing inter-governmental mechanisms, for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS. The framework should ensure partnerships focus on SIDS priorities, identify new opportunities to advance the sustainable development of SIDS, and to ensure the full implementation of the BPOA, MSI and SAMOA Pathway. The recommendations should be presented for consideration and action during the 69th Session of the General Assembly.

Financing

102. We recognise that finance from all sources, domestic and international, public and private as well as development and transfer of reliable, affordable, modern technology on mutually agreed terms, capacity building, and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of advancing sustainable development in SIDS. As SIDS require dedicated attention to their unique and particular vulnerabilities, they will continue to make use of a wide range of financing mechanisms available to implement the BPOA, MSI and the SAMOA Pathway.
103. We recognize that international financing plays an important role in increasing the capacity of SIDS to mitigate and effectively respond to multiple crises, through increasing the impact of existing funds, mobilizing, catalyzing and directly providing financial resources from a variety of public and private sources, including international financial institutions, to support the implementation of the BPOA, MSI and SAMOA Pathway.
104. We urge all countries to fulfill their commitments to SIDS, including through the provision of financial resources, to support the BPOA, MSI and SAMOA Pathway. In this regard, the fulfillment of all ODA commitments to developing countries, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to least developed countries, is crucial.
105. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact. We also recognize the need to improve development effectiveness, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency, and in this regard we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. We will further make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term. We recognize the importance of efforts by developing countries to strengthen leadership of their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results for effective development by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will

guarantee development effectiveness. The specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered.

106. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support SIDS efforts to:

- a) Strengthen the use of domestic policies and financing, with due consideration for their respective levels of indebtedness and national capacities.
- b) Access international arrangements and modalities for financing of development for developing countries, particularly SIDS, including through capacity-building and review of application procedures.
- c) Implement, with the provision of appropriate financial resources, in line with existing international commitments within the framework of UNFCCC, climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.
- d) Reduce the transfer costs of remittances while pursuing the international targets and agreed outcomes of important international initiatives set by the UN system concerning remittances, given the importance of remittances for SIDS economic growth.

Trade

107. Given the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS, for example, small size, limited negotiating capacity and remoteness from markets, we recognize that efforts are needed to support their further integration regionally and between the regions and in world markets. With this in mind, we strongly support SIDS efforts to:

- a) Encourage SIDS successful engagement in trade and economic agreements, taking into consideration existing special and differential treatment provisions, as appropriate, and taking note of the work conducted to date under the Work Programme on Small Economies in the WTO.
- b) Receive technical assistance through Trade-Related Assistance mechanisms and other programmes to strengthen SIDS capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system, including understanding trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements, and formulating and administering coherent trade policies with a view to improving trade competitiveness as well as development and growth prospects.
- c) Assess the implications and mitigate the impact of non-tariff barriers for their market access opportunities through, *inter alia*, appropriate technical assistance and through implementation of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- d) Develop and strengthen partnerships to enhance SIDS participation in the international trade in goods and services, build their productive capacities and address their supply-side constraints.

Capacity Building

108. We affirm that SIDS require continued and enhanced investments in education and other training programs to develop human and institutional capacities in order to build the resilience of their societies and economies, while encouraging the use and retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within SIDS and ensuring accountability and transparency in all capacity building efforts by all parties.

109. In this regard, we strongly support SIDS efforts to:

- a) Improve existing mechanisms and resources to provide coordinated and coherent UN system-wide capacity building programs for SIDS through UN Country Teams in collaboration with national agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations to enhance national capacities and institutions, building on the lessons and successes of Capacity 2015.
- b) Strengthen national institutions of SIDS to complement capacity building.
- c) Ensure capacity building and institution strengthening as appropriate as part of all cooperation frameworks and partnerships and integrated in the priorities and work programmes of all UN agencies providing assistance to SIDS in concert with other development efforts within their existing mandates and resources.
- d) Establish a dedicated SIDS Intensive Training for Sustainable Development Programme located in the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS).
- e) Strengthen SIDS TAP in partnership with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, UNDP and regional institutions in SIDS.
- f) Build national capacity, where appropriate, to utilize cost-benefit analysis for informed policymaking on sustainable development, including SIDS-specific models which evaluate the technical, financial, social, economic and environmental aspects related to the accession, ratification and implementation of MEAs and related instruments.
- g) Build national capacity to fulfill reporting requirements deriving from commitments made by SIDS when signing international agreements and commitments.
- h) Establish national and regional information and communication technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in SIDS to facilitate information exchange and SIDS-SIDS cooperation, building on existing information and communication platforms, as appropriate.
- i) Enhance regional and inter-regional SIDS-SIDS cooperation on education and training, to identify and apply SIDS-appropriate good practice as solutions to shared challenges.
- j) Ensure that women are fully and equally able to benefit from capacity development and institutions are inclusive and supportive of women at all levels, including senior leadership.

Technology

110. We recognize that access by SIDS to appropriate reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies is critical to achieve their sustainable development objectives and in fostering an environment that provides incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship. Science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for sustainable development.
111. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support SIDS efforts to access SIDS-appropriate, reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms and know-how and increase connectivity and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), through improving ICT infrastructure, training, national legislation as well as public and private sector involvement.

Data and Statistics

112. We reaffirm the role that data and statistics play in development planning of SIDS and the need for the United Nations system to collect statistics from SIDS, irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way, by, *inter alia*, allowing electronic submission and, where appropriate, submissions through competent regional agencies.
113. We recognize that improved data collection and statistical analysis is required to enable effective planning, follow up, evaluate implementation, and track success in attaining the internationally agreed development goals by SIDS.
114. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support SIDS efforts to:
- a) Strengthen available and accessible data and statistics systems in SIDS, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, and enhance their management of complex data systems, including geospatial data platforms, and by launching new partnership initiatives or scaling up existing initiatives.
 - b) Utilize existing UN statistical standards, and resources in the areas of social, and environmental statistics.
 - c) Improve systematic and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant variables at the national level, through appropriate financial and technical support and capacity-building, while recognizing the need for international cooperation in this regard.
115. Furthermore, we call on the UN and its specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to:
- a) Make greater use of SIDS national statistics and development indicators where available.

- b) Support a SIDS Sustainable Development Statistics and Information Programme.
- c) Elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of SIDS which better reflect the vulnerability of SIDS and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience, and strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, tracking progress and development of vulnerability -resilience country profiles.

Institutional support to SIDS

116. We call on the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support SIDS in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programs, by incorporating SIDS priorities and activities into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the UNDAF, at both national and regional levels in line with their mandates and overall priorities.
117. In this regard we call on the UN system to support to:
- a) Ensure that UN entities fully take into account SIDS issues and include support to SIDS and development of SIDS capacities in their programmes at appropriate levels.
 - b) Continue to enhance, through national and regional initiatives, the voice and participation of SIDS in the decision making and norm setting processes of IFIs.
 - c) Improve inter- and intra-regional cooperation and collaboration among SIDS, including, where required, through institutional mechanisms and capacity building.
 - d) Ensure that SIDS issues are adequately addressed by the GA and ECOSOC, and the HLPF under their auspices.
118. We call on the Committee for Development Policy of ECOSOC to continue to give due consideration to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS-and to continue to regularly monitor, together with their governments, the progress of SIDS that have graduated from LDC status.
119. We request the SG for a comprehensive review of the UN system support to SIDS, with the view to enhancing its overall effectiveness and the respective roles in supporting SIDS sustainable development, and we invite the GA at its 69th session to determine the parameters of the review. Building on existing reports, we request the SG to provide the findings and recommendations in his regular report, "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing State", to the 70th session of the GA.
120. We request the SG to ensure that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs SIDS Unit continues, under its SIDS support and advisory services mandate, to continue its analysis and reporting on the situation of SIDS, including in the implementation of the BPOA, Mauritius

Strategy for implementation of the BPOA and SAMOA Pathway, and that the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, under its advocacy mandate, ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway and SIDS related issues in the work of the UN system and enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in the UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, continue to mobilize international support and resources to support SIDS implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

SIDS PRIORITIES FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

121. Recalling that the SIDS have identified their priorities for the post-2015 development agenda as identified in the outcome document of the interregional preparatory committee for the third international conference on SIDS adopted in Barbados on 28 August 2013, as further refined in the present outcome document, we recognize the need to give due consideration to the priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

122. To ensure the realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of SIDS, we call on United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the BPOA, MSI and SAMOA Pathway, including through monitoring frameworks by Regional Commissions for SIDS.
123. We recall that the GA and ECOSOC, and the HLPF under their auspices, will devote adequate time to discuss sustainable development challenges facing SIDS in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments.
124. In this regard, we are committed to support SIDS efforts to:
 - a) Request the Secretary-General to report to the United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC on progress on implementing SIDS priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities.
 - b) Request DESA to continue to maintain a SIDS-focused partnerships platform and to regularly convene the interagency consultative group to report on the full implementation of the BPoA, MSI and SAMOA Pathway with adequate and timely analysis based on SIDS-relevant targets and indicators in order to ensure accountability at all levels.