



## INTERVENTION BY THE **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** DELEGATION AT THE PANEL DISCUSSION:

### *IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ADAPTATION MEASURES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*

---

Thank you Mr. Moderator and the panelists for the insights <sup>provided</sup> on this issue of critical importance to small island developing states like Trinidad and Tobago.

The delegation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago would like to fully support the views expressed by the Ambassador of Tuvalu. The impacts of climate change are a reality for many small islands <sup>including Trinidad and Tobago</sup> and are indeed threatening the very existence of some islands. It is therefore critical that developed country Parties of the UNFCCC intensify efforts to assist small island developing states in adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

Mr. Moderator, much attention has been paid to mitigation strategies, including relevant technologies. While these measures are targeted to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, small island states ~~would~~ continue to be adversely impacted by climate change as a result of past and present emissions. The need to provide assistance in adapting to climate change effects is critical to the long term survival of many small island developing states.

The threats of climate change have undoubtedly placed significant challenges to small island developing states in their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals, given their lack of capacity.

The enhancement of adaptive capacity has necessarily become a component of broader sustainable development initiatives, as climate change impacts have the potential to undermine progress with sustainable development. It is important to note that the response to climate change impacts and sustainable development are not necessarily synonymous, ~~but that~~ <sup>reviewing</sup> adaptation is only one of the approaches that needs to be incorporated in sustainable development planning, albeit a significant one, and ~~would~~ <sup>require</sup> increased resources.

Mr. Moderator, as you are aware in January 2005, small island developing states will be meeting in Mauritius for the ten year review of the Barbados Plan of Action. The impacts of climate change will no doubt feature prominently at this meeting and it is disappointing that we could not have provided more tangible input to the Mauritius meeting given the role of the UNFCCC.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation however, looks forward to greater support for the <sup>positions of</sup> small island developing states' <sup>positions</sup> in Mauritius not only on the matter of climate change but also on <sup>the other</sup> issues relevant to sustainable development, ~~that will be negotiated~~.

Mr. Moderator, I thank you.

Questions: - How could the convention  
How could institutional mechanism be provided  
How can action be incorporated in national strategies.