

Topic 1: *The Convention after 10 years: Accomplishments and Future Challenges*

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking the Secretariat for its report of the First Ten Years, which outlines the progress, which has been made in the implementation of many aspects of the UNFCCC. We welcome this progress and also note the accomplishments of some Parties in meeting the target in the Convention of stabilization of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels. However we must be mindful of those areas of the Convention, which are still in need of attention, such as issues relating to Article 4.8, capacity building and the technical and financial support to Small Island Developing States.

We are happy to see that the Kyoto Protocol will come into force in February 2005 and we congratulate the Government of Russia for making Kyoto a reality. The coming into force of this contentious Protocol signals the beginning of a new era in the UNFCCC process. It is now time for us to focus on the future. Kyoto itself is but a small step forward. Clear examination of the science highlights the need for more comprehensive reductions of greenhouse gases.

After 10 years, Small Island Developing States are still the most vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate. Our small size makes us highly susceptible to extreme weather events and natural disasters such as tropical cyclones and droughts. Indeed, in the Caribbean, we have been experiencing the impact of Climate Change, and this year in particular has been an exceptional one in terms of the frequency and intensity of hurricanes that have hit many of our countries. It is also suggested by some

scientific evidence that these events are likely to increase. The primacy of such scientific assessment should be one of the guiding principles for future work.

The link between the environment and the economy in SIDS cannot be over-emphasized. In SIDS, natural resources are essential in providing services to the economy. Sectors such as tourism and agriculture are vulnerable to environmental disasters, yet they are the principle foreign exchange earners in many of our countries.

Adaptation to climate change is therefore an important issue for SIDS, and we in the Caribbean are committed to addressing the challenges posed by Climate Change, and as some of the most vulnerable developing countries we require the understanding and support of the international community in doing so. In this Convention, we strongly urge the international community to allocate the necessary resources, both financial and technical to address the adaptation issue.

The Barbados Programme of Action, which is the blueprint for sustainable development in SIDS, places much emphasis on the issue of climate change since this phenomenon is having a negative effect on the implementation of sustainable development by SIDS. There are many areas of similarity between the UNFCCC and the BPOA and we hope that as we review the past ten years and look towards another ten years of both these programmes we can forge more tangible linkages, which would create more tangible results for SIDS.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

PRINCE
SARBADOS

It is my honor to make this intervention on behalf of the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS). I am also pleased Mr. Moderator, to be participating in this ^{important} panel under your leadership. Yours is not only a familiar face ^{as we both serve in your} but as a representative of the SIDS, you are certainly very familiar with the issues being addressed in this panel.

Topic 2: Impacts of Climate Change, Adaptation Measures and Sustainable Development

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Honorable ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies & gentlemen

First I would like to thank the panelists for their very good presentation which in differing ways have highlighted the ~~hazardous~~ impacts of climate change being experienced around the world but also the need for urgent action on adaptation measures and mitigation.

Sea-level rise will have severe impacts on the coastal environment, while changing

weather patterns will affect our local biodiversity and our water supply.

~~have severe economic impacts on~~ ~~our economies~~, our livelihoods

Changes in rainfall patterns, intensity and duration are effects of climate change already being experienced by SIDS ^{around the world} of the Caribbean. Our vulnerability to the impacts of natural

hazards will certainly be exacerbated by the longer-term threat of climate change. One of

our major concerns in the Caribbean ^{SIDS} is the increased frequency and severity of tropical storms and hurricanes. ^{and rainfall patterns} With increased frequency and severity of rainfall will come

increased frequency and intensity of flooding events. All these effects have been

experienced by the SIDS of the Caribbean this past hurricane season. A number of

Caribbean islands were severely impacted by hurricanes and tropical cyclones leading to

excessive flooding, major damage to infrastructure, loss of agricultural crops and

vegetation, and even loss of life. In the particular case of ^{another} one country, Grenada, an entire economy was ~~erased~~ ^{annihilated} by the floods caused by a hurricane. ^{and further devastation in the} we believe that it is clear that ^{severe} the effects of climate change and sea-level rise identified are posing a threat to the

sustainable development of Small Island ^{developing} States. The economic sectors of tourism and

agriculture, two industries on which most SIDS heavily rely, are severely under threat of

climate change. Tourism and agriculture ^{and which} are major foreign exchange earners for SIDS

and it is for this reason that we are placing ^{Mr. Chairman} much emphasis on the need for adaptation ^{particular} in these two sectors. In addition ^{the issue of} the issue of new and renewable sources of energy is another priority area of concern for SIDS.

Mr. Chairman Adapting to climate change is an integral part of the sustainable development programme

of SIDS. ^{recognize} We acknowledge that sustainable development is primarily a national

responsibility. ^{and} We are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating

poverty and improving the livelihoods of our people by implementing strategies which

build resilience and capacity to address our unique and particular vulnerabilities. We

recognize however, that there is also a need to move from vulnerability and adaptation studies to the implementation of effective adaptation measures for sustainable development. We

would however wish to ^{point out} ~~note~~ that ^{UN} we cannot ^{undertake} do it on our own ^{particulars} and we would seek the ^{given the} support of our international donor ^{sizeable resource} parties and agencies in this process. We especially ask ^{required} that ^{we plan to} ~~you~~ ^{our development partners} make available the necessary resources to assist with our adaptation efforts. ^{try to access} ~~that~~ ^{technical and} ~~financial~~ ^{resources} ~~to assist with our~~ ^{adaptation needs,}

^{we further suggest that} ^{carried out} ^{implementation of the} Such co-operation can be ^{best} ~~done~~ through the Barbados Programme of Action which remains the blueprint for Small Island Developing States and the international community to address national and regional sustainable development in SIDS, taking into account our economic, social and environmental aspects that are the pillars of the holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development. ^{we fear that further in these} ~~efforts will~~ ^{undermine the ability of SIDS to meet the UN} ~~Millennium Development goals.~~

^{Mr Chairman,} With the upcoming ten-year review of the BPOA, we look forward to further ^{the support of the interna} ~~implementation of programmes~~ ^{and projects and activities} ~~aimed at promoting sustainable development in SIDS.~~ ^{community in the}

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

INTERVENTION BY GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

ON

Technology and Climate Change

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Delegation Heads and distinguished delegates,

As we have stated previously, climate change is affecting the sustainability of Small Island Developing States. If many of the predictions of the IPCC's Third Assessment Report occur, **many SIDS will simply, cease to exist.**

The islands of the Caribbean Community view technology development and transfer as a critical component of the coping mechanisms for the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly for developing countries, and even more especially so for small island states. The need for mitigation technologies cannot be overemphasized, but as we all know, we are already committed to some degree of climate change because of past emissions. Therefore, while it is important to continue exploring and implementing technologies for mitigation, we need to begin to focus on technology issues related to adaptation.

It is important to note that technology is not necessarily about complex pieces of equipment, but also refers to knowledge, practices, skills and know-how, some of which have been practiced for centuries in developing countries, and which may be relevant in adapting to climate change. This issue is specifically highlighted in the Barbados Programme of Action which will be reviewed in Mauritius in a few weeks. There is a need therefore to encourage the development of more indigenous technologies, both in terms of improving their application as well as addressing associated issues such as intellectual property rights. The area of south-south cooperation is especially referenced here, which can accelerate technology development and transfer in the area of adaptation. The area of adaptation technology is largely unexplored, perhaps as a result of the lack of any clear, concise definition of adaptation technology.

Mr. Chairman, we see this as no excuse for further delaying work in this area. We note and endorse the work of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and welcome their initiative in examining areas of technologies for adaptation. We are also pleased that they are pursuing work pertaining to

innovative financing for technology transfer, which we hope will lead to tangible results.

Mr. Chairman, most small island states are heavily dependent on energy imports, which come at the expense of development of other social sectors and deprives opportunities in these areas. The transfer of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies to Small Island States, would not only assist with mitigation efforts but also ensure energy security and further enhance sustainable development objectives. But of course, Mr. Chair implementation of such is heavily dependent on the access to and availability of technical and financial assistance. In this regard, the further development of joint research partnerships between developed and developing countries would go a long way in reducing costs and removing potential barriers to technology transfer. Mr. Chair, it may be noteworthy that the Caribbean community has established a regional climate change centre, which can facilitate such joint initiatives and we encourage the international community to explore opportunities to this end. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Government of Italy for providing financial support to the centre and its activities.

We also note that enabling environments are important to facilitate technology transfer, but wish to note that this is not only an issue for recipient countries. Developed countries need to demonstrate initiative by providing the necessary financial incentives in their own countries to facilitate technology transfer, particularly in the private sector.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I thank you.