

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Small Islands Big(ger) Stakes



Office of the High Representative
for the Least Developed Countries,
Landlocked Developing Countries
and Small Island Developing States
(UN-OHRLLS)

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SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

What are the SIDS?

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of developing countries facing specific social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. SIDS were recognized as a special case both for their environment and development at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (3–14 June 1992). This recognition was made specifically in the context of Agenda 21 (Chapter 17 G).

How many countries represent the SIDS?

Fifty two countries and territories are presently classified as SIDS by the United Nations OHRLS. 38 are UN members and 14 are non-UN Members or Associate Members of the Regional Commissions.

UN Members:

38 countries – Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros*, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau*, Guyana, Haiti*, Jamaica, Kiribati *, Maldives*, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mauritius, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa*, São Tomé and Príncipe*, Singapore, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Solomon Islands*, Suriname, Timor-Leste*, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu*, and Vanuatu*.

Non-UN Members/Associate Members of the Regional Commissions:

14 countries – American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Niue, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Where are the SIDS located?

SIDS are spread over three geographical regions namely, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS).

What are the challenges faced by the SIDS?

The common challenges faced by SIDS are: narrow resource base depriving them of the benefits of economies of scale; small domestic markets and heavy dependence on a few

*Also LDCs

external and remote markets; high costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation, communication and servicing; long distances from export markets and import resources; low and irregular international traffic volumes; little resilience to natural disasters; growing populations; high volatility of economic growth; limited opportunities for the private sector and a proportionately large reliance of their economies on their public sector; and fragile natural environments. Therefore, they are highly disadvantaged in their development process and require special support from the international community.

What is the Barbados Programme of Action?

The United Nations has been assisting and extending cooperation to SIDS in their sustainable development efforts through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS finalized at the Global Conference held in Barbados in 1994, known also as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA).

What is the Mauritius Strategy?

The BPOA was reviewed and revamped at the five-year review held at the Twenty-second special session of the General Assembly in 1999, and the ten-year review held in Mauritius (10–14 January 2005). The latter outcome

is known as the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (MSI). The United Nations General Assembly decided to convene a high-level review of the MSI on 24 and 25 September 2010.

Where are the SIDS in the achievement of MDGs?

According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2009 and the series of regional and national MDG progress reports indicated that SIDS had made some progress by 2009, however several SIDS were not on track to achieve the MDGs and some had even regressed. In particular, the impact of the multiple global financial, economic, food and security crises continued to threaten progress and has further widened the growing socio-economic disparities.



Palm trees destroyed by soil erosion, caused by high seas, Nukunomu Atoll, Tokelau
UN Photo, Ariane Rummery

SIDS are particularly vulnerable to global climate change,
climate variability and sea-level rise





Issues at Stake

- » A highly coastal-concentrated agricultural land and infrastructure development increased the threats from any rise in sea-level.
- » The very survival of certain low-lying SIDS will be threatened.
- » Global climate change may damage coral reefs and other fragile island ecosystem and further affect fisheries and food crops. that could affect both subsistence and commercial fisheries as well as food crops.
- » Increased frequency and intensity of storm events due to climate change will also have profound effects on both the economies and environments of SIDS.

Basis for Action

- » Provide SIDS with the necessary and adequate funding, including through innovative sources of financing, to assist SIDS in their mitigation and adaptation measures and efforts.
- » Commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to internationally agreed levels within an agreed time frame.

Actions by SIDS

- » Continue to develop comprehensive adjustment and mitigation policies for sea-level rise in the context of integrated coastal area management.
- » Continue to assess the effects and the socio-economic implications of the impact of climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise on SIDS, including the effects of internal migration of displaced citizens due to the onset of climate change adverse effects.
- » Improve public understanding of the potential effects of climate change.
- » Promote a more efficient use of energy resources in development planning and use appropriate methods to minimize the adverse effects of climate change on the sustainable development of those resources.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Support SIDS to develop and strengthen integrated coastal management plans, including measures for responding adaptively to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.
- » Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for monitoring variability and change of climate and sea-level rise including the development and implementation of adaptation strategies.
- » Provide access to environmentally sound and energy efficient technology to assist SIDS in conserving energy.
- » Provide improved access to financial and technical resources to assist SIDS, which are particularly vulnerable to climate change, in meeting the costs associated with the development national and regional strategies to facilitate adaptation to climate change.



Giant clam, *Tridacna gigas*, and Rongelap beneath the ocean, Marshall Islands, Micronesia

Developing national nature reserves and protected areas are of particular importance to SIDS





Issues at Stake

- » SIDS are renowned for their species diversity and endemism.
- » The biological diversity in SIDS is among the most threatened in the world.
- » Marine and coastal biological resources are precious to islanders, environmentally, economically and culturally.
- » Many SIDS have initiated national biodiversity strategic actions plans and developed national nature reserves and protected areas based on international norms.

Basis for Action

- » Emphasize the collection of information on limited and biologically precious resources that are being threatened in SIDS.
- » Provide a conservation focus that takes into account customary land and reef tenure systems and practices, which may differ from that usually found in the larger developed countries.
- » Provide adequate basic institutional support for conservation efforts (staff, vehicles etc.) and access to financial resources to help start innovative projects.
- » Provide legal framework of potential benefit to the sustainable development of SIDS.

Actions by SIDS

- » Formulate and implement integrated biodiversity strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine biodiversity.
- » Promote community and regional support for the conservation of biological diversity by concentrating on educational strategies and technical support.
- » Develop and support academia, non-governmental organizations, women and major regional groups to continue research on socio-economic and cultural value of biological resources and biotechnology.
- » Encourage countries to give priority to known, existing sites of biological significance, and coordinate information exchange, training and technical assistance.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for the conservation of biological diversity and improve access to environmentally sound biotechnology
- » Support national and regional actions and strategies to make greater use of biodiversity and biotechnology.
- » Build effective partnerships with all stakeholders and coordinate the activities of relevant international organizations, NGOs and other major groups.
- » Develop the capacity to protect and develop the traditional knowledge, to promote cooperation and human and institutional capacity at the national and regional levels.



An aerial view of Chritu Rei in Dili, Timor-Leste
UN Photo, Martine Perret

Sustainable development in SIDS depends largely
on coastal and marine resources





Issues at Stake

- » SIDS' heritage is their historic, cultural and economic links to the oceans and seas.
- » Population and economic development – both subsistence and cash – are concentrated in the coastal zone.
- » Sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources is a major challenge for SIDS.
- » Ocean and fisheries issues should be prioritized on the national and regional sustainable development agendas.

Basis for Action

- » Enable SIDS to complete the delimitation of their maritime boundaries.
- » Assess living and non-living seabed resources within their national jurisdiction.
- » Build technical and financial capacities with the necessary support of the international community.
- » Develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources.

Actions by SIDS

- » Establish and strengthen national administrative and legislative capacity for developing and implementing integrated coastal zone management plans and strategies for coastal watersheds and exclusive economic zones.
- » Design comprehensive monitoring programs for coastal and marine resources, and also document and apply traditional knowledge and management practices that are ecologically sound along with local participation.
- » Harmonize policies and strategies for the coordination of the sustainable management and utilization of coastal and marine resources.
- » Develop programmes to enhance negotiating and related skills for the management and exploitation of coastal and marine resources.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Support the development of mechanisms for the gathering and sharing of information and expertise, and cooperate in facilitating mutually advantageous agreements particularly inter-regionally among SIDS.
- » Support SIDS in establishing national and regional capabilities for the effective surveillance and monitoring of activities within their exclusive economic zones.
- » Build capacity for integrated coastal zone management planning and implementation, strengthening regional and international networks, including South-South relationships.
- » Work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, fully implement programmes of action and initiatives that address the vulnerability of SIDS.



Tropical storm devastated communities in Haiti: aerial view of the flooded houses in the aftermath of the tropical storm “Hanna.”
UN Photo, Marco Dormino

Natural calamities threaten the very existence of SIDS





Issues at Stake

- » SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the pervasive impact of natural disasters.
- » Storm surges, landslides and droughts are occurring more frequently and intensively
- » SIDS face a much more significant economic, social and environmental consequences and higher costs of rehabilitation.
- » The impact of oil spills and other environmental disasters can be severe.

Basis for Action

- » Strengthen respective national frameworks for small island developing states for more effective disaster management.
- » Strengthen the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and related SIDS regional tools to improve national disaster mitigation.
- » Increase public awareness about disaster reduction, stimulate and support inter-sectoral partnerships.
- » Augment the capacity of small island developing states to predict and respond to emergency situations.

Actions by SIDS

- » Establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies in order to mitigate, prepare for and respond to the increasing range and frequency of disasters and promote early warning systems.
- » Strengthen the capacity of local broadcasting to assist remote rural and outer-island communities and cultural and traditional systems that improve the resilience of local communities to disaster events.
- » Establish a national disaster emergency fund with joint private and public sector support.
- » Increase access to telecommunication links and satellite facilities for disaster monitoring, assessment and information exchange.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Support and facilitate existing regional and national mechanisms and communication systems for rapid response to disasters, the exchange of ideas, information and strategies.
- » Strengthen regional institutions to complement and support national efforts in disaster mitigation, preparedness and management.
- » Encourage international community to give special recognition to small island developing states so that their unique characteristics will be taken into account in developing natural disaster reduction management programmes.
- » Provide and facilitate technical support and training for disaster preparedness and relief programmes through relevant international organizations.



Alternative energy source: wind turbines

Fossil based energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for many SIDS





Issues at Stake

- » SIDS heavily depend on imported petroleum products and indigenous biomass fuels.
- » Some SIDS fail to receive necessary renewable energy resources endowments.
- » SIDS are financially constrained for technology development, investment costs, and management capabilities in commercial use of renewable energy resources.
- » The use of renewable energy resources as substantial commercial fuels by SIDS is dependent on the development and commercial production of appropriate technologies.

Basis for Action

- » Produce commercially feasible options of energy supply, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and hydro- and ocean energy.
- » Develop and implement integrated energy programmes to enhance energy efficiency and to promote the development and use of renewable energy.
- » Strengthen ongoing and supporting new efforts in the area of energy supply and services, including the promotion of demonstration projects.
- » Cooperate with international partners to promote wider dissemination and application of technology to strengthen existing mechanisms and further pursue success for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Actions by SIDS

- » Implement appropriate public education and awareness programmes, including consumer incentives to promote energy conservation.
- » Promote the efficient use of energy and the development of environmentally sound sources of energy and energy-efficient technologies, and pay special attention to the possibilities of using economic instruments and incentive structures and the increasing economic possibilities of renewable sources of energy.
- » Establish and/or strengthen research capabilities in the development and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy.
- » Strengthen research capabilities and develop technologies to encourage the efficient utilization of non-renewable sources of energy.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Support the research, development and utilization of renewable sources of energy and related technologies and improve the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources.
- » Formulate and ratify international agreements on energy-sector issues in relation to sustainable development in such areas as carbon emissions and the transportation of petroleum.
- » Develop effective mechanisms for the transfer of energy technology and establish databases to disseminate information.
- » Encourage international institutions and agencies to incorporate environmental efficiency and conservation principles into energy-sector-related projects.



Upgrading domestic communication is essential among SIDS.
UN Photo, Christopher Herwig

Transport and communications are the lifelines
linking SIDS to the outside world





Issues at Stake

- » Distance and isolation have resulted in relatively high transport costs, including high transport insurance costs, for many SIDS.
- » The environmental uses associated with transport and communications development also need to be properly addressed.
- » Devising innovative approaches to resolving transport and communications problems and improving community access to telephone, radio and related services are major challenges.
- » Improving the management and maintenance of existing transport and communications infrastructure is a further challenge.

Basis for Action

- » Cooperate and develop viable regional transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies.
- » Take initiatives in such areas as access to and the use of information and communication technology.
- » Maintain low-technology communication solutions, such as high-frequency radio for rural and remote locations.
- » Further liberalize telecommunications sector as one of the possible means to address the high costs caused by existing monopoly service providers.

Actions by SIDS

- » Continue efforts to strengthen transport services and facilities at both the national and local levels, paying particular attention to environmental protection, safety, and innovative energy-efficient and low-cost transport solutions.
- » Upgrade domestic communication facilities, including radio and telephone coverage, to remote rural and outer-island communities, and continue efforts to improve international telecommunications links.
- » Address quarantine problems and requirements stemming from changing transport situations and longer-term climatic changes.
- » Encourage the application of appropriate communications technologies to promote sustainable development in areas such as education, health and other areas critical to sustainable development.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Support innovative energy-efficient transport solutions to move people and cargo to and from island ports without the need to establish high-cost infrastructure.
- » Cooperate with national and regional bodies in designing and enforcing effective quarantine systems.
- » Improve access to financial and technical resources in support of regional organizations that are coordinating and advising SIDS in the fields of transport and communications.
- » Promote research and development in telecommunications and international telecommunications that is beneficial and relevant to the sustainable development of SIDS.



Preferential trade terms are critical to overcome capacity constraints among SIDS.

Make globalization work for SIDS by addressing their specific vulnerabilities





Issues at Stake

- » Most SIDS are currently excluded from the global economy due to their smallness, persistent structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities.
- » Trade liberalization and globalization present opportunities and challenges to small island developing states, including in terms of the erosion of trade preferences.
- » Many SIDS are not well represented at World Trade Organizations.
- » Most SIDS also experience serious capacity constraints in meeting WTO obligations.

Basis for Action

- » Establish a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system.
- » Recognize the importance of intensifying efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation by small economies, notably SIDS, in the deliberations and decision-making process of the WTO.

Actions by SIDS

- » Seek to integrate into the global economy by overcome issues like trade and food security, capacity constraints, and structural handicaps and vulnerabilities of SIDS.
- » Reaffirm commitment to trade liberalization and ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Reaffirm commitments from international community to support the sustainable development of small island developing states through the provision of financial resources.
- » Strengthen country-driven donor coordination and active support for regional and interregional cooperation for small island developing states.
- » Support broad-based partnerships' involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.
- » Encourage harnessing of potentials for foreign direct investment and encourage increased foreign direct investment flows to SIDS.



Hazardous waste disposal is a priority concern to SIDS.

The management of waste is a serious constraint to sustainable development for SIDS





Issues at Stake

- » Waste disposal is a common problem for all SIDS, particularly the wastes generated by urbanization.
- » Limited land area makes the option of landfill disposal unsustainable in the long term.
- » SIDS are highly vulnerable to contamination by toxic and hazardous wastes and chemicals, and radioactive materials due to its isolated oceanic location.
- » The passage of ships carrying toxic and hazardous wastes, chemicals and radioactive materials is of priority concern to SIDS.

Basis for Action

- » Develop and enhance the emergency response capacities necessary to protect marine and coastal environments from accidents and incidents relating to marine transport.
- » Look for ways of minimizing and/or converting wastes, such as sewage, into a resource (e.g., fertilizer for agriculture).
- » Limiting imports of non-biodegradable and hazardous substances.
- » Changing community attitudes to the disposal and use of sewage.

Actions by SIDS

- » Develop fiscal and policy incentives and other measures to encourage environmentally sustainable imports and local products with low waste or degradable waste content.
- » Develop and implement appropriate regulatory measures, including emission discharge and pollution standards, for the reduction, prevention, control and monitoring of pollution from all sources; for the safe and efficient management of toxic, hazardous and solid wastes, including sewage, herbicides, pesticides and industrial and hospital effluent; and for the proper management of disposal sites.
- » For those that have not done so yet, ratify and implement relevant conventions, including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention of 1972), as well as relevant regional conventions.
- » Develop information systems and baseline data for waste management and pollution control, monitoring the types and quantities of wastes, for both sea- and land-based sources of pollution.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Support the strengthening of national and regional capabilities to carry out pollution monitoring and research and to formulate and apply pollution control and abatement measures.
- » Accept the right of SIDS to regulate, restrict and/or ban the importation of products containing non-biodegradable and/or hazardous substances and to prohibit the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes and materials within their jurisdiction, consistent with international law.



Sustainable long-term management strategies for water catchments of paramount importance for SIDS.

UN Photo, Martine Perret

Many SIDS face severe constraints in terms of both the quality and quantity of freshwater





Issues at Stake

- » Many health hazards in SIDS are caused by poor water quality and limited water quantity
- » SIDS has restricted access to clean water rendered by the lack of adequate storage facilities and effective delivery systems.
- » Inadequate action to safeguard watershed areas and groundwater resources are threats to the sustainable development of SIDS.
- » The freshwater resource of SIDS is threatened by the contamination of human and livestock waste, industry-related pollution and agricultural chemicals.

Basis for Action

- » Develop sound long-term management strategies for water catchment and storage areas, including the treatment and distribution of limited water supplies.
- » Implement freshwater resources strategies that take account of the possible constraints to water supply from low groundwater recharge in times of drought, salt-water intrusion, and inundation as a result of climate change and sea-level rise.
- » Develop freshwater resources strategies that involve substantial capital investment and ongoing maintenance programmes.
- » Pay due consideration to the primacy of the need to supply water for sanitation purposes.

Actions by SIDS

- » Adopt appropriate standards for the management of freshwater resources, and develop and strengthen low-cost monitoring and assessment capabilities, linked to water resource databases, for relevant decision-making tools, including forecasting models for water management, planning and utilization.
- » Strengthen procedures to monitor and respond to the impacts on water resources of natural and environmental hazards, in particular the impacts of climate change and climate variability, including drought and sea-level rise.
- » Encourage the development and acquisition of appropriate technology and training for cost-effective sewage disposal, desalination and rainwater collection to provide sufficiently high quality potable freshwater, including opportunities for technology interchange among SIDS.
- » Strengthen national capacities to make decisions among competing demands for the allocation of limited water resources.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Help improve access to environmentally sound and energy efficient technologies for the catchment, production, conservation and delivery of freshwater, including rainwater catchment, water treatment systems and desalination, and also foster the exchange of information on water treatment methods.
- » Help enhance the capacity of SIDS to develop and implement integrated water resource plans, including water resource allocation and management, the conservation and rehabilitation of watersheds, the protection of groundwater, fostering public awareness and water quality monitoring.



SIDS need to develop and improve the effective use of land resources.
UN Photo, Martine Perret

Better planning and use of land resource is key
to improved environmental management





Issues at Stake

- » The small size of most SIDS, limits urban settlement, agriculture, mining, commercial forestry, tourism and other infrastructure, and create intense competition between land use options.
- » The major long-term land management issue in SIDS is the degradation of the limited land area.

Basis for Action

- » Resolve competing demands for the use of land resources.
- » Develop and adopt more effective and efficient ways of using those natural resources.

Actions by SIDS

- » Develop and improve national databases and the dissemination of information to relevant groups, especially local communities, youth and women, for land-use planning and management, including estimates of the carrying capacity, economic and environmental value of land resources, along with appropriate decision-making tools, such as land/geographic information systems.
- » Prepare and/or review land-use plans in conjunction with agricultural, forestry, mining, tourism, traditional land-use practices and other land-use policies, with a view to formulating comprehensive land-use plans and zoning so as to protect land resources, ensure sustainable and productive land-use and guard against land degradation, pollution and exceeding island carrying capacity.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Facilitate the development and improvement of national databases and the dissemination of information to relevant groups, especially local communities, youth and women, for land-use planning and management, including estimates of the carrying capacity, economic and environmental value of land resources, along with appropriate decision-making tools such as land/geographic information systems.
- » Facilitate more effective international and interregional cooperation, coordination, collaboration and technical exchanges in the fields of agriculture, forestry and other land-use, through international and interregional networks and training programmes.



Snorkeling at palm-lined Beach, Maldives, Indian Ocean, Meemu Atoll

Tourism continues to be the catalyst for
SIDS development





Issues at Stake

- » One of the special tourist attractions of SIDS is the distinctiveness of their cultures.
- » If not properly planned and managed, tourism could significantly degrade the environment on which it is so dependent.

Basis for Action

- » Plan the development of tourism particularly in relation to compatible land uses, water management, coastal zone management and the development of parks and protected areas.
- » Integrate tourism within the existing cultural and environmental constraints and opportunities present in SIDS.

Actions by SIDS

- » Ensure that tourism development and environmental management are mutually supportive.
- » Identify and develop facilities to meet specific niche markets, particularly in eco-tourism, nature and cultural tourism, and involve local populations in the identification and management of natural protected areas set aside for eco-tourism.

Actions by Development Partners

- » Help promote the recognition by the international community of both the value of tourism in SIDS and the fragility of the resources on which it depends, and of the resulting need for international support to encourage its sustainable development.
- » Facilitate efforts, at the national and regional levels, to assess the overall impact of the economic, social and ecological aspects of tourism, plan sustainable tourism and to develop eco- and cultural tourism.

UN MEMBERS AND NON-UN MEMBERS/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS



UN Members

- » Antigua and Barbuda
- » Bahamas
- » Bahrain
- » Barbados
- » Belize
- » Cape Verde
- » Comoros*
- » Cuba
- » Dominica

- » Dominican Republic
- » Fiji
- » Grenada
- » Guinea-Bissau*
- » Guyana
- » Haiti*
- » Jamaica
- » Kiribati*
- » Maldives
- » Marshall Islands

- » Federated States of Micronesia
- » Mauritius
- » Nauru
- » Palau
- » Papua New Guinea
- » Samoa*
- » São Tomé and Príncipe*
- » Singapore
- » St. Kitts and Nevis
- » St. Lucia



- » St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- » Seychelles
- » Solomon Islands*
- » Suriname
- » Timor-Leste*
- » Tonga
- » Trinidad and Tobago
- » Tuvalu*
- » Vanuatu*

Non-UN Members / Associate Members of the Regional Commissions

- » American Samoa
- » Anguilla
- » Aruba
- » British Virgin Islands
- » Commonwealth of Northern Mariana
- » Cook Islands
- » French Polynesia

- » Guam
- » Montserrat
- » Netherlands Antilles
- » New Caledonia
- » Niue
- » Puerto Rico
- » U.S. Virgin Islands

* Also Least Developed Countries

SIDS ADVOCACY PLATFORMS

- » OHRLLS is working in collaboration with UN agencies and Member States to develop advocacy platforms on key issues that were highlighted in the MSI and reconfirmed by the SIDS themselves. These issues are the following: coastal and marine resources, biodiversity, energy, transportation and communication, land resources and food security, and trade.
- » In each of the area identified, OHRLLS will support the assessment of needs in the area, assess the need for public or concessional funding, and analyze the extent to which SIDS could receive these funds. OHRLLS will also be promoting public private partnerships in this area.
- » These advocacy platforms could be built around existing work or specific projects on SIDS issues that are already undertaken by agencies, funds or programmes within the UN system. It may also include some special purpose funds, as well as institutional and normative initiatives.
- » These advocacy platforms could be used by the SIDS to mobilize support for the implementation of identified concrete projects in specific areas of the MSI. Furthermore, they could also be used to alert the international community about priorities issues faced by the SIDS.



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