



Guidelines for Major Groups' Participation in the 5-year review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) High-level Review Session

Introduction

In accordance with UN General Assembly Resolutions 63/213 and 62/191, the United Nations will hold a [High-level Review session on progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation \(MSI\) for Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#) in September 2010, five years after its adoption in 2005.

[GA Resolution A/RES/64/199](#), outlining the proposed 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 States, “stresses the need for the effective participation of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and other major groups, in preparing for the high-level review, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the International Meeting held in Mauritius, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the high-level review, and in this context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the High-level Review”.

This information note aims at providing major group organizations¹ with information on how they can contribute to the review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, including participation in the preparatory process and the High-level Review session itself.

Preparatory process

National, regional, and inter-regional preparations will proceed the two-day High-Level Review session of the General Assembly in New York. Broad public participation is envisioned in the preparatory phase as well as in the High-Level Review session. Major groups are invited to participate in the preparatory process through:

- Contributing to the reports of the Secretary General being prepared for CSD-18, serving as a Preparatory Committee during its SIDS day in May 2010 (**deadline passed**)
- Contributing to the National Assessment Reports (NARs) being prepared by the Member States on a voluntary basis, as a vital preparatory step. (**deadline passed**)
- Participating in the three regional preparatory meetings in early 2010 in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS². The outcomes of the regional meetings will form the basis of the preparatory meeting at CSD-18.

¹ It is recalled that paragraph 23.3 of Agenda 21 provides that “any policies, definitions or rules affecting access to and participation by non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations institutions or agencies associated with the implementation of Agenda 21 must apply equally to all major groups”. Agenda 21 defines major groups as comprising women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers. Therefore, based on Agenda 21, rule 64 shall apply equally to non-governmental organizations and other major groups.

² The title AIMS derives from the initial letters of the marine areas in which the islands in the original group are

- Participate in the SIDS Day during CSD-18 in May 2010 in New York, which will serve as a preparatory committee meeting for the High-Level Review.

For a provisional timeline of the overall preparatory process, see [Annex 3 of the Guidelines for Major Groups Participation in CSD-18](#).

Regional preparatory meetings

The purpose of the regional preparatory meetings is to provide a forum for the SIDS of each region to evaluate continuing national and regional challenges in implementing the Mauritius Strategy as outlined in the respective national assessment reports, to assess ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities, to discuss common priorities for action, and to prepare a regional synthesis report for consideration by CSD-18 acting as the preparatory committee for the high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy in September 2010.

Pacific Regional Meeting

Vanuatu, 8-9 February 2010

The meeting will be organized by the SIDS Unit in collaboration with ESCAP/EPOC, UNEP, UNDP, PIFS, and the South Pacific Forum.

Caribbean Regional Meeting

Grenada, 3-4 March 2010

The meeting will be organized by the SIDS Unit in collaboration with ECLAC, UNDP, CARICOM, and OECS.

AIMS Regional Meeting

Maldives, 9-12 March, 2010 (*to be held over two days, to be confirmed*)

The meeting will be organized by the SIDS Unit in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission and UNDP.

Inter-regional Review Meeting

Immediately prior to SIDS Day during CSD-18 (*to be confirmed*)

New York

Preparatory Committee Meeting

New York, 10 May 2010

SIDS Day/Preparatory Committee (during CSD-18)

SIDS Day will serve as the Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom) for the High-level Review. The PrepCom will receive the outcomes of the regional review meetings, and will determine the structure and conduct of the High-level Review to be held in the following session of the General Assembly.

Accreditation

located; Atlantic (Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe); Indian Ocean (Bahrain, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles); Mediterranean (Cyprus, Malta); South China Seas (Singapore).

Any interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other major groups **MUST** be accredited to the United Nations to participate in the PrepCom to be held during the CSD-18 SIDS Day, or in the High-level Review itself.

[Resolution A/RES/64/199](#) “encourages relevant major groups organizations that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council to submit applications to participate as observers in the high-level review, as well as its preparatory meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, following the accreditation procedures established during the International Meeting in Mauritius”.

There are two different kinds of procedures for NGOs and other major groups interested in participating in the SIDS High-level Review process: 1) **accredited** and 2) **non-accredited**.

Accredited NGOs

Interested NGOs and other major groups that are currently in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or on the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Roster that wish to participate in the CSD-18 SIDS Day or the High-level Review should pre-register to participate through the [on-line](#) registration system. If you are unsure of your organization’s accreditation status, you can:

- ❖ Query the iCSO database at: <http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/login.do>
- ❖ Contact us by e-mail at: csdmgregister@un.org

Non Accredited NGOs

Non-governmental organizations and other major group organizations currently **NOT** in consultative status with the ECOSOC or in the CSD Roster who wish to attend and contribute to the International meeting and its preparatory process may apply to the Secretariat for that purpose.³

Applications should be submitted to the Division for Sustainable Development, Major Groups Programme who, in consultation with the UN-DESA NGO Branch and the United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service and relevant others, as appropriate, will review the requirements below including relevance of the work of the applicants on the basis of their background and involvement in sustainable development issues, particularly in the follow-up process to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Mauritius International Meeting. If the evaluation shows, on the basis of the information provided, that the applicant organization is legitimate for the stated purposes and its activities relevant to the work of the International meeting, the Division for Sustainable Development will make recommendations to the Commission on Sustainable Development⁴, for its decision on the accreditation.

In the case of a recommendation against accreditation, the Division for Sustainable Development will make available to the CSD the reasons for such a recommendation, and will submit its recommendations on all requests for accreditation to member states two weeks before the start of the preparatory meeting. A major group that has been granted accreditation to attend the preparatory meeting(s) may attend the High-level Review itself. *Such accreditation will be limited solely to the Mauritius +5 Review Process.*

³ In accordance with the rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure (A/58/567/Corr.1).

⁴ The SIDS preparatory meeting will be convened by the Commission on Sustainable Development during 3-14 May 2010 in New York.

The application for accreditation requires [submission](#) of the following information:

- a) Name of the organization and pertinent contact information, including address and main contact
- b) Purpose of the organization
- c) Programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the International Meeting indicating in which country or countries they are carried out
- d) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international levels
- e) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions
- f) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality (for international organizations)
- g) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution
- h) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization

Applications must be entered [on-line](#) by no later than **15 March 2010**.

Additional information that you are unable to input electronically can be mailed to:

Major Groups Programme
Division for Sustainable Development/UN-DESA
2 UN Plaza, DC-2 2212
New York NY 10017 – USA
E-mail: csdmgregister@un.org

Registration

SIDS Day Preparatory Meeting, 10 May 2010, New York

Accredited NGOs

ECOSOC-accredited organizations planning to send representatives to the preparatory meeting in New York should follow the instructions [available on the Major Groups' website](#)

Non-accredited NGOs

Your application will be reviewed by the Commission at CSD-18. If your application is accepted, your organization will be able to participate in the CSD-18 SIDS Day PrepCom.

High-level Review session on progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Fall 2010 (date to be defined), New York

For Accredited NGOs Only

Pre-registration instructions will be made available in due time on the [Major Groups website](#).