



# PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES United Nations Member States

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**Statement by  
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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the  
United Nations**

**on behalf of the**

**Pacific Small Island Developing States**

**Official Opening**

**On policy options, practical measures and the way forward**

**13 May 2009**

**New York**

Madam Chair,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) represented in New York and comprising of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji , the Marshall Islands, Palau Papua New Guinea , Samoa , the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my very own country Nauru .

Madam Chair,

The Commission on Sustainable Development is of critical importance to the Pacific SIDS, as it serves as the template for sustainable development for developing countries, and is the mandated review mechanism for SIDS sustainable development strategies, including the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation and the Barbados Plan of Action. Due to our natural geographical challenges and both limited natural resources and economies of scale, PSIDS rely upon the immediate and concrete implementation of sustainable development strategies outlined by international frameworks to achieve our development goals.

Our countries have identified climate change as a cross-cutting issue affecting all thematic issues identified by CSD-17, and we are pleased to see a growing acknowledgement of its importance as an interlinked strategy. However, we believe more needs to be done to address the direct impacts of climate change on sustainable development.

Many of our island countries are the first Member States in the United Nations to be threatened by the impending risk of being submerged under water. Given our urgency in addressing climate impacts, it is important we utilize the CSD to review and better focus our collective efforts towards the direct implementation of adaptation strategies.

As the way forward in addressing the impacts of climate change, we would like to emphasize the following policy recommendations in the context of this year's CSD:

- Climate adaptation strategies should be integrated in all development policies promoted by UN agencies, particularly in areas of; agriculture, food/water security and land and coastal management strategies;
- Integrating land use planning in strategies which address climate change and provide comprehensive adaptation planning strategies with on the ground implementation projects;
- Addressing the issue of both food security and the effects of climate change on food production, with the objective of encouraging domestic food production. This will reduce the reliance of our countries on food imports to satisfy increasing regional consumption arising from our growing populations;
- Addressing the issue of land conservation and soil erosion, particularly in view of the development threats faced by Pacific SIDS with the potential danger of becoming sub-merged due to sea level rise

As part of our efforts to highlight the comprehensive impact and nature of climate change, the PSIDS, with our co-sponsors have initiated a draft resolution entitled "Security and Climate Change" to address the security implications of climate change. The draft resolution demonstrates our efforts in pursuing all avenues in addressing the impacts of climate change and in shifting perceptions of the international community to embrace a more integrated approach in addressing this challenge.

Madam Chair,

One of the challenges faced by PSIDS is the difficulty in finding ways to implement the policy options such as those in the Mauritius Strategy. While international funding mechanisms such GEF have been established to allocate funding to “on the ground” projects, and despite the efforts of international organizations such as the various UN agencies which have been tasked to assess challenges, conduct feasibility studies, provide development frameworks and assist with implementation, many of our immediate needs remain unaddressed and delayed.

The issue of the availability and the accessibility of funding remain major challenges for our region, and improvement is possible through further reform while ensuring accountability. We believe this issue is of pertinent importance as we face the review of the Mauritius Strategy, in 2010. Without accessible funding, the policy options cannot be realized.

Madam Chair,

Our sustainable development goals can be immediately implemented by direct, concrete action. We have developed bilateral cooperation initiatives that complement the international funding mechanisms in addressing our immediate development needs.

Last night, the governments of Italy and Austria and the City of Milan hosted a side event to share our development cooperation with the international community. The direct partnership MOU has resulted in the implementation methodology of the “Cooperation Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Development of Renewable Sources of Energy”. The MOU was formally launched in 2007, and is premised on Italy’s national commitment to substantially contribute to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

The development framework allows direct assistance and immediate implementation of development projects in our region. Through this bilateral partnership, we are able to integrate adaptation and mitigation into our national planning and policies.

This development model has proven to be effective, and we hope by sharing our experiences at CSD, other developing countries, and donor partners can gain insights into one of the ways we have found to overcome the development challenges shared by SIDS.

Thank you

