



**SPREP  
OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES**

**No. 9**

**Papers from the Global Conference on  
Sustainable Development for Small  
Island Developing States.**

**26 April - 6 May 1994.**

**Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies.**

**South Pacific Commission  
Noumea, New Caledonia**

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in October 1994.

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## Forward

Agenda 21, the global action programme developed by the 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, called for a Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States. This was convened in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 25 April-6 May 1994.

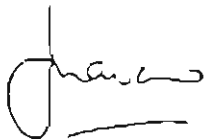
Pacific leaders and delegations made valuable contributions to the *Plenary sessions* of the Conference. These contributions included country statements, commitments, constraints, concerns and views regarding sustainable development, particularly for the Small Islands Developing States.

On April 21, prior to the opening of the Conference, the Governor General of Barbados convened a *Meeting of Eminent Persons Group*. Two women from the Pacific were invited to be part of this group, with myself invited to the Roundtable Group which provided advice on the deliberations of the Eminent Group.

A *Media Encounter* session was convened before the Conference by the UN Conference Secretariat to brief the media on issues to be discussed. I was invited to speak on "Climate Change and Sea Level Rise - A Small Islands perspective."

Five *Case Studies* were also commissioned by the UN Conference Secretariat. SPREP was honoured by being invited to present the case study on the "Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme" to the Plenary session of the Conference.

All these contributions to the Conference are compiled in this publication which I hope you may find useful.



Vili A. Fuavao  
Director

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# Country Statements

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Global Conference on the Sustainable Development  
of Small Island Developing States

Barbados

27 April, 1994

Statement for Australia

Her Excellency Penny Wensley

Ambassador to the United Nations, Geneva,  
and Ambassador for the Environment

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

in the lead up to this Conference, my Government worked actively to encourage as many countries as possible to participate and to ensure high level participation. Faced with the decision to participate in the Conference, the initial reaction of many officials was that it would be difficult to justify. The Caribbean is seen as a tropical paradise. Not a place to do serious business, but rather to enjoy the sun, sea and sand. This reaction is symptomatic of the kind of problems that small islands face in their dealings with the rest of world. Despite the obvious case made by the islanders again and again that they face special problems in their efforts to secure a sustainable future for their peoples, they continue to meet indifference and scepticism. Not only because of their exotic image, but because their problems are not seen to be on the same scale as those demanding attention elsewhere. A world confronting the crises in Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia or Afghanistan and a United Nations organisation confronting an overloaded agenda finds it difficult to focus and to give due attention to the needs of small island States.

Not so for the Secretary General of the United Nations who opened this Conference two days ago. As he grappled with difficult decisions over Bosnia, the Secretary General made a point of being here and of emphasizing that the concerns of even the smallest members of the United Nations family deserve serious attention. The United Nations was created to maintain international peace and security and to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples. The sustainable development of small island States is linked to the achievement of both of these goals.

Australia has long understood this. As an island country itself, located in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Australia has recognized not only the vulnerabilities of small islands, but the critical importance of ensuring their economic wellbeing for the overall security of the region. We need to think about islands in strategic terms. We also need to take a long term view, recognising that careful planning can help us avoid problems in the future. The international community is too much engaged with crisis management. Even while coping with crises we must all give more attention to preventive actions and to addressing causes rather than effects.

This is the fundamental message of Rio. Sustainable development, whether it be for small island developing States, countries facing drought and desertification or countries with economies in transition, is about measured planning and the development of strategies for the long term. The Program of Action, which will be the principal achievement of this Conference, should provide the instrument for small island States to secure the economic and social wellbeing of their peoples. But it should do much more than this. As the first major world gathering dealing with sustainable development since the 1992 Rio Conference, it provides the opportunity for the international community to develop practical plans and strategies which can turn sustainable development from a slogan to something that brings tangible benefits to ordinary people. Not only island peoples, but all those concerned with the more effective management of resources on this planet. The significance of what we are doing here reaches far beyond the shores of island States. This concept is captured by the idea: "small islands, big issues". We know that small islands have big problems, but in addressing those problems we can help find solutions for problems that are not unique to island States but which are of profound importance for us all. Developing effective techniques to monitor sea level rise in small island developing States will help with the global effort to deal with the risk of climate change. Developing an inventory of biodiversity

- Multilateral organisations must also commit themselves to according sustained attention to small island developing States and to improving coordination of their activities. The strategies outlined in the Program of Action should be incorporated, deliberately and methodically, into their existing programs.
- Regional and sub-regional organisations must also reexamine their programs and develop new mechanisms to incorporate the Program into their activities. These activities must be harmonised more effectively with the activities of both bilateral donors and the UN system.
- In the United Nations, it will be essential to incorporate follow up to the Program of Action into the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Secretariat and all the specialised agencies. Australia has argued strongly for a position to be allocated within the UN Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development with responsibility for small island States issues. This focal point must not only assist with the implementation of Conference outcomes, but work to maintain awareness of and sustained attention to small island concerns within the UN system as a whole. We do not want this position to be a gesture. It must have a real impact on the way that the UN system responds to the needs of small island developing States.
- An enhanced partnership must be forged with non-governmental organizations which have made a unique and valuable contribution to the formulation of the Program of Action, and whose ongoing involvement will be essential in implementing its outcomes.
- A similar partnership must be developed with the private sector. Private sector activities have a significant impact on the sustainable development of small island developing States, and their engagement in following through the Program of Action will be of critical importance.
- Perhaps more important than anything else the involvement of individuals and local communities is essential. This Conference should give a lead on putting people - men, women and children - at the center of the implementation of the Program of Action, not as passive subjects, but as active and committed participants.

Mr Chairman,

Twelve minutes is a short time. I have deliberately not enumerated the particular vulnerabilities and concerns of small island developing States, but have sought rather to put this Conference in its wider perspective, to explain to you Australia's commitment to the success of this Conference and the significance we believe it has not only for islands and those who are concerned about their well being but for the international community as a whole. This Conference is an opportunity to put the spotlight on islands, but let us not make this a two-week showcase. Attention must be gained for small island developing States and it must be sustained. Australia believes not only that this Conference is important, but that it can make a real difference. It can and must help small island developing States to achieve sustainable development. It should make an important contribution to the difficult and demanding follow up to Rio. It should, moreover, contribute to the important and ongoing efforts to formulate a United Nations system more attuned to the realities of the post Cold War era and the needs of all its member states, including the smallest among them. It has a role to play in the formulation of the new Agenda for Development complimenting the Agenda for Peace. We are indeed dealing here with small islands, big issues.

and a conservation strategy for small island States will help the international community to implement the Convention on Biodiversity. Working out sensible ways of managing waste in small island communities will have practical application elsewhere. Setting standards for sustainable tourism development will provide a model for both developed and developing countries to follow. The concept of small islands as a microcosm is well understood, but the idea that the Program of Action can and will have much wider application has not been fully understood. This Conference and its outcomes will be a catalyst for action on sustainable development. It should provide new and fresh impetus to the work begun at Rio.

This is certainly Australia's ambition. From the moment the Conference was conceived, Australia has worked actively to ensure its success. Not only because we are sensitive to the particular concerns and vulnerabilities of small island developing States in our own region and elsewhere, but because we have a deep commitment to sustainable development. This is not a skin deep commitment, but one which derives from our own experience in managing the development of a land of harsh extremes and of great diversity. We know about the management of coastal zones and coral reefs. We are experts in tropical agriculture, waste management, water conservation and alternative energy technologies. Like the peoples of small islands, Australians have a profound awareness of the land and the sea.

Australians are also very practical people. In committing ourselves to any task, we want to see tangible results that will make a real difference to people on the ground. For this reason we have worked hard to help formulate a Program of Action which is practical, focused and workable. We have also worked in other ways to ensure the success of this Conference. We have provided technical assistance to the Conference Secretariat and financial support to many small island States' representatives to enable them to attend the Preparatory Committee meetings and the Conference itself. We hosted a regional exploratory seminar at the Australian National University in Canberra and supported the regional technical meeting in Vanuatu - one of the major precursors of the Conference. We have also contributed to the Biodiversity and Climate Change Forum being held in conjunction with this Conference. We are the major donor to the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), which has been a focus of South Pacific islands' preparation for the Conference - and which will be one of the agencies with major responsibility for implementing the outcomes of the Conference.

Designing a clear, sensible and pragmatic Program of Action is the first step. Just as critical is ensuring its implementation. We do not want this Program of Action to become just another document which emerges from a lengthy and complicated multilateral negotiation and which eventually finds a resting place in the archives of governments and international organisations. It will meet this fate, Ladies and Gentlemen, unless we all make a determined effort and commit ourselves to making it work.

- Small island developing States must place the Program at the centre of their governmental policies and programs on sustainable development and resource management.
- Donors must commit themselves to reshaping their development assistance priorities and programs in small island developing States consistent with the priorities identified in the Program of Action. Donors must also accept the need to work together with each other and with small island States to maximise the impact and benefit of available resources.





Global Conference on the Sustainable Development  
of Small Island Developing States  
High Level Segment

Barbados

5 May, 1994

Statement by

The Honourable Gordon Bilnev, MP

Australian Minister for Development Cooperation

and

Minister for Pacific Island Affairs

Mr President, distinguished Heads of State and Government, Ministerial Colleagues, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate you on your election to guide our deliberations, and express my gratitude and congratulations to the Government and people of Barbados for the excellent arrangements made for our work, and for the warmth of the welcome extended to all of us who have come from other countries to bring to fruition one of the main initiatives launched at UNCED.

The theme of our debate in this high-level segment of the Conference is, "Forging Partnerships for Sustainable Development". Our common task here of elaborating strategies and measures to enhance the sustainable development of small island developing states fits well into this theme.

The case for this Conference has been made in numerous fora over the years, but never more cogently than at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and reaffirmed by the General Assembly. Australia knows better than most that small island developing states are a special case with regard to both environment and development. My own appointment as Minister for Pacific Island Affairs - the first time there has been such a position in the Australian Government - is practical testimony to the high place we give to island concerns within our own national priorities.

We are meeting in culmination of a process of preparatory work, extending back over the past year, and presided over by Australia's Ambassador for the Environment, Penny Wensley. I hope I will be allowed to congratulate my distinguished compatriot on her persistence, pertinacity and enthusiasm in furthering our objectives. It has been an acid test for the international community to convert the declaratory work of UNCED into the important, detailed series of practical measures contained in the Program of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

When we adopt the Program and the accompanying Barbados Declaration, it will still be premature to congratulate ourselves on our achievement. The time for congratulations will be when we have followed through, when we have all made sure that these proposals are converted into effective action where it counts. This Conference represents a major step forward, but it is just the first step of the all-important process of implementation.

Australia bases its approach to the Conference on an attitude of deep respect and support for the culture, values and way of life of island peoples. We are determined that they should benefit on a continuing basis from the Program of Action.

Australia has a fundamental and longstanding commitment to assisting the economic and social development of small island developing states in the South Pacific. Our aid budget for 1993-94 allows more than \$A 400 million to this group of states, representing 30% of our total Official Development Assistance. In other words, our own partnership for sustainable development with island countries is well established. It is from that standpoint that we commend the Program of Action and Barbados Declaration, as together representing a blueprint for useful actions to be taken in a co-ordinated way at national, regional and international levels in support of small island developing states.

But the small states have not come with empty hands to this partnership. Their forests, atmospheres, marine zones and human resources make an essential contribution to the sustenance and indeed improvement of the balance of life on our planet. What they need from their partners, the rest of us here, is a commitment to work with them in dealing with their vulnerabilities and achieving a sustainable quality of life for present and future generations.

Australia gives that commitment unequivocally.

Successful implementation of the outcomes of the Conference will require changes in policies at national, regional and international levels in many sectors. We must all strive to make better use of the resources currently allocated to small island developing states, and, where possible, increase them. This is a responsibility for national governments, but not only for national governments. It is more important than ever that the United Nations system and other inter-governmental organisations should pull together and co-operate with regional bodies and bilateral donors for optimum use of available resources. We should pay close attention to progress towards that objective in monitoring the Program of Action.

The long term sustainable use of fisheries and forestry resources are priority environmental and economic issues for most South Pacific countries. In the absence of a broad range of development options, the careful management of these finite resources is critical to enduring growth and improving living standards. However, at present in a number of countries fisheries stocks and tropical hardwood forests are being exploited at an unsustainable rate, often because of the uncontrolled operations of some unscrupulous foreign companies. To make matters worse these companies are often understating the value of the resources they are taking out of the region.

I am, however, glad to say that this year's South Pacific Forum meeting to be held in Australia will have as its theme "Managing Our Resources". This paramount meeting of South Pacific heads of government will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss further policies and strategies for dealing with these serious problems and also for following up the outcomes of this important Conference.

Australia is also concerned that population projections for the South Pacific region are well beyond the world average. In some island states population growth rates are as high as any in the world, outstripping economic growth and impacting adversely on economic growth and sustainable development. It is clear that measures aimed at producing sustainable development cannot be successful unless the issue of population growth is addressed comprehensively - not just in Cairo later this year, but in this context and here and now.

As we know, slowing population growth is best achieved within the context of development efforts that promote economic growth, extend health, and improve women's rights, breadth of choice and status. Such efforts should be supported by other programs to improve access to services, education and training. Constructive cooperation to this end is fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development for small islands. Australia will continue to expand its support for population-related activities.

In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to identify a further category of partners in the pursuit of sustainable development - namely the range of non-governmental organisations, including the private sector, women's, youth and indigenous groups, and organised labour. The NGOs bring additional resources and perspectives to the task, and their contribution is a vital complement to that of governments. I appeal to them to join in.

Mr President, Australia is proud and pleased to be represented at this important Conference in Barbados. We have contributed actively to the preparatory work and consider the Program of Action to be a major step towards implementation of Agenda 21. We promise faithfully to be equally active in the essential process of following through on what we have done so far.

COOK ISLANDS DELEGATION.

PRESENTATION TO THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT BY

HON. LYATIO AKARURU, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - COOK ISLANDS.

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Mr. President, distinguished Heads of State and Governments, leaders, delegations, ladies and gentleman.

Mr. President, I must initially take this opportunity to pay tribute to a most hospitable and gracious nation. A nation which has brought the international community into its arms and embraced them for the past two weeks with warmth and dignity.

Through you Mr. President may I convey the gratitude of my country to the Government and people of Barbados for the excellent venue and arrangements to date. I am privileged to stand here today and address this conference. A conference of which we are all aware, holds promise for the future well being of our island nations and our peoples, whether we are from the Caribbean, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indian, and Pacific Oceans.

Mr. President, the Cook Islands is certainly one of the smaller island states amongst us, yet that smallness does not infer small problems, small population sizes, or for that matter small infrastructural needs. In essence, the opposite is the case, and this has been elaborated by many delegations over the past week.

Mr. President, firstly I see our role as that of a keeper.

A keeper of our heritage and a protector. A protector of our children.

The South Pacific heritage that remains so strong with us today enables us to determine our futures knowing that this heritage of culture, society and religion which we hold dear is a very strong component of our international deliberations on a number of issues and concerns.

Our heritage as you may have seen portrayed by our performing arts group at present here in this wonderful country is strong, vibrant and energetic, and is an essential part of ones well being. Cook Island dance is an integrated facet of our lives, and we would welcome the chance again to show the international community this strength.

Mr. President as protectors of our children and their children, we must ensure that this aspect of our heritage is a component of any plans of action established and developed to promote our societies and their futures.

Goals of economic growth, environment protection, cultural integrity and social stability can only be achieved through the formation of long term partnerships which will forge not only new beginnings but a continuation of our important past.

Those partnerships must recognise that the balance between the integrity and sanctity of spiritual values and cultural heritage coupled with external arrangements and know-how will result in an interaction at all levels that could pave the way towards what many are calling sustainable development.

Mr. President, many island cultures formed partnerships purely for survival.

Those partnerships were between man and nature, where nature was the all powerful and dominant partner, and where man was the lesser partner that was required to observe many protocols merely to survive his oceanic environment.

Today, Mr. President, sustainable development requires that we harmonize optimum utilisation of resources, whilst ensuring their continuity for present and future generations.

In small island societies like ours it is essential that sustainable development is readily integrated into the fabric of development policy and cultural well being.

This Global Conference in which we are a part has developed a plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and I acknowledge the officials of the many delegations who have worked long and hard over the preparatory process to this stage of our deliberations. The positive, pragmatic, and important step



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Statement

by

H.E. MR. RESIO S. MOSES  
SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

In the General Debate  
of  
The Global Conference on the  
Sustainable Development of  
Small-Island Developing States

BARBADOS

Thursday, 28 April 1994

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forward in achieving sustainable development is the very essence of this presentation, and is reflected in the programme of action as agreed.

One critical factor remains. The implementation of the programme to guide us towards our goal of sustainable development in small island societies.

As the 21st Century dawns upon us the urgency to implement the programme is essential as the world is changing and attitudes are changing. It is safe to say, Mr. President, that although our partnership with nature is still prevalent, partnerships must also be made in the context of the reality in which we live.

Forging those partnerships is the reason we have all come to Barbados. Partnerships are just that, a sharing of knowledge and know-how, of cooperation and good will, also of good and bad, and I am sure Mr. President that all partnerships suffer from that aspect.

Finally Mr. President, in the years ahead our children and their children must be given the opportunity to fish those crystal clear waters of our lagoons, sow their crops in rich fertile soils and to cherish and inherit the knowledge and traditions of our forefathers, and use those very important and dear opportunities to foster the strengthening of partnerships, not only between communities and nations but essentially between man and nature.

Mr. President many of us know that to ignore that essential partnership we are ignoring our right for survival and in this changing world that must not be tolerated.

I thank you.



Statement by H.E., Mr. Resio S. Moses  
Secretary of External Affairs  
of the Federated States of Micronesia  
at the Global Conference on the  
Sustainable Development of  
Small-Island Developing States  
Barbados, 28 April 1994

MR. PRESIDENT:

It gives me great pleasure to address this historic conference on behalf of the Government and people of the Federated States of Micronesia. Ours is a developing country made up entirely of small islands and a vast expanse of the northwestern Pacific Ocean. This delegation represents a broad spectrum of our society, including our federal and state governments. We hope to contribute in some small part to the overall understanding of the situation of small-island developing countries, in context of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21.

First, we wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to lead us in our efforts here. We also recognize and congratulate all the members of the Bureau, and pledge the total support of our delegation throughout this Conference.

We sincerely thank the countries that contributed to the voluntary fund, as well as individual contributors, without whose understanding and support we could not have come from so far away to this conference which we regard as crucial to the future generations of our people and indeed, to all peoples of the world.

We have been aware for many months that the people and Government of Barbados were heavily engaged in preparing to host this Global Conference, but even our high expectations are far exceeded by the warmth of your hospitality, Mr. President, and the beauty of your country. The name, "Barbados," now takes on a historic new meaning and will always evoke warm feelings in our hearts.

MR. PRESIDENT:

By the time we gather here, almost two years after the Rio Earth Summit, the term, "Sustainable Development" has become firmly embedded in all efforts directed at development, all over the world. The traditionally divergent approaches of developers and environmentalists were finally merged in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. And so today, any respectable discussion, any program of assistance aimed at development, must include consideration for sustainability in measures contemplated.

Similarly, the world community now generally recognizes that small island developing states must develop with particular attention to problems that set us apart from other developing countries. This is not to say that our particular problems or disabilities are more

difficult than the problems of other developing countries, but they are problems shared by a very large group of countries spanning all the oceanic regions of the world. Because our island nations collectively cover such a large part of the world's surface, we must work together to identify our shared concerns, analyze them and design common approaches.

An additional motivation for the attention of the entire world community to the situation of small island nations is that all states, large and small, developed and developing, at last have begun to realize how closely the world's oceans are linked with the well-being and long-term survival of mankind. The previously-unimagined fragility of oceanic eco-systems is being shown in frightening ways. Coral reef structures are being seriously damaged and in many cases destroyed. Fish stocks once thought to be inexhaustible are disappearing. And even in distant oceans, scientists are finding alarming evidence of degradation in water quality traceable to faraway sources of human pollution. These discoveries are undeniable evidence that we all have a stake in assisting small-island states to develop in a way that minimizes human-induced damage to our indispensable and all-pervasive resource, the oceans.

Mr. President, it is not necessary in our brief time here to describe in detail the extreme vulnerabilities of small-island developing countries. Such statements have already been made repeatedly in New York, in Geneva, in Rio and elsewhere, and thankfully, they have had their effect. Otherwise we would not be here today. Similarly, it is not necessary for me to catalog the areas of particular developmental sensitivity that we are faced with, because this work has been done in the preparatory meetings to this Conference and has found expression in the excellent draft Program of Action which is already under discussion here, and on which we anticipate reaching consensus agreement before we leave this beautiful island.

This Conference, then, is not about raising concerns, and it is not primarily about setting an agenda. Rather, it must be about commitments to action - and here I do not refer only to commitments by donor countries to assist, but first and foremost to commitments which only small island countries ourselves can make. We ourselves must be very serious and resolve not only to recognize our special development obstacles, but to institute and carry out the programs that overcome them - not as a temporary, short-term or even medium-term proposition, but as a way of life for generations to come.

No amount of outside assistance can provide sustainable development. Our small-island countries must individually and collectively commit ourselves to follow the course once we have seen it and possess the means to travel it. Without that commitment, our sails will never fill and we will be like boats without power, adrift on a journey that can only come to a sad end.

But I am happy to say that during the past several years, and even in the first few days of this Conference, I sense that just such determination and commitment has already taken root as small-island developing countries have acquired better understandings of what we are dealing with when we speak of development. I noted in Rio that our ancestors in the islands have always been experts in sustainability, and that we grasp the concept and its special applicability to modern-day island development more readily than most. I therefore regard small-island developing countries as a very appropriate starting point in the implementation of Agenda 21, because while our need for development is great, we are particularly well-equipped to demonstrate that the road to sustainability can be opened up despite seemingly insurmountable barriers.

You will notice that I have spoken first of commitments by small-island developing countries. This is the proper order of things. But the fact remains that we lack at the outset the resources to meet most of them in an effective way. For that reason our undertakings will be doomed to failure unless we can be confident that developed countries will ensure our access to resources which we genuinely lack, and which are essential for these purposes.

We do not urge upon the donor countries a Pandora's box of entitlements. In no way are the principles of Agenda 21 seen by us as simply new clothes to wear on an endless foreign assistance shopping spree. The fact is, Mr. President, that only with sustainable development will we ever move toward self-sufficiency. We therefore firmly believe that when our heads of state gather here next week to explore the forging of partnerships for sustainable development, it will be very much an exploration guided by mutual self-interest.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I now turn to a brief overview of the Federated States of Micronesia, in order that the delegates can better see where we fit into the process under discussion. After all, while we island states have many common characteristics and problems, we are by no means all alike.

The 400 atolls and high islands of the Federated States of Micronesia lie within an area of approximately three million square kilometers in the tropical Western Pacific Ocean, just above the Equator. Our current total population is about 110,000, of whom some 75,000 live on the four high, volcanic islands that are home to our four state capitals. In other words, while our land area is small - altogether about the size of the US State of Rhode Island - the four states of our federation encompass an ocean area almost the size of the continental United States.

Not until late in the last century did the rest of the world take much notice of us, at which time we entered a colonial period that brought death, destruction and war to our peaceful islands. Finally, in 1979, our sovereign statehood was enshrined in a Constitution and self-government commenced. We joined the United Nations in 1991.

Thus, we are not only a developing country, but one which has had to learn quickly how to serve a widely separated and culturally diverse society, faced with the classic conflict between aspirations toward a modern standard of living and a scarcity of almost everything necessary to achieve and maintain it. These scarcities, felt most strongly in rural areas, combined with rapidly increasing population pressure, are causing an upward rate of migration into our main island centers - draining our rural areas of the vitality that they need to build a sustainable future and greatly increasing the demand for social services and facilities in already overstressed urban centers.

As the FSM observed at the opening PrepCom last October, this is a vicious cycle that is not peculiar to island developing states, but for us it is made even more problematic by our extreme remoteness, our wide dispersion and our small economic base.

Mr. President, I am pleased to say that despite the difficulties of my country's situation, the Federated States of Micronesia has already begun to take steps toward Sustainable Development. I would like quickly to mention some of them:

1. For over a year prior to the Rio Conference, we worked with other Pacific Island countries who are members of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme to conduct a thorough environmental analysis of our laws and policies. This analysis led the FSM to adopt a detailed National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS), under which the first projects, such as our Pohnpei Watershed Protection Project, are already being funded and implemented.

2. In light of the NEMS, we have reviewed all of our State and National 5-year Development Plans and have incorporated measures to strengthen their environmental focus.

3. We are moving forward with a comprehensive legislative review within the FSM to incorporate recommendations of the NEMS and see where else our existing laws may need changing or supplementing so that environmental protection and development goals both can be pursued concurrently.

4. After considering a variety of institutional adjustments to our governmental structure, we are creating a widely-representative National Sustainable Development Board to monitor the integration of sustainable development policies into government

actions, to assist with analysis and arrangements for projects and to support proper coordination with other governments and international bodies.

5. We are a member of the Alliance of Small Island States, and, since its formation, have participated in the UNCED and Climate Change processes. We are party to the Climate Change and Biodiversity and Ozone Conventions, and are giving priority analysis to others such as the Basel and London Conventions having to do with toxic and hazardous wastes. We also are currently chairing discussions within our community of Pacific Islands to finalize a draft regional treaty on hazardous waste movements which would supplement the coverage of the Basel Convention.

I pause here to say that we are in full agreement with the remarks made in this debate by His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas, Mr Turnquest, when he alluded to the pressures being brought on small-island developing states to accept importation of hazardous wastes. The movement, storage and disposal of such wastes is a matter of grave concern to all remote island nations today, because our very remoteness and individual political weakness makes us vulnerable to powerful countries who grow more desperate each day to rid themselves of the indestructable and deadly byproducts of the nuclear age.

6. We are making conscientious efforts within our limited resources to fulfill our role in the international community where national inventories and reports are called for so as to establish baselines for international action in essential areas such as Natural Disaster Preparedness, Climate Change, and Biodiversity, to name a few.

7. We participated in the recent successful restructuring of the Global Environmental Facility and will continue to participate to see that the terms of the UNCED documents as they relate to small island developing countries are fully met in the operation of that facility. To that end, we have joined with other Pacific Island countries to seek for the islands one of the six seats on the GEF Governing Council allocated to the so-called, "Asian and Pacific Island" region.

8. We have begun to make Sustainable Development a primary focus in all dealings with donors of external assistance, both bilateral and multilateral. For example, our Compact of Free Association with the United States once was driven largely by considerations of mutual security. Now it is spoken of more often as a "Partnership for Sustainable Development," and the US, teaming with multilaterals such as the Asian Development Bank, is taking a new interest in helping us realize sustainable development goals with their very much appreciated assistance.

9. We encourage at local levels in the FSM all possible efforts to use environmentally sound technologies and approaches suited to our island societies. For example, the concept of eco-tourism has been promoted in the State of Pohnpei for a number of years already, in the operation of cultural centers that showcase our traditional practices and with the well-known Village Hotel which was accorded the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation's Eco-Tourism Award for 1992. Recently, in the State of Yap, another hotel devoted to eco-tourism, Pathways, opened to wide acclaim. In the States of Kosrae and Yap, we just completed a pilot project with Greenpeace demonstrating a waterless biological toilet technology. This project is the first of its kind in the Pacific and has great promise for at least limiting some of our extreme difficulties with waste treatment and disposal. Finally, I refer to sustainable development of a different kind - initiated a number of years ago in our State of Chuuk, when the removal of artifacts from sunken ships in the lagoon was forbidden by law, out of respect for the past and to preserve the past for those who would learn from it.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I would like to close by saying that while Pacific islanders reside in many countries we have great solidarity throughout our vast ocean region. Even more, this Conference is making it clear that the hopes of our people for the future are very much like those of island citizens everywhere. The Federated States of Micronesia stands proudly with our brothers, and so would recall here what President Olter stated in Rio:

"We ... devoutly hope this historic Summit and its mechanisms will at last make the World realize the Pacific is both valuable to future generations for its vast resources and home to present generations of peoples who have never willingly accepted that their backyards be made dumping grounds or testing and disposal areas. Since our small size and wide dispersion has in the past denied us the political power to protect ourselves against these forces, we look forward henceforth to a world order in which new environmental imperatives will teach others the inequity of past attitudes and practices."

Forebearance, discipline, concern for others, commitment, action. These are the building blocks of sustainable development not only for small-island developing countries, but for the World. What we succeed with at Barbados obviously will have critical value to small-island peoples, but should we fail to achieve our purpose, it will be a grave loss for all humankind. With common resolve and God's will, this Conference will succeed.

Thank you, Mr. President.



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
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ADDRESS

by

B.E., Mr. Bailey Olter

President of the  
Federated States of Micronesia

at the

Global Conference on Sustainable Development  
of  
Small-Island Developing States

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

5 May 1994

Check against delivery

ADDRESS by H.E., Mr. Balloy Oltor  
President of the  
Federated States of Micronesia  
at the  
Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of  
Small-Island Developing States

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, 6 MAY 1994

Mr. President, distinguished Heads of State and Heads of Government, Ministers, Delegates, friends:

I am pleased, once again to address the United Nations community on my favorite subject - the sustainable development of small-island developing states. Quite honestly, had I suggested to my people a few years ago that a world conference devoted exclusively to island development would occur, I would have been considered a dreamer. Even when the idea of such a conference emerged in Agenda 21, I hesitated to count on it.

But here we are, for once not just a small voice among many, but the first specific group to receive attention in the Rio followup. There are a great many who deserve our thanks for this historic opportunity. Certainly, our host country, Barbados, must head the list. Many others also have worked long and hard, but if I may be forgiven for mentioning only one country here, the Republic of Vanuatu and its delegation to the United Nations stands out. Had they not devoted themselves so unstintingly and so brilliantly to the cause of small-island states, this Conference very well might not have taken place.

And so, Mr. President, it is now incumbent upon us all to reward the efforts of those who brought us here by making this Conference a true beginning, not just for small-island states, but for people everywhere, North and South, who expressed their hopes for future generations in the Rio Declaration.

In my view, the starting point for examining the development needs of small-island states, as with all developing countries, is the Right to Development - a principle that has finally taken its place with other basic human rights. Another focal point is the concept of Frontline States, for just as small-island states are in the frontline of those exposed to adverse consequences of global climate change, the World's awakening interest in ocean resources calls for early attention to the pressing developmental vulnerabilities of the oceans' island peoples.

But while no one denies the Right to Develop, and though a frontline situation focuses priority attention, we do not seek aid in the old context of donor-donee relationships. Thus, to find the proper application of these and other principles for Small-Island Developing States in the Rio context, we turn to our theme today - Partnerships.



The term, "Partnership" can have many meanings. Here at Barbados, we are speaking of partnership in the best sense, that is, of people working together in a common enterprise, where all stand to benefit by its success. In fact, the existence of our common interest is what makes the partnership. This kind of partnership cannot be forced, or created simply by agreement.

We also have in mind a great network of such partnerships - some large, some small, some highly focused and specific, some quite diffuse. In other words, we are talking about a good deal more than seeking out aid donors and calling them "partners."

In asking ourselves how to forge these partnerships for sustainable development, it occurs to me that thinking of sustainable development as our ultimate goal is not enough. This may appear to be an odd statement, since everyone knows that sustainable development alone is a big challenge. The human, technical, financial and political complexities of sustainable development are staggering. One hundred twenty delegations have spent the last two weeks here in a massive effort to finalize a program of action that is a comprehensive guide to the sustainable development of small-island developing states.

Make no mistake, that has been an indispensable exercise, for which I congratulate and thank all who have worked so hard. But as demanding as it has been, I respectfully submit that this has been the easy part. Similarly, implementing the Program of Action will involve much effort, but there is no doubt it can be done. But if development is pursued as our only goal, I believe that we will not honor fully the extraordinary opportunities which have recently been created for us. Partnership participation in the sustainable development movement will require our going further, and giving thought to the deeper quality of life - the kind of world we want to have for ourselves and future generations.

I would like to suggest that the highest role for our partnerships in sustainable development is not only to provide settings for cooperation, but rather to promote a many-faceted dialog through which small-island states can both define their rightful place in the society of mankind, and make their best contribution in pursuing the broader goals of that society. That contribution includes participating in the great effort that occupies the World's mind today - the redefinition of its visions for a new millennium.

It is clear the industrialized countries have seen that human society as we have known it needs redefinition. If that were not the case, we would not be here today. In Rio, we all joined to pursue a new agenda for the 21st century, charting new courses for

development, to be sure, but also addressing for the first time in a focused way the nature of what we came to call the "New World Order." Rio was a splendid start, but now it is incumbent on us, in partnership, to continue the work of definition.

Recently the industrialized countries have generously cooperated in opening up several new avenues of opportunity for SIDS to help define the new development goals. For example, at the last meeting of the INC for the Climate Change Convention, it was recognized that small-island states should sit on the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. Even in the restructured GEF, the role of island states on the new Governing Council is receiving close attention. Positions such as these give us an opportunity not only to receive foreign aid, but to participate in shaping its goals both for ourselves and for the industrialized world as well. These are the kinds of partnerships of which I speak.

We island countries would not be matching the confidence placed in us if we merely set our sights on the old industrialized model, rather than helping to craft a new vision for the future. I do not criticize the industrialized model, but even in the North there is now a strong focus within intellectual circles on questions such as the future concept of work, play, art and human enrichment, much of it pointing toward a revival of older cultural values.

So, as we forge new partnerships let us certainly work together to make a sustainable world, but in doing so, let us also be sure to reflect upon our own historical and cultural traditions and try to incorporate those elements which, in the past, enabled the inhabitants of small islands to live sustainably without the benefits of Western society. It may just be that islanders have more to contribute than we realize.

Mr. President, we will always be deeply grateful to you and the people of Barbados for this Conference.

Thank you.



# FIJI

Fiji Mission to the United Nations One United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017

**GLOBAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SMALL ISLAND  
DEVELOPING STATES**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. RATU MANASA K. SENILOLI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Barbados

29 April 1994

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first express my thanks and appreciation to you, Your Excellency, and to your Government, for hosting this United Nations Conference. My delegation is pleased to be participating in this first global conference for the small island developing States.

I should also like to thank the people of Barbados, in particular, for their hospitality and the warm welcome they have given to my delegation. I congratulate the Conference Planning Committee for the outstanding organizational skills which they have shown and I also applaud the United Nations on this historic initiative.

Let me also pay tribute to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Penelope Wensley of Australia, and the members of the Conference Secretariat, for the efforts that they have made in guiding the work of this Conference. I also commend the Chair of the Group of 77, Ambassador Pantane Lamamra of Algeria, and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, Ambassador Annette des Iles of Trinidad and Tobago, for the central roles that they have so far played in the often difficult negotiations leading up to this Conference.

The Preparatory Committee has clearly done a remarkable job of putting forward the Action Program as a practical approach and a challenge for the future. During the course of one substantive and a short resumed session, it was difficult to reach agreement on all issues. Let us hope that this beautiful island setting will provide the right backdrop and the right stimulus for concluding our discussions on all outstanding issues. The actions and decisions we take here would, we believe, go a long way towards meeting the aspirations of all peoples and especially those in our small island countries.

As underscored by many delegations, our meeting here today is a part of the process set in train by UNCED in 1992. Through Agenda 21, we sought to reverse the effects of environmental degradation and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries. Furthermore, we recognized in Rio the special case for environment and development in small island developing States. This, in my view, was an extremely important recognition.

Our previous discussions at the meetings of the Preparatory Committee have already highlighted many of the problems faced by our small island countries. These countries depend heavily on a narrow range of resources and on international trade for their livelihood. They have high and, in many cases, increasing population density which, in turn, increases the pressure on

Mr. Chairman,

We are here to fulfil a commitment made at UNCED, and that is to address the particular concerns of the small island developing States. UNCED recognized the special environment and economic circumstances of SIDS created by factors beyond their control. The Conference agreed that small island developing States warranted special attention and help from the international community.

Our meeting here today is in line with the international community's determination to carry out those commitments and undertakings. The results of our deliberations will reflect the importance that we will attach to addressing issues of sustainable development in our small islands. Only a true global partnership will, we believe, set the small islands, and indeed the broader international community, on a new course for a more sustainable, secure and just future.

We know that the resolution of all the issues of concern to the small islands will take time. To my mind, however, this Conference marks the beginning of a process. We must make this a part of a continuing process of implementation, action and review.

Mr. Chairman,

The two main results of this Conference will be: the Barbados Declaration and the Program of Action. I would single out first the Barbados Declaration. This is a document whose political significance I should like to underscore. In endorsing this Declaration, all countries will be making a firm commitment to their people and to the future generations. This Declaration will, furthermore, serve as a useful basis for setting up new forms of partnerships between and among peoples. Collectively, we must respond appropriately to the challenges the small islands are facing.

We support the Declaration's call for the full involvement of all major groups in society in the implementation of sustainable development. We believe full involvement of women, youth, indigenous people, business and industry and non-governmental organizations, will be critically important. We also support the call for cooperative action, because actions by the small islands alone will not suffice. Moreover, assuring sustainable development in small islands will serve not only the interests of island countries, but all our countries.

At the national level, the coordination of policy and planning work relating to sustainable development is the responsibility of our newly-established Department of Environment. The Department is now developing policies and strategies to address a wide range of environmental issues identified in our National Environment Strategy report which we prepared to guide our work in ensuring environmentally sound and ecologically sustainable development. In conjunction with this, the Department of Environment will have a critical role in ensuring the implementation of the Action Program that we will be adopting at this Conference.

At the regional level, Fiji and the countries in the South Pacific have, Mr. Chairman, responded positively to the environmental challenges facing the region. We have done this by enhancing and expanding the role of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP). As the main focus of the environmental efforts of the island countries of the South Pacific, SPREP is playing a key role in coordinating the environmental programs of our member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Some years ago, when the General Assembly discussed issues of concern to small island countries under the biennial work of the Second Committee, Fiji shared the general sense of disappointment of many island country delegates that the United Nations system could not focus more clearly on the specific problems and development needs of the island developing countries. We have come a long way since. It is particularly gratifying, therefore, on this occasion, to express Fiji's appreciation to the United Nations for the efforts which it has made during the intervening period to rectify this situation.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, this Conference, as I said before, is a test of our political will. It is a test of political will for efficient and timely multilateral action towards meeting challenges facing the small island States. The hope, especially of more than 43 million people who live in so many of our small island countries, lies in the ability of those present here to find practical solutions to their problems.

Thank you.

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING  
STATES, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS,  
25 APRIL - 6 MAY 1994

STATEMENT BY HON LT COL JONETANI KAUKIMOCE,  
MINISTER FOR HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT, ON THE THEME

"FORGING PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT"

Mr President  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here to share my country's thoughts on the theme of the debate "Forgoing Partnership Towards Sustainable Development" at this historic meeting of the World community.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) established throughout Agenda 21, the fundamental principle of global and regional co-operation towards solving our world's environmental problems. Throughout the Earth Summit, we were all urged to think globally, and act regionally and locally.

Pacific Island countries, because of their common cultural background and similar aspirations, have a long record of regional co-operation. Because of

the many factors that they share in common, as highlighted by this Summit such as their isolation, small size, vulnerability to natural disasters and scarcity of natural resources, Pacific Island countries have found it more cost-effective to deal with their economic, social and more recently, environmental problems on a regional basis. Institutions such as the University of the South Pacific, South Pacific Commission, Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) are testaments to this ethic of regional co-operation.

However, when it comes to the implementation of Agenda 21, through the Capacity 21 and other international funding mechanisms, this primary ethic of global and regional co-operation is becoming lost, because the nations are deliberately being required to compete with one another for funding.

In the lead-up to the Barbados Conference, informal discussion was held by satellite link between the United States, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. One of the recurring themes that was raised by Ambassador David Colson of the United States, in explaining the US position at Barbados, was the donor countries requirement for small island developing states to have to compete for funding given by developed countries to the Global Environment Facility and other agencies. I would like to stress this fact, on behalf of Fiji, that while the UNCED agreements have as their basic principle global and regional co-operation, when it comes to the funding of activities, individual states are being required by



the funding procedures to compete against each other. But competition is diametrically opposed to co-operation. Competition for scarce resources to generate conflict and disunity rather than harmony and unity. This imposed requirement for competition for funding, if left unrecognised and unchecked, will erode any initiative for co-operation that already exist. Eventually, it will set the developed countries against the developing countries; and within those two groups, countries against one another. In the South Pacific, where most countries have compiled National Environment Strategies or Management Plans, as their contribution towards the global initiatives, we are now being faced with having to compete for limited regional funds to implement these strategies and plans. While it may be more convenient for the large multilateral funding agencies, and to some extent, bilateral donor countries to fund through a regional body, if the funding procedures are not urgently revised, regional co-operation may soon disappear as the individual states scramble to secure a even more limited (and possibly inequitable share) of already limited funding in order to implement their priority projects.

Many of us, like Fiji, have a clear idea of the steps we wish to take to implement our National Environment Strategy, and have already taken into account the regional context in developing our strategies. We should be dedicating all our efforts, energies, and valuable national resource inputs to making rapid progress with implementation. Instead, we are forced to waste time and limited resources on the lengthy, complex, and often

unsuccessful bureaucratic procedures required by competitive funding allocation procedures. We are not convinced that these procedures will result in either equitable distribution, or targeted achievement of national, regional and global objectives.

One of the main outcomes, as I see it, of the Barbados Conference should be a united demand from small island states for the formulation of a funding procedure that eliminates the notion of competition, is more conducive to regional and global co-operation, and at the same time meets the priority needs of individual states. The environmental problems of the world are our common concern. We all agreed on that at the Earth Summit. But we must not allow the developed countries to absolve themselves of their responsibility by tossing limited assistance to small island states, then setting them at one another in competition for those limited resources, so that they become so engaged in the rigours of the competition that they are distracted from insisting on full joint responsibility from both developing and developed nations.

Pacific Island Countries, especially after the International Year of Indigenous People in 1993, have entrenched in all their constitutions the rights of the indigenous people to land, sea and other natural resources. This approach has major implications in dealing with environmental issues, which must be highlighted in this Conference. For example, 83% of Fiji's land area is owned by

communal indigenous land-owning units, which means that all attempts to set up national protected conservation areas has to be with their active participation and consent. Fortunately, in Fiji, the mechanisms exist for such negotiations, as the communal land-ownership structures have been institutionalised. At times, also, landowners will have to be compensated for the alienation of land and resources to create national and world heritage sites. Where sites must be protected as global assets, for the benefit of the international community, the compensation cannot be met through national funding, so provisions must be made through the Global Environment Fund.

In addition, the intellectual rights of resource owners must be protected. Too often it is the people whose rights are alienated who pay the highest price, while the benefits go to others. Traditional knowledge of herbal cures is often acquired by international interests at a nominal fee, then upgraded, patented and sold at an exorbitant price by researchers and commercial interests. The knowledge held by the traditional practitioners should be recognised and reflected through a more equitable distribution of the profits derived from this knowledge.

Mr President, in conclusion, I would like to thank the Government of Barbados for their excellent arrangements and hospitality during the course of this important Conference.

The Fiji delegation has been honoured to participate, and has also been able to enjoy its

stay in this beautiful island state. Thanks to the generous official arrangements and the hospitality of the people of Barbados.

I pray that the Lord's blessing will enrich your deliberations in this internal gathering and that it will be a successful one.

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# GOVERNMENT OF KIRIBATI

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STATEMENT OF THE            REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

(The General Debate of the United Nations Conference  
on the Sustainable Development of Small Island  
Developing Countries)

BY

MR NAKIBAE TEUATABO

SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 1994

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

Madam President,

Thank you for giving my delegation this opportunity to speak, and I am honoured to deliver the speech on its behalf.

At the outset, may I join other speakers before me in congratulating you, Madam, and other members of the Bureau on your election and their elections to the offices of the Conference.

Madam President, my delegation wishes also to express its heartfelt gratitude, through you, to the Government and people of Barbados for making us feel most welcomed and to feel very much at home since we first arrived in their beautiful country.

We note that this Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is the product of a long process of negotiations that culminates in the adoption of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration. As an Island Developing State, the Republic of Kiribati attaches great importance to this Conference, and looks forward, perhaps with some anxiety, to its outcome. We express the hope that the outcome of this Conference shall demonstrate a new spirit of international cooperation - a post UNCED - and a new paradigm for economic and environmental cooperation at the international, regional, subregional and local levels. By this, we mean that global environmental degradation and the ensuing quest for sustainable pattern of development is a common concern of all States.

Madam President, when we requested a time to speak at this Session, we have been wondering just what do we need to say that had

not been stated, in one way or another, during one of the sessions of the Preparatory Committees for the UNCED and for this Conference. And we were wondering further what other small island developing states might have not said but need mentioning with emphasis at this Conference.

Clearly, this Conference indicates that all have been said and that it also demonstrates the understanding at the international level of the problems, vulnerability, and disadvantages that face small island developing states in their efforts towards achieving sustainable development. My delegation is grateful for this understanding, and from a wish to keep this understanding in place, my delegation is encouraged to join others in this general debate.

Kiribati consists of small atolls, dispersed over a vast area of ocean. There are prospects in the development of marine resources, but this time we are not, as yet, effectively participating in the harvesting of our marine resources.

Most of our islands are inhabited. Essential services such as schools, health centres; infrastructure such as roads; development projects such as those on fisheries and other sectors; must be provided, upgraded and maintained at all of the 21 inhabited islands. With this geographic setting, there is no cheaper way to pursue a sustainable path of development.

Kiribati is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Its location is almost at equidistant from the world markets located to the south and to the north, and equally isolated from the markets to the east and the west.

And being highly dependent on imports, the freight per unit of import in Kiribati could be the highest in the world; and development project costs are doubly high. In summary, Kiribati, like other small island developing states, is geographically and economically most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Sustainable development in Kiribati is a big challenge to the government and the people. By sustainable development, we envisage the ability of the present generation to improve their living conditions and welfare to achieve a higher real economic growth and greater self-reliance without over-exploiting the country's limited land resources and its marine resources, or, destructing its environment. Sustainable development implies activities to protect the environment from excessive stress necessitated by requirements for socio-economic wants and goals of the people.

Options for development and activities implied in the concept of sustainable development are not easy for Kiribati, or, for any small island state for that matter, to pursue. In addition, the concept of sustainable development would be meaningless if all low-lying island states, including Kiribati, are submerged under-water. The pursuit of sustainable development would therefore not be possible without the assistance from the developed countries, and from the relevant sub-regional, regional and international organizations.

Madam President, Kiribati has recently adopted a National Environment Management Strategy, with the invaluable assistance from the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). But SPREP has limited financial resources and yet the estimated costs for the



National Environment Management Strategy is about US\$5 million. This will be additional to the normal budget for our national economic development activities, and quite separate from the long list of many more unfunded projects that includes those that could substantially enhance our ability to fully utilize and participate in the planned exploitation of our marine living resources.

In summary, Madam President, we believe that sustainable development is not a practical strategy without the flexibility and goodwill of the international community to provide the means to assist, and to complement the national efforts of small island developing states such as Kiribati to implement activities that will contribute to economic growth and to the protection of its environment.

Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to again urge the international community and, in particular, the donor community to take an active part in the global partnership for the pursuit of sustainable development.

Thank you all.



THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

United Nations Global Conference  
on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Statement by

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. TEATAO TEANNAKI  
PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Thursday 5 May 1994  
Bridgetown, Barbados

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I thank you Mr. President for giving me this opportunity, to share with you our thoughts from Kiribati, during this very important Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Although Kiribati is not a member of the United Nations, we have closely monitored the development of the various issues of importance to us, discussed within this Premium global organisation and the issue of sustainable development is one of, - if not the most important. For this reason, I wish to express our most sincere appreciation for the decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly that have led to the timely convening of this important Conference, and all the preparatory meetings leading up to it.

Mr. President, before proceeding any further, I would like to first preface my remarks by extending my deep gratitude and appreciation to you, and through you, to your Government, and the people of Barbados for the very warm welcome, and for all the meticulous arrangements, and hospitalities extended to my delegation and I, since our arrival in your beautiful country. We have been made to feel truly at home, making it so much easier for us, to focus on the important deliberations ahead of us.

Mr. President, the Conference could not have been mandated with a better theme for its deliberations. For us in the Pacific region, as I am sure it is also the case in other regions, the issue of development has always been the central theme of regional gatherings, and understandably so, as it is also the central theme in our respective national capitals. We have been, and continue to be preoccupied with how best to meet the basic needs, and how to improve the socio-economic status of our people. It is therefore only proper that such an important subject be discussed in a Global forum such as this one.

Mr President, two years ago, we met in Rio for the Earth Summit where we pledged to protect our planet Earth. One of the most important outcomes of that Summit is Agenda 21 which recognises the special problems of Small Island Developing States and calls among other things for a Programme of Action to assist with the Sustainable Development of these countries. We are here in Barbados to translate that commitment and pledge into action and I am happy that Kiribati has been part of this process all along.

Mr President, the convening of this Conference could not have been more timely, particularly, in light of the current context within which, the subject of development is being discussed. We must not aspire for development however way we define it, as an end - we must aspire for development that is necessarily long term; - as a process that triggers further improvements and betterment to society; - development that is sustainable. Something that we can count on, to contribute to the betterment, not only of this generation, but future generations to come.

However, I wish to emphasise that as useful as these various forms of assistance are, they must not be taken as a substitute for our own national efforts. These various forms of external assistance must necessarily be seen as complimentary to our own efforts towards sustainable development whose path and direction, it is for us individually as a state, to decide.

Mr. President, sad is the day when developmental projects have to be put to rest for lack of donor support. In my view, when this happens, it is best for us as policy makers, - to pack and go home. Sustainable development must therefore necessarily incorporate the notion of self-reliance to avoid having to cultivate an artificial level of livelihood and thus expectations for our people which the country cannot afford to maintain in the long run. We therefore see development assistance as a most crucial interim arrangement that will substantially assist us to strengthen our internal capacity to be self-reliant and to pursue a development path for our people, that is sustainable.

This has been the fundamental foundation on which we have based our development policies since independence - the deliberate policy of limiting our public spending to the level that we can sustain in the long run. This is basically why we chose to do away with budgetary assistance very soon after gaining political independence in 1979. Mr. President, it involves painful sacrifices and restraint on spending which may not always go down well with our constituencies. It, however, makes good political and economic sense in the long run, for when all the fanfare of handing over ceremonies are over, the responsibility is ours to ensure that the fruits of development continue to flow to our people, AND THIS, is perhaps the biggest test of sustainable development.

Mr. President, development policies are designed to help guide plans for the improvement of the welfare of our peoples. In Kiribati, the majority of our people live a subsistence lifestyle on the outer islands. Our development programme will therefore, continue to have a bias towards improving the living standards on outer islands. Concerted efforts have been and continue to be made to strengthen and improve institutions for the delivery of these programmes. Due emphasis has been given to agriculture and marine resource development with a view to achieve maximum benefit for our people on a sustainable basis. Because of the heavy reliance on the land and surrounding sea resources, coupled with the very limiting and fragile nature of atoll environment, it is most important that every effort is made to maintain this delicate balance. This by no means is a new thinking. We have age old traditional checks and controls to ensure that scarce resources are not over-exploited, and more recently my government has set a condition to assess the environmental impact of all development projects before implementation. We have also put in place a National Environment Management Strategy commonly known as NEMS with the valuable assistance of The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

One important aspect of sustainable development is population issues. Our population size is perhaps relatively small compared to other small island states; However, in relation to existing resources, the figures are a cause for concern and this is especially so given the limiting nature of our atoll environment. Efforts to improve the livelihood of the people will become meaningless and will very soon be negated if there are no concerted efforts to control the population.

Likewise, sustainable development should not only be a national undertaking. There are other very important dimensions that cannot be addressed by any one country alone but requires collective international effort to bear results. The subject therefore, has to be addressed in a multi dimensional and integrated manner and must by necessity also be addressed at all levels, national, sub-regional, regional and international. This is how we view the Programme of Action discussed over the last few days and which I understand has recently been finalised and shortly to be put before this august body.

Mr President, much of what I have covered this morning are some key dimensions of our national efforts towards sustainable development; EFFORTS that I hasten to add, which will amount to NOTHING if our islands are to be submerged below sea level in the not too distant future. The input of the international community, and in particular the industrialised countries, cannot be over-emphasised and I again call upon those countries to act responsibly and to meet their moral obligations to complement national efforts towards sustainable development globally.

Mr. President, we acknowledge that the ultimate responsibility for our respective developments rest on our shoulders to carry. Yet there are activities that contribute towards this end that can best be tackled at the sub-regional and international levels. There are common threads in our individual efforts that can benefit from exchange of ideas, personnel and resources. And needless to add, the continued assistance and goodwill of the donor community, to assist in this undertaking cannot be over-emphasized.

I, therefore, greatly value our participation in this historic Conference, which accords us this very opportunity to exchange views on this important subject. It also presents us with the opportunity to, again, signal to the international community our total commitment towards sustainable development as a goal, not only for our people but as our own small contribution to the sustainability of our planet Earth.

Mr. President the venue of the Conference could not have been better chosen. Your capital city, Bridgetown is not only beautiful providing a most conducive environment for our important deliberations, - but its name, - very symbolic. Let this Conference in Bridgetown be the one where international partnership is forged for the building of a GLOBAL BRIDGE which we can all together cross in the pursuit of global sustainable development.

Mr. President Excellencies, I thank you for your attention.

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES:

Check Against Delivery  
April 26, 1994

MR. PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, MEMBERS OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TODAY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT AND ITS CITIZENS FOR MAKING THIS LAUDABLE EVENT POSSIBLE.

I MUST ADMIT THAT I AM IMPRESSED BY THE BROAD PARTICIPATION THIS CONFERENCE HAS ATTRACTED. AS I LOOK OUT ON THE SEA OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE ASSEMBLED TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUES CONFRONTING SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THIS SURGE OF ATTENTION WILL WANE ONCE THIS PRESTIGIOUS EVENT HAS COME TO A CLOSE.

IT IS MY HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT WE CAN ESTABLISH A PERMANENT MECHANISM THAT WILL MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF ISLAND STATES, PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND FACILITATE COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TEMPORARY ISLAND OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICY COORDINATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS BECOME A PERMANENT OFFICE. THIS OFFICE SHOULD LIAISE WITH THE REGIONAL CENTERS SO NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CAN BE LINKED.

MORE COORDINATION OF WORK AND INFORMATION WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO US AS OUR ISLANDS ARE DISTANT AND REMOVED FROM THE HUBS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, WE NEED TO UPGRADE OUR TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE OUR LINKAGE WITH GLOBAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS THAT SERVE AS BRIDGES TO OUR REGION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. IMPROVED ACCESS TO

INFORMATION WOULD ENABLE US TO MAKE MORE INFORMED, RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS ABOUT OUR RESOURCE USE.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAS BEGUN THE PROCESS OF CREATING A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO THE OBJECTIVES OF AGENDA 21. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS PASSED A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, AND WAS ONE OF THE FIRST NATIONS IN THE WORLD TO DO SO. THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME HAVE BEEN ASSISTING US WITH THIS PROCESS, FOR WHICH WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE.

THE PROCESS BEGAN WITH THE BLESSING OF PRESIDENT AMATA KABUA TO FORM AN AD-HOC WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER HOW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WAYS THE GOVERNMENT CAN INTEGRATE THE CONCEPTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO ITS ACTIVITIES. THIS GROUP IS COMPRISED OF HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRIES, AND MEMBERS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES. THE GROUP WILL BE EXPANDING TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

DURING THE FIRST SERIES OF MEETINGS, THE WORKING GROUP POSED THREE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CABINET FOR CONSIDERATION. FIRST, ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS MUST BE MEASURED AGAINST AN ESTABLISHED SET OF DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA BEFORE PROJECTS CAN BE APPROVED. THESE CRITERIA ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT PROJECTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES. EXAMPLES OF THESE PROPOSED CRITERIA INCLUDE ASSURANCES THAT:

- \* THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE WILL BE ENHANCED, NOT DEPLETED;
- \* PROJECTS WILL BE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND INCORPORATE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WHEREVER POSSIBLE,
- \* PROJECTS WILL BE APPROPRIATE IN TERMS OF SCALE AND COST,
- \* COMMUNITIES WILL HAVE INPUT INTO THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS, AND
- \* PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE SHOULD BE DISCERNIBLE.

THE SECOND RECOMMENDATION STEMMING FROM THE WORKING GROUP IS THE FORMULATION OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WHICH INTEGRATES THE NATIONAL FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, THE REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION, THE NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY, AND EXISTING AND PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION.

THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION IS TO ENGAGE PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEANS, AND HOW EACH MARSHALLESE CITIZEN HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN PROTECTING OUR FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT, MANAGING OUR RESOURCES, AND PRESERVING OUR TRADITIONAL CULTURE. BECAUSE EVERY CITIZEN IS DEPENDENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SURVIVAL, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT DIALOGUES TAKE PLACE TO INCLUDE EVERY TIER OF SOCIETY, INCLUDING POLICY MAKERS, SUBSISTENCE FARMERS AND FISHERMEN, WOMEN, YOUTH, CHURCH GROUPS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THESE THREE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PRESENTLY BEFORE THE CABINET FOR REVIEW. I URGE ANYONE WHO HAS ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS WE MIGHT STRENGTHEN OUR INITIATIVES TO TALK WITH MEMBERS OF MY DELEGATION. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS FINDING THE PROCESS CHALLENGING SINCE THERE ARE FEW MODELS FROM SMALL ISLAND STATES TO EXTRAPOLATE FROM.

OUR EFFORTS TO INCORPORATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE IMPEDED SOMEWHAT BY OUR INABILITY TO ACCESS CERTAIN U.N. PROGRAMS SINCE THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS NOT CONSIDERED A LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAS APPLIED FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY STATUS TWICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND FAILED. TOO OFTEN, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SEES ISLAND STATES AS IDYLIC, BEAUTIFUL PLACES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE HIGH INCOMES TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK - TO SEE HOW LITTLE LAND THERE IS TO SUSTAIN THE POPULATION, TO SEE THE URBAN POVERTY AND INADEQUATE HOUSING, AND TO SEE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GROW SUBSISTENCE CROPS IN SANDY ATOLL SOIL WHICH IS CONSTANTLY SPRAYED BY THE SALT OF THE OCEAN. I SEEK THE SUPPORT OF OTHER ISLAND NATIONS TO HELP US SEEK OUR RIGHTFUL



RECOGNITION AS AN LDC WHICH WILL FACILITATE OUR EFFORTS TO EMBRACE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

AS WE SCRUTINIZE OUR BROAD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS - MEASURING BOTH OUR SUCCESSES AND OUR LOSSES - IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO MY GOVERNMENT THAT WE MARSHALLESE KNOW WHAT TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT WE WANT IN OUR COUNTRY. UNTIL 1986, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WAS OCCUPIED BY AMERICAN, JAPANESE, GERMAN AND SPANISH FORCES FOR MORE THAN 400 YEARS. FOR MANY YEARS FOREIGN NATIONS IMPORTED THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPERIMENTED WITH UNSOUND PRACTICES. NOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUR RIGHTFUL INDEPENDENCE, PRESENTLY IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR, WE WANT TO IMPLEMENT OUR OWN IDEAS, AND OUR OWN PLANS. FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WE NEED TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOSTER OUR PLANS. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, NEED TO BE TOLD HOW TO DEVELOP.

IN TRADITIONAL TIMES, WE LIVED IN HARMONY AND BALANCE WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT. WE UTILIZED VIRTUALLY EVERY AREA OF ARABLE LAND TO PLANT FOOD CROPS. WE BUILT OUR HOUSES AT THE FRINGE OF THE BREADFRUIT FORESTS SO GOOD LAND WOULD NOT BE WASTED.

CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD BROUGHT ENORMOUS CHANGES TO OUR ISLANDS. BREADFRUIT TREES WERE SYSTEMATICALLY REPLACED BY COCONUT TREES SO COPRA COULD BE HARVESTED AND EXPORTED FOR PROFIT. A MASSIVE ABOVE GROUND NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM THAT TOOK PLACE ON OUR ISLANDS RENDERED 15% OF OUR LAND - WHICH TOTALS JUST 70 SQUARE MILES - USELESS AND UNPRODUCTIVE BECAUSE OF LINGERING RADIATION.

NOW THAT THESE IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED, WE MUST FIND A WAY TO RESTORE THE DIGNITY AND ESTEEM ONCE ASSOCIATED WITH OUR ABILITY TO LIVE IN TANDEM WITH THE ENVIRONMENT. WE NEED TO FIND MODERN APPLICATIONS FOR OUR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF RESOURCE USE THAT HAS BEEN SUPPRESSED FOR MANY YEARS. IF IT IS PROPERLY TAPPED, OUR KNOWLEDGE COULD SERVE AS A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SYNERGY EMERGING FROM THE COUPLING OF MODERN SCIENCE AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE.

INDEED, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL BE FORCED TO UTILIZE THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF THE DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED WORLD TO ADDRESS SUCH SERIOUS ISSUES AS CLIMATE CHANGE. IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOST SERIOUS THREATS FACING OUR COUNTRY, AND INDEED MANY OF THE SMALL ISLAND STATES ARE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE. WE ARE ALREADY EXPERIENCING CLIMATE RELATED EVENTS WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PREDICTIONS OF SCIENTISTS, SUCH AS PROLONGED DROUGHTS, HIGHER TIDES, AND INCREASED EROSION. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAS GONE TO GREAT EFFORTS TO INFORM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ABOUT PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. A CASE STUDY FUNDED BY THE US NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION WAS UNDERTAKEN IN OUR ISLANDS TO DETERMINE HOW THE SEA-LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE WILL AFFECT OUR COUNTRY. BASED ON THE ESTIMATES OF THE IPCC, A 30 CENTIMETER SEA RISE WILL FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE COSTLY PROTECTION MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE SEVERE THREAT TO EXISTING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS CAUSED BY AN INCREASED OVERTOPPING OF WAVES. A 50 CENTIMETER SEA-LEVEL RISE WILL RENDER THE MARSHALL ISLANDS UNINHABITABLE AND FORCE THE ENTIRE MARSHALLESE POPULATION TO RELINQUISH THEIR LANDS TO THE SEA AND RELOCATE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.

NO OTHER ISSUE THREATENS OUR WAY OF LIFE, AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MY NATION MORE THAN SEA LEVEL RISE. WHILE THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR MORE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE NATURE OF SEA-LEVEL RISE, THERE IS AN EVEN MORE URGENT NEED TO IMPLEMENT RESPONSE STRATEGIES IMMEDIATELY. WE WERE HAPPY TO NOTE IN THE INC MEETING LAST MONTH THAT THE US DELEGATION STATED "TIME IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY [AND] THE EXISTING SCIENCE IS SUFFICIENTLY COMPELLING FOR US TO ACT".

FOR OUR PART, WE ARE UNDERTAKING NATIONAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE SEVERITY OF THE IMPACTS OF SEA-LEVEL RISE BY MANAGING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES MORE WISELY, AND EMBRACING THE CONCEPTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. MORE COMMITMENT STILL NEEDS TO COME FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, HOWEVER. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS SUPPORTS A STRENGTHENING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION THROUGH THE IMMEDIATE ADOPTION OF THE PROTOCOL TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. WE ALSO URGE THE

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON THE INSURANCE NEEDS OF SMALL ISLAND STATES. MORE AND MORE INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE REFUSING TO PROTECT ISLAND STATES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, AND IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR US TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT WHEN WE CANNOT ENSURE OUR INVESTORS THAT THEIR LOSSES WILL BE COVERED.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO URGE ALL THOSE ASSEMBLED TO HONOR WHAT WE COLLECTIVELY COMMITTED TO IN RIO DE JANEIRO, TO REMEMBER THAT WE NEED CHOICES AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, NOT PRE-PACKAGED DEVELOPMENT PLANS. AND FINALLY, TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT A REALITY IN ISLAND NATIONS, WE CANNOT SETTLE FOR ANY FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS SHORT OF THE NEW AND ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES CALLED FOR IN AGENDA 21.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR ATTENTION.

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STATEMENT OF H.E. PHILIP MULLER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
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MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED HEADS OF STATE, PRIME MINISTERS,  
MINISTERS, HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM HONORED TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY ON BEHALF OF HIS  
EXCELLENCY, AMATA KABUA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
MARSHALL ISLANDS. I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY SINCERE GRATITUDE  
TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BARBADOS FOR THE HOSPITALITY  
THEY HAVE EXTENDED TO US DURING THIS CONFERENCE.

WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS  
CONFERENCE. IT IS THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION OF THE COMMITMENTS  
THAT WE AGREED TO IN RIO DE JANEIRO. THE OUTCOME OF THIS  
CONFERENCE WILL EITHER STRENGTHEN OUR ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS. OR PERPETUATE THE STATUS QUO.

THE MERE FACT THAT THIS CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE IS IN  
ITSELF A SOURCE OF HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT. AWARENESS IS THE  
FIRST STEP: LETTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY KNOW MORE  
ABOUT WHO WE ARE, THE SPECIAL CONCERNS THAT WE HAVE, AND THE  
UNIQUE SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS THAT ARE REQUIRED.

THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLANDS STATES HAS BEEN OUR VEHICLE  
FOR CAPTURING THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

BOTH VANUATU AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGOS HAVE ADVANCED OUR AGENDA FORMIDABLY, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA. THE CONCERNS AND THE OBSTACLES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THAT SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES FACE ARE PROGRESSIVELY BECOMING UNDERSTOOD BY WIDER AUDIENCES. WITH THIS GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE REALITIES FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES COMES THE NEED FOR GREATER COMMITMENT AND POLITICAL WILL ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP TRANSLATE THE "PROGRAMME OF ACTION" INTO TANGIBLE ASSISTANCE.

WHEN WE LEFT RIO DE JANEIRO, WE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT WE WOULD BE ENTERING INTO AN EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS WORKING ARDENTLY TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS MADE AT RIO DE JANEIRO, INCLUDING WIDESPREAD EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLY. THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF ISLAND STATES WILL NOT ALLEVIATE THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONE UNLESS INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HONOR THEIR RIO DE JANEIRO AND BARBADOS COMMITMENTS. ALLOW ME TO ELABORATE ON SOME OF THE AREAS IN WHICH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS FEELS PARTNERSHIPS ARE CRUCIAL:

SEA-LEVEL RISE:

FIRST, AND FOREMOST, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF SEA-

LEVEL RISE. AS A STATE MADE UP ENTIRELY OF LOW-LYING CORAL ATOLLS WITH AN AVERAGE ELEVATION OF JUST TWO METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL, WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR FEAR AND ANXIETY ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF SEA-LEVEL RISE AT NUMEROUS CONFERENCES AND FORA. WE ARE LOOKING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP US WITH THE DAUNTING CHALLENGES WE FACE. IF THE PREDICTIONS FOR SEA-LEVEL RISE COME TRUE, HOW CAN A COUNTRY PREPARE FOR ITS OWN TERMINATION? WHAT WILL WE DO IF OUR NATION BECOMES UNINHABITABLE THROUGH NO FAULT OF OUR OWN? IF OUR COUNTRY IS RELINQUISHED TO THE SEAS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR CITIZENS, TO OUR CULTURE, TO OUR BIO-DIVERSITY OF SPECIES? IF OUR COUNTRY NO LONGER PHYSICALLY EXISTS HOW WILL WE RETAIN OUR VOICE IN THE UNITED NATIONS?

THERE HAS BEEN SOME ASSISTANCE FORTHCOMING, HOWEVER, FOR WHICH WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AS WELL AS SOPAC AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND OTHERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, AND WAYS WE CAN HELP LESSEN THE SEVERITY OF THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THESE ARE THE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE WE ARE LOOKING FOR FROM OUR PARTNERS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

AS WE CONSIDER THE ANSWERS TO THE FOREMENTIONED QUESTIONS, TIME IS AGAINST US, AND OBSTACLES EXIST THAT HINDER OUR ACCESS TO FUNDS FOR ADAPTATION. I URGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ESTABLISH A STRONG LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO PREPARE FOR THE ADAPTATION TO THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS AGREED TO IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS LEGALLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES FOR ADAPTATION MEASURES. I URGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE EARLY NEGOTIATION OF BINDING PROTOCOLS WHICH WILL RECOGNIZE THE REAL COSTS OF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. THESE PROTOCOLS SHOULD ADDRESS, IN PARTICULAR THE ISSUES OF TARGETS AND TIMETABLES FOR THE REDUCTION OF CARBON DIOXIDE AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

DISASTER VULNERABILITY:

THE PACIFIC REGION IS PRONE TO NATURAL DISASTERS - MAINLY TYPHOONS - MANY OF WHICH HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE CHANGING CLIMATE. ALTHOUGH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AREA OF THE PACIFIC THAT IS PRONE TO TYPHOONS, WE BELIEVE CLIMATE CHANGE IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SEVERE STORMS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. IN 1991 ALONE, WE HAD TWO MAJOR

TYPHOONS.

OUR SYSTEM OF WARNING BEFORE STORMS STRIKE HAS BEEN RELIABLE. WHERE WE FALL SHORT, HOWEVER, IS IN OUR PREPAREDNESS FOR STORMS, AND OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THE AFTERMATH OF THE STORMS. EVERY TIME A TYPHOON STRIKES, OUR HOUSING AND OUR FRESH WATER SYSTEMS ARE DAMAGED SEVERELY. WE PLAN TO WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES AT THE YOKOHAMA CONFERENCE LATER THIS MONTH.

TRADE ISSUES:

TRADE IS ANOTHER ISSUE THAT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. PRESENTLY, THERE IS AN IMBALANCE OF TRADE IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AS THE NATION IMPORTS FAR MORE THAN IT EXPORTS. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS RELIANT ON IMPORTS - PRIMARILY FOOD COMMODITIES. TO IMPROVE OUR SELF-RELIANCE, WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTNERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHO CAN HELP US DEVELOP AQUACULTURE, MARICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING, AND POOR-SOIL AGRICULTURE.

THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAS BEEN TRYING TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, LARGELY THROUGH EXPANSION OF ITS FISHERIES INDUSTRY. WE ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY COMMODITIES THAT WILL BE COMPETITIVE ON THE WORLD MARKET - COMMODITIES WHOSE PRODUCTION WOULD NOT COMPROMISE THE



HEALTH OF THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE, OR THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS, AND TO GIVE THESE COMMODITIES PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS. ONE OF THE WAYS WE CAN IMPROVE OUR ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS IS TO ACCEDE TO THE LOME CONVENTION. WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING, AND WE ASK THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT US IN OUR EFFORTS.

IN CLOSING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE STILL EXAMINING WHAT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEANS TO THE MARSHALLESE IN A MODERN CONTEXT. UNITED NATIONS' DEFINITIONS OF THE CONCEPT MEANS LITTLE TO THE AVERAGE MARSHALLESE CITIZENS. WE ARE CHALLENGED BY THE NEED TO APPLY THE CONCEPT TO THEIR DAILY LIVES. THE MARSHALLESE EXPRESSION WHICH MOST CLOSELY CAPTURES THE SENSE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS "UNADE PEUM." UNADE PEUM EMBODIES A SENSE OF TAKING PRIDE FROM YOUR ABILITY TO PRODUCE WHAT YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. IT DENOTES A SENSE OF INDUSTRIOUSNESS, OF HELPING YOURSELF, AND OF ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF YOU OWN LABOR. WHILE THIS IS NOT AN EXACT TRANSLATION OF THE MULTI-FACETED CONCEPT, IT IS A STARTING POINT FOR DEFINING THE MARSHALLESE APPLICATION OF THE TERM.

I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL OUR PARTNERS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO CONSIDER ONE ESSENTIAL FACTOR BEFORE UNDERTAKING EFFORTS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. NO PROJECTS CAN ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS UNLESS OUR PARTNERS UNDERSTAND HOW THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE DEFINE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR OWN CONTEXT. WITHOUT A CLEAR NOTION OF THE MARSHALLESE DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND OUR MOTIVES AND RATIONALES FOR DEVELOPMENT, NOR WILL THEY BE ABLE TO RESPOND WITH ASSISTANCE THAT IS APPROPRIATE TO OUR ISLANDS AND CULTURE.

I THANK YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THESE POINTS WITH YOU, AND TO BUILDING AND IMPROVING UPON THEM.

KOMMOL TATA



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

Planary Address by

Kinza Clodumar

Special Presidential Adviser

and

Representative

of the

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

on the occasion of the

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

held in

Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies

25 April - 6 May 1994

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President, Your Excellencies Visiting Heads of State and Government, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I join with those before me in paying tribute to the Government of Barbados for hosting this first Global Conference of Small Island Developing States. We in Nauru had the honor last year of hosting the 23rd Meeting of the South Pacific Forum, comprising the Heads of State of 15 governments in the Pacific, and we know from first hand experience how much work has gone into the organization of this First Global Conference of Small Island States.

And as we have all discovered, Barbados is truly a jewel set in the Caribbean. It is our honor and also our very great pleasure to be your guest for these brief but eventful two weeks. To the government and people of Barbados; we are all in your debt, and shall forever remember your kindness and island hospitality.

Mr. President, I wish to thank previous speakers for their statements in support of our endeavors to implement sustainable development for our small islands, of which Nauru is one. I note with particular admiration the address given last Monday afternoon by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, an address given with enthusiasm, depth and breadth on the very issues which need to be addressed by this Conference if our meeting at Barbados is to be a success.

Mr. President, Nauru is a small island country set in the vast reaches of the Pacific Ocean. In common with all of you here, and island people everywhere, Nauruans are an oceanic people. We are small in land area, in economic strength and in numbers. Indeed, the entire Pacific, excluding Papua New Guinea, has only a few hundred thousand people. And to paraphrase a former Secretary of State of a large country to our north that shall remain unnamed, with so few people in the Pacific, "who really cares anyway."

We who are gathered here at this historic conference can answer that question with confidence and pride. We are small in numbers; we are small in land area; and our economies are comparatively small. But we are also the guardians of the world's oceans; the exclusive economic zone of just one of our Pacific Island Nations occupies an ocean area that is no less than the land area of the United States of America. Small island states are also the curators of the linguistic treasure houses of the world; fully one third of the world's living languages are spoken in a another Pacific Island Nation. And small island states are among the planet's greatest repositories of human cultural diversity, as we briefly glimpsed in the opening ceremony to this historic Conference.

Small island states also serve as a barometer of planetary health and well being. We have been called the "front line" states, because we are so vulnerable to the adverse impacts of the global ecological crisis.

But while we serve as a barometer, we also serve as an example which the rest of the world had best heed. History has thrust us into the lead, in requiring us to live in harmony with nature, and to repair the ills of the past, if we are to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. It falls to us to first define sustainable development and put it into effect on an urgent yet practical basis.

Our own country, Nauru, serves as a striking example of the lessons we small island states offer to the world. Nauru lies alone, astride the equator on the northern fringes of the vast South Pacific ocean. Our country is the peak of an ancient volcano whose base rests on the floor of the deep equatorial Pacific. Standing on the highest vantage point of our small country, you can see the roundness of the earth in the shape and stream of the clouds in the tropical sky, and in the plainly visible curvature of the sea, which sweeps away over the horizon.

Nauru is tiny, in fact the smallest country represented here in terms both of population and land area. We are a country of only 7,000 people, living on a land area of only 8 1/2 square miles in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. We are remote; our nearest neighbor in the Pacific is the Republic of Kiribati — just over an hour's jet flying time to the east. Like island people everywhere, we are connected with other peoples mainly by the vast reaches of the ocean's waters; we are connected with other island countries by treasured regional and global institutions such as the South Pacific Forum and the Alliance of Small Island States; and we are connected with the world at large by a common ecological fate.

Our small country evokes broader reflections on the fate of the earth. Nauru was once a tropical paradise, a rain forest hung with fruits and flowers, vines and orchids, an island so beautiful it was well known to ancient mariners, who termed it "Pleasant Island."

Now, thanks to human avarice, greed and short-sightedness, our island is mostly a wasteland. Phosphate mining, which began in 1906, has reduced the island, except for a coastal strip, to a desert of jagged coral pinnacles, uninhabitable, unusable, a ghostly array of tombstones baking in the equatorial sun. Our land was literally exported, its rich deposits of phosphates stripped out to fertilize the fields of the industrialized world. Most of what is left today in Nauru is a mute graveyard of the lush rain forest that once graced our island.

We suffer also many of the human resource problems that are endemic to the world. Because most of our land was destroyed by mining, we were resigned to live on the coastal fringes, where population density is already high and growing at one of the highest rates in the world.

We thus represent a small capsule in which all the world's problems are magnified many times. Nauru's fate is shared, to a greater or lesser extent, with our planet as a whole. And as we go,

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so goes the planet, unless our lessons are learned well and heeded. What are those lessons? And how are they relevant to our theme here, the sustainable development of small island states?

Our independence in 1968 was a watershed in our history. The government and people showed enormous foresight by setting aside a portion of the proceeds from phosphate mining, to pay for the rehabilitation of the land that we knew was inevitable. With the mutual settlement of claims from past phosphate mining between Australia and Nauru in August of 1993, a weight was lifted from our spirit and we entered a new era -- the era of rehabilitation and sustainable development. We now have, with the assistance of Australia, embarked on this course, and feel sure that we will learn from our friends and colleagues in small island states, but also develop lessons that can make sustainable development a reality for others as well.

We are proceeding with the rehabilitation of our beloved island home in three overlapping and interlocking steps -- physical, biological and cultural. Just as everything in nature is interconnected, so our process of rehabilitation and sustainable development will be interconnected. Each step will be fully integrated with the other two.

Physical rehabilitation must first deal with the land and water systems. The coral pinnacles will be dismantled, sawed and polished into beautiful building materials for homes and buildings. The coral pinnacles will also be crushed to make land fill, land will be graded, catchment basins and reservoirs built for the storage of precious rainwater, and the freshwater lens beneath our island tapped for sustainable use. As part of the physical rehabilitation of Nauru island, topsoil, which we have stockpiled and carefully preserved, will be spread where it is needed for forests and fields, according to a land use plan that is now under development with maximum possible participation of all Nauruans.

Biological rehabilitation will address the fields and forests, the coral reef that surrounds us and protects us from the open ocean, and the surrounding seas. We envision areas of biological diversity, established at strategically placed locations on the periphery of the island, expanding gradually into the rain forest of tomorrow. Horticultural stations will be built at each of these strategic locations to nurse seedlings into trees, trees into forests, all according to the overall land use plan that is under development. Pawpaw and pandanus, beach almond and banana, coconut, orchids, vines and the ubiquitous tomano tree with its richly grained hardwood -- all will bloom again. Our rain forest will live again, and with it, the myriad of birds and animals, and the coral reef that is the cousin of the forest, all will live again.

Coupled with the biological and physical rehabilitation of Nauru is the cultural rehabilitation of our people. As we island people know better than anyone, land and culture are united in seamless unified fabric. When one is changed, so goes the other. Our indigenous culture, tied to the land and surrounding sea, is largely gone, devastated along with the rain forest and the reef. It is the

rehabilitation of the land by and for Nauruans that will restore and define the new Nauruan culture. Nauruans will themselves be responsible for all aspects of rehabilitation and sustainable development, from the design and acceptance of the land use plan, the grading of the land and the pollishing of coral blocks for building to the planting and nursing of seedlings for the revitalized rain forest. Due respect must be paid to the culture of the past, while at the same time rebirthing the culture of the present and future. The very destruction of the culture of the past can be seen as an opportunity to recreate an appropriate culture for the future -- and the development of the human resources that will represent the foundation of this new culture is our central task.

But are these dreams possible? Can we re-create the Garden of Eden that once was Nauru island? We are confident that we can. With the resources we have set aside, together with those made available as part of the settlement of past claims, and with the advice, knowledge and insight of our brothers and sisters in small island states everywhere, and yes, with modern technology and knowledge, we can design a blueprint for the future that will provide our children with their birthright -- a safe, secure and beautiful place to go about the human enterprise.

As a tangible and hopeful step in this direction, it gives me great pleasure to confirm here our agreement with Australia on the rehabilitation and sustainable development of Nauru, initiated by the agreements last year in Nauru and ready now for signature here in Barbados when our President and the leader of the Australian delegation arrive next week.

And is it worth the effort? As islanders know better than anyone, land is both the basis of human life and also limited. Nauru is our home, our only home. Unlike many small island countries, Nauruans do not emigrate. Our people are devoted to the land even in its present sorry state, and devoted as well to the image of a rehabilitated Nauru for us and our children.

The lessons of the past are clear not only for Nauruans but for the rest of the world as well. Waste not this precious planet, or you shall want. Squander non-renewable resources at your risk. Destroy land, and you destroy human culture. Devastate the forest, and you will lose the coral reef as well, for the forest and the reef are like husband and wife.

As repositories of this experience, knowledge and wisdom, and as the front-line ecological states, it is the responsibility of small island states everywhere to bring these lessons to bear upon the international stage. Our Alliance of Small Island States has been the voice of reason and conscience in the evolving framework Convention on Climate Change -- let us continue in this role, by working with our negotiating partners toward binding targets and timetables for the reduction of greenhouse gases. Looming sea level rise and coral bleaching puts us on the front line of climate change -- let us not shirk our duty to our own and future generations.

As the curators of the sea, let us continue to sound the warning. Nauru and Kiribati were instrumental in amending the London Convention of 1972 to end the use of the oceans as a dump for industrial garbage and radioactivity. Let us strengthen the international ocean protection regime by extending such prohibitions to the land based sources of ocean pollution that represent three quarters of the problem. We are oceanic peoples, and we know the consequences of its demise. Already fisheries everywhere are collapsing, and with them local economies, cultures and ways of life. Let us protect our own oceans and our own fisheries with a vehemence, so that future generations of human beings may reap the harvest of the seas as did our ancestors.

Likewise, our small island countries provide direction for the future. It falls to us to define sustainable development in urgent and practical terms. It is not clear to us that the world has yet understood the consequences and the implications of sustainable development. For developed countries, sustainable development means abandoning unsustainable patterns of production and consumption that have characterized the past. Lifestyles can and must change in the developed countries, from waste and excess to care, frugality and harmony with nature's plan.

For the many economies in transition, sustainable development means approaching prosperity more slowly, more deliberately, more thoughtfully, and giving priority to the needs of nature equally with the needs of humanity -- as they are one and the same.

For developing countries, such as our own small island developing states, the requirements of sustainable development are no less severe. We must review the path to prosperity that has been pioneered by the developed countries, and indeed re-define what exactly it is that we mean by prosperity. Wealth far in excess of natural needs cannot be our yardstick; instead, our new goals must include human resource development, the realization of our human potential, the happiness of our children -- these must be our new goals. Today's developed countries built their foundations on waste and excess. We must leapfrog this model and create a new path, based on harmony between the needs of nature and people. It falls to us to develop our economies in full knowledge of the mistakes of the past, along new courses that avoid the pitfalls that have led to the present global ecological crisis.

In so doing, with God's will and the help and encouragement of the family of small island developing states, we can and will rebuild our beloved Nauru, and develop our separate small island nations. And in so doing, we hope and expect that all of our small island states and peoples can inspire and inform the rehabilitation of the larger island that is our earth.

Thank you.



ADDRESS TO THE LEADERS OF THE  
ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

on the occasion of the

SECOND SUMMIT MEETING  
-  
of the  
ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS)

by

HIS EXCELLENCY BERNARD DOWIYOGO

PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF NAURU

and

CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

4 May 1994

Bridgetown, Barbados

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Prime Minister Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago; Your Excellency, Prime Minister L. Sandiford of Barbados; Your Excellencies, Heads of Government and State; Honorable Ministers, Madama Chairperson of the Alliance of Small Island States, Ambassador Annette Des Isles of Trinidad and Tobago; Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I first thank our hosts, the government and people of Barbados, for providing this splendid facility in this most beautiful of Caribbean countries. Although I arrived only yesterday, my delegation has briefed me fully on the beauties of your country and the hospitality of the people of Barbados. We are all delighted and privileged to be your guests, and can only hope that our full schedule will not prevent our partaking in the delights of your sands and seas, your cities, villages and countryside, and your gracious people, during our stay in your country.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to join you here today at this historic second summit meeting of the Alliance of Small Island States. Many of you here will remember the first AOSIS summit meeting at the Earth Summit in Rio, just two years ago, which I also had the privilege to attend.

Much has happened since that time. We have Ambassador Robert van Lierop of Vanuatu to thank for launching our work and steering us through the choppy waters of the climate negotiations. On all of our behalf, I express our deepest gratitude and respect to Ambassador Van Lierop for the sterling service he has rendered to all small island developing states during his tenure as the founding chairman of AOSIS.

And now AOSIS is blessed with a new Chairperson of equally formidable talents and negotiating skills, Ambassador Annette des Isles of Trinidad and Tobago, who has taken the helm and so ably guided us through the difficult negotiations leading to the present Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Ambassador des Isles, we all know how much effort you have invested in your task, and I know I speak for all of us here in thanking and congratulating you for the excellent work you are doing on behalf of AOSIS and all small island developing states.

Madame Chairperson, speaking as the Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, I can tell you that Pacific Island Countries have the greatest confidence in you, in our Alliance, and in its future. We pledge our full support to you as you lead the Alliance through its next phase.

And let us also thank the Group of 77 and its Chairman. Much of what our Alliance has become could not have happened without the unqualified support and understanding of our brothers and sisters in the Group of 77, with whom we share common origins, common hopes, common fears and common goals. Indeed, many members of our Alliance are also members of the Group of 77. We are one family, with common bonds of friendship that we cherish and pledge to nourish as we grow.

And Mr. Chairman, AOSIS is growing, growing out of its infancy and is now fast approaching its puberty. From our birth in Geneva at the Second World Climate Conference, our Alliance became the voice of reason and conscience through the negotiation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Those negotiations were our incubator. The present negotiations have been the test of our adulthood. Now the question confronts us: how shall we nurture the maturing AOSIS? Indeed, what do we want our Alliance to become?

Mr. Chairman, the work of AOSIS is too important to leave to piecemeal initiatives and chance affiliations. The very survival of several of our Pacific Island countries depends upon its success. We are therefore of the view that as it enters adulthood, AOSIS must be clear in its objectives, strong in its organization, and firm in its commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing states everywhere.

The Group of Eminent Persons has pointed the way. Their recommendation that we strengthen and formalize our bonds is something we should consider with utmost seriousness. We support the strengthening and broadening of the AOSIS mandate as our Alliance matures. AOSIS must maintain a sustained political presence within the family of United Nations as we continue to implement the Rio accords.

We have made a good beginning, but there is so much yet to do. The continuing negotiations of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change are foremost on our mind. We have demonstrated our strength and effectiveness as an Alliance in these very negotiations, which are now reaching a critical stage. AOSIS submitted, just a few days ago, a proposal for a protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries, and thus spare us the ravages of climate change. Such a protocol has the support of all Forum countries. Let us join hands to pull as hard as we can for the implementation of that protocol at the earliest possible date.

But we can do more. Our Alliance can have beneficial impact in other fora as well. There is the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider. Our coral reefs and the marine environments of which we are the guardians contain as much biodiversity as the world's rainforests. This biodiversity is threatened — along with the fisheries that it supports — by coral reef bleaching that is endemic throughout the world. Only a few of our members have been active in the preparatory meetings for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Let us strengthen our resolve to participate fully, as we have done in the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

May we also welcome warmly the recent action of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Control, in prohibiting the transfer of hazardous wastes from developed to developing countries. The Basel Convention now provides a model that we could well emulate on a regional basis, as we are in the process of doing in the Pacific.

Mr. Chairman, the common denominator of all of our small island states is the oceans. Three quarters of our planet's surface is ocean, and the Exclusive Economic Zones of our small island developing states covers nearly half of that. We are the curators of the seas. Let us not shirk this duty. The upcoming First Conference of the Parties for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is an historic event that bears upon us all. Similarly, the embryonic negotiations on protection of the oceans from land based sources of pollution deserve our full attention and participation.

If the seas are the mother of our economies, then forests are the father. Without a healthy forest, the coral reef languishes, and with it the fisheries it nurtures, expire. Many of our Pacific Island countries are facing inroads from unprincipled, and in some cases villainous logging enterprises that are stripping our forests without regard to sustainability. Our Alliance of Small Island States should give serious consideration to how it can assist and prompt the fitful efforts of the international community to move toward effective agreements on the protection of the world's forests, including our own.

And speaking of mothers and fathers, we cannot fail to address the issue of the human population explosion. In our Pacific Island countries, population growth is outstripping economic development in many countries, with the result that we are slipping backwards. This slippage must be reversed. The upcoming United Nations Conference on Population in Cairo this September provides a forum to address this most pressing of problems.

Mr. Chairman, as was highlighted at Rio, environment and development are linked inseparably. Let us not forget those linkages, and let us not neglect the sustainable development of our small island states. Development must start from within, with the nurturing of our human resources. Health and education, the building of capacities to manage our own resources and affairs, the enhancement of the social and economic status of women, the preservation of indigenous cultures - these must be foremost in our thinking, as they are related to everything else that we would hope to achieve.

And let us not promulgate the dominant developmental model that has put the world into the ecological crisis we face today. Instead, development should be aimed at living our own preferred ways of life in a clean and sustainable environment. Development must not ride roughshod over our traditional ways, but instead preserve and nurture the cultural and spiritual integrity of our peoples.

But, Mr Chairman, as has been emphasized time and again at this Global Conference, economic development is not easy for our members. We small island developing states have small economies that are often dependant on one or at most a few commodities. We must therefore join hands in bilateral and regional economic partnerships to achieve the aspirations of our people. Let us jointly conserve our fisheries to sustain them for our children, and to protect them from the exploitation of greedy commercial interests. Let us actively seek other opportunities for economic cooperation amongst ourselves through joint

ventures. Only by taking our fates into our own hands are we likely to realize our aspirations.

Mr. Chairman, the initiative must be ours, but we cannot do it alone. We require the understanding and assistance of the developed world — which we had hoped would be one of the principle outcomes of this Global Conference. We are confident of the understanding, but it is becoming evident that the assistance must come, for the foreseeable future, from existing sources and institutions.

In this connection, we believe that it is critical for us small island developing states to join hands with our partners in the developed world through international financial institutions such as the Regional Development Banks and the Global Environmental Facility. We take note of the restructuring of the GEF that has been underway. It has not gone as far as we might have liked, but the GEF is a vastly improved institution for serving our interests as a consequence of the restructuring. South Pacific Forum countries will take the opportunity of this Global Conference to join the GEF, and we urge the support of all of all the members of our Alliance that are in a position to do so. Let us not only join the GEF; let us secure adequate representation of the needs and interests of the small island developing states everywhere in GEF.

We also take note the Uruguay Round outcomes, whose successful conclusions we applaud. But some outcomes of the Uruguay Round may benefit developed countries more than the developing world, particularly small island developing states with their limited manufacturing bases. Let us join together here as well, to work toward appropriate attention within such international trade agreements to the very real disadvantages faced by our small island developing states.

Mr. Chairman, our Alliance of Small Island States has come a long way. But as I hope I have adequately said, it also has a long way to go. This Global Conference we are here attending, and in particular this Second Summit of the Alliance of Small Island States, is an opportunity for us to discuss how our Alliance can grow and prosper, with the support of our brothers and sisters in the Group of 77, and with the support also of our negotiating partners in the developed countries.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues: I look forward to this opportunity for informal discussions between our leaders. Aosis need not constrain itself to a single forum or Convention; let us take the necessary steps to preserve, strengthen and extend this Alliance that is so important to us all.

AOSIS is essential to our future. Let us therefore secure the future of AOSIS.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY BERNARD DOWIYOGO  
PRESIDENT AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF NAURU  
AND  
CHAIRMAN, SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, 1993 - 1994

ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Bridgetown, Barbados

5 May 1994

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister of Barbados: I congratulate you on your excellent welcoming speech this morning, and I would like to take this opportunity to say that Nauru completely agrees with you that it is also in the interest of the developed countries to cooperate with the Small Island Developing States in the quest for global sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Heads of Government and State; Honorable Ministers, Madame Chairperson of the Alliance of Small Island States; Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I also thank you and through you our distinguished colleagues gathered here, for the honor you have bestowed upon Nauru through the election of Mr. Kinza Clodumar, Special Presidential Adviser, as Rapporteur-General of our Conference.

From the People and the Government of Nauru, I extend heartfelt greetings to you all. We could not be more pleased at this opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our mutual friendship by attending this first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States here in Barbados.

I speak to you today on behalf of the 15 member governments of the South Pacific Forum, the regional Pacific inter-governmental organization consisting of 13 developing island states, Australia and New Zealand. Nauru has the great privilege of chairing the Forum this year, and hosting the Forum meeting last August in Nauru on the occasion of our 25th anniversary of independence.

The theme of our summit is "forging partnerships." Our South Pacific Forum represents one way that island nations can forge partnerships -- through treasured regional organizations that enable us to meet regularly and exchange information, forge economic bonds, and solve common problems.

The themes of our South Pacific Forum meetings have for many years been the twin imperatives of development and environment. Our South Pacific Forum has long recognized these imperatives, long before the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro made them everyday words.

But how the times have changed. The Earth Summit last year brought attention to linkages that we small island countries have long understood. In the Pacific Island societies, the ultimate meaning of development is not necessarily optimum economic growth per se, but to live our own preferred way of life in a healthy environment. In this context, we see development as a process of guided change directed toward our preferred goals. A healthy environment, which is our responsibility to ourselves and our children, is also the cornerstone of the process of sustainable development.

The Nauru communique, the collective statement of the South Pacific Forum in 1993, recognized the prominent role of development and environment issues. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to sustainable development, strengthened economic performance that preserves the



cultural and spiritual integrity of our peoples, and the environment of the communities, lies at the heart of eliminating poverty. Eliminating poverty is key to protecting the environment and preserving social cohesion, since poverty is a prime engine of environmental destruction and social instability.

We are well aware that poverty cannot be redressed without addressing the interaction between economic growth, population and environment. We in the Pacific are especially concerned with population projections, which are well above the world average, and we are determined to improve the availability and quality of family planning services to all, while ensuring that those services take close account of cultural traditions and values.

We in the Pacific recognize that, rather than confining our development approach to the conventional wisdom which concentrates mainly on the allocated or our limited resources toward maximizing economic growth, we should instead adopt a multi-dimensional approach that combines and harmonizes all the facets of economic growth, population, environment, technology, culture and international influences.

Among those issues that loom large for Forum countries, and all Small Island Developing States, are human resource development, trade, fisheries and tourism. These are the cornerstones of our economic development. The Nauru Communique last August noted with satisfaction the regional and international actions aimed at protecting and restoring fisheries, and various arrangements to enhance trade and tourism.

As I noted, distinguished colleagues, the Forum countries are acutely aware of the close dependence of development on environment, and the Nauru Communique thus gave appropriate emphasis to the environment.

We reaffirmed that decisions taken at UNCED, embodied in the Climate Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21, must be followed up effectively. We particularly recognized the importance of this Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which now brings us together here in Barbados.

The Forum believes that global warming and sea level rise are among the most serious threats to the Pacific region and the survival of some Small Island States. We recognize that the Framework Convention on Climate Change will require stronger measures than are currently contained within it, and we advocated the negotiation of binding protocols establishing emission reduction targets and timetables.

The adoption of concrete measures to develop and utilize renewable and efficient energy technologies is critical. Economic instruments and afforestation/reforestation are also effective means of addressing the problems of climate change. Above all, the world's dependence on fossil fuels must be addressed and ultimately reduced.

We are most pleased to note that the Alliance of Small Island States has adopted a proposal for a protocol to the framework convention on climate change to limit greenhouse gas emissions by industrialized countries. We have played an active role in developing this protocol and we will continue to push for its effective implementation, with your kind support.

We have an opportunity to seize the initiative at the upcoming 10th negotiating session of the inter-governmental negotiating committee by supporting such protocols; let us not allow the moment to escape.

Climate change is the most important issue to Small Island States, but by no means the only one. Oceans are what link us together, supply our food and livelihoods, and form the basis of our economies. The oceans must be protected.

We welcome the efforts of the international community to protect the oceans from land based sources of pollution, and believe that this should be a high international priority. In this connection, Forum countries fully supported an international moratorium on commercial whaling, including the development of a Southern Oceans Sanctuary. We welcome the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as an effective international framework for protecting the resources of the oceans.

The Forum also noted that forests are disappearing at an alarming rate owing to over-exploitation. This must be reversed if development is to remain sustainable. Biodiversity likewise is a prime concern of island States. Between our rainforests and coral reefs, we harbor the greatest biological diversity on earth, and it is important that this be preserved. We therefore welcome the progress made in the Convention on Biological Diversity, and call for its increased effectiveness.

Forum countries have long been concerned with nuclear issues, owing to our unfortunate history as a testing ground for nuclear weapons. Accordingly, we support the negotiation of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the establishment of a strict and absolute international regime for nuclear liability, nuclear disarmament, strengthening of the global non-proliferation regime, and an end to ocean dumping of radioactive wastes. We are most pleased to report that the London Convention of 1972 decided, at its most recent meeting, to ban radioactive waste dumping, thus enacting an amendment proposed by Nauru and Kiribati in the early 1980s.

We are also deeply concerned about the shipment of radioactive materials by sea, owing to the risks inherent in such shipments. I personally have called upon those countries involved to reconsider their plans to ship plutonium by sea. Forum countries are also concerned about the movement and management of toxic and hazardous wastes. I am also pleased to report that negotiations within the Forum region for a convention to prohibit hazardous waste imports are at an advanced stage, and will no doubt receive impetus from the welcome decision of

the Basel Convention to prohibit the export of hazardous wastes to non-OECD countries.

Mr. Chairman, our Small Island States are on the front line of all the global crises of the age, from climate change and sea level rise to unchecked population growth that threatens the social fabric and economic well being of our island peoples. It is said that no man is an island; but in terms of a globally shared economic and ecological fate, all countries would do well to consider themselves one. For then, surely, the urgency of the task would be evident to all, and all would be mindful of the solutions — elimination of poverty world wide, respect for all peoples, harmony with the natural environment.

In the end, each country must take the ultimate responsibility for achieving these goals. With God as our judge, we must each build our national capacities to the point that we are self-reliant and secure, and our children are assured a safe and happy life. But conferences such as this one in Barbados can assist critically in this process, by helping to identify those problems that are common to us all, and by highlighting those solutions that will bring us closer together in the years to come.

This Barbados Conference presents an excellent opportunity for the leaders of the small island states to discuss the full range of issues that concern their peoples. The decisions that we take will provide key guidelines for the region in pursuit of its social, political and economic objective — a better life for us and our children.

Thank you, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of  
Small Island Developing States  
Bridgetown, Barbados

Statement by the New Zealand Representative, Priscilla Williams  
April 29, 1994

Mr President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

At the outset I would like to congratulate you, Prime Minister Sandiford, your Government and the people of Barbados for hosting this conference with such warmth, such style and such generosity. As one of the South Pacific countries, we are particularly delighted to be welcomed into the vibrant heart of another island group.

Mr President, this will be an unusual statement. One of the recommendations made by the Eminent Persons Group was that metropolitan powers should pay close attention to the needs and concerns of island territories they administer. I should like to reflect our support for this recommendation by using our time slot here to convey a message from the people of the island community of Tokelau themselves.

Tokelau is one of the smallest island developing states in the world. New Zealand's long, close and unique association with Tokelau serves to remind metropolitan New Zealand of our own South Pacific character and our regional responsibilities. Indeed, we had hoped to include in our delegation a representative from Tokelau. However, this Conference coincides with a significant occasion in its constitutional and political affairs. That occasion is the transfer of responsibility for the affairs of Tokelau from New Zealand to the hands of the people of Tokelau themselves. In the absence of a representative from Tokelau, the Elders of the island group have asked us to deliver a statement on their behalf. I am delighted to do so.

Before reading the statement I would like to make a few brief points about the general position of the New Zealand Government in respect of this Global Conference.

First - we have always considered that this exercise should be driven primarily by Small Island Developing States themselves. We have long passed the point where the international community defines for small island states what they need and what they should do.

Second - we wish to achieve an Action Programme that is practical and action-oriented.

Third - looking ahead, we want deeds not words. We should not only agree upon an Action Programme but also we must -all of us in the international community- be prepared to implement it.

With these few comments, I would like to read out the message to the Conference from the Elders of Tokelau. The flavour of the concerns of Small Island Developing States and the contribution they can make to sustainable development is best captured in the voice of the smallest of the small.

“ Malo!

Greetings!

Greetings to the Chairperson, distinguished representatives of all the countries represented at this very important meeting, all the countries represented at this very important meeting, the Government of Barbados host and Organising Committees of this very important conference.

Is this the turning point?

Tokelau, hopefully, is in the midst of a transition from non-sustainable practices to entirely sustainable practices.

As the Elders of Tokelau, we can see clearly for ourselves the recent changes in our surroundings: the abundance of animal life and plant life in the past has gone. In fact, today, some species have nearly disappeared. Even some aspects of our health have declined: non-communicable diseases reflect not only our changing diet but also our changing lifestyle. And as for “pollution”, there was in the past no such word in our vocabulary.

Today, as the decision-makers in Tokelau, we need to take stock of these changes, assess whether these changes are good or bad, and take the appropriate measures to ensure that the same mistakes are not made in the future.

Thanks to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme or SPREP, Tokelau may now be well on the road to attaining SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT or SUSTAINABLE LIVING as we prefer to call it.

Tokelau is one of the smallest Pacific island nations consisting of only 12.7 sq. km of land. Its three atolls are home to some very delicate ecosystems: for that reason alone, extra care must be taken.

If Tokelau is to retain its strong cultural identity, then it will be very difficult to do so if our atolls become uninhabitable. It is our wish to continue to inhabit these extremely isolated atolls (serviced only by a monthly cargo boat.) We have all appreciated the assistance to date with improved housing, water collection, sanitation, transport,

communication, education and health. However, compromises have had to be made. Or did they?

Many recent development projects have altered our lifestyle, our health and our behaviour. Our recent Environmental Management Project, kindly funded by SPREP and UNDP, has helped us to focus on these recent changes. We are now having to make important decisions which will help us reduce the negative impacts on our people and their surroundings. Without the ongoing advice from SPREP, many of these decisions would simply not have been made.

Our traditional knowledge and practices cannot be replaced without seriously endangering our ability to survive on these atolls. For this reason, all the Elders in Tokelau are demanding that only sustainable practices are employed. NOW is the time to act before we lose too much of our wildlife stocks (the source of our food), before we saturate our atolls with pollutants and before we lose our own unique culture. To that extent, we are now taking a very serious look at the way we are managing our four small communities made up of only 1600 people.

This Conference on Sustainable Development for Small Island Nations helps highlight the importance of SUSTAINABLE LIVING in Tokelau. It is with great regret that Tokelau is unable to have an official delegate at this Conference. The entire government administration for Tokelau is undergoing a significant transition at present as we endeavour to attain self-governing status in cooperation with New Zealand. We are extremely grateful to the New Zealand Delegation to this Conference to officially represent Tokelau's interest and to sincerely pass on our regrets to you all.

However, it is crucial that we have the highest level of understanding of the principles of sustainability. What Tokelau is requesting from this Conference is the latest in "sustainable technology", the kind of technology that is affordable, easily maintained, and helps to reduce the environmental impacts currently being reported in Tokelau.

There is now a stronger emphasis on improving the standard of living of our communities, but this time without the disadvantages of reduced health standards and serious impacts on our natural resources.

On behalf of the people of Tokelau, I would like to formally thank you, the Leaders of the World who decided to focus on our part of the globe after the Rio Summit. We in Tokelau approve this initiative to help us solve our immediate environmental problems and to help us prevent unnecessary damage to our delicate surroundings. Our thanks to the Organising Committee of this conference for putting it all together to enable you and us to preserve the world for the generations of tomorrow.

We acknowledge the assistance from the United Nation System and in particular the United Nations Development Programme.

A very special "fakafetai", thank you, must go to SPREP for their continued support.

We must state again our deep appreciation for the ongoing support of the people and the Government of New Zealand. We have not chosen the Government of New Zealand's Delegation as the carrier of our message to this conference by accident. As our sustaining nation, they are very much aware of our problem to sustain ourselves.

The Pacific region is still plagued with environmental problems, problems that have been recognised for at least the past 20 years, and yet they are still with us today. Problems such as deforestation, human population growth, pollution, loss of biodiversity, climate changes and the gradual cultural erosion.

So will this Conference be the TURNING POINT, if not for the entire Pacific, then at least for Tokelau?

Best wishes for a substantial and successful outcome to the Conference. "

Fellow delegates, this ends the statement from the people of Tokelau. I hope that these words from the small and beautiful atoll group of Tokelau will, in its own special way, contribute to this important Conference.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND  
DEVELOPING STATES

STATEMENT BY THE HON. SIR ROBIN GRAY,  
ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF NEW ZEALAND  
5 MAY 1994

**Forging Partnerships for Sustainable Development**

Two years ago in Rio the international community set the goal of establishing a new global partnership for sustainable development.

Today the international community is gathered once more, on this beautiful island in the Caribbean - a setting which reminds us of our own South Pacific region.

The goal we set at Rio remains sound. The question we have been examining today and over the last two weeks is simply this: Where do small island developing states fit into the picture? What is their part in the global compact?

There are no easy answers. Partnership is a simple concept to understand, but a difficult one to implement. Partnership has many different strands - strands which must be successfully interleaved if together we are to achieve the sustainable development objectives of small island developing states.

In my statement today, I would like to focus briefly on what New Zealand sees as the primary components of partnership for sustainable development, particularly for small island developing states. This is not an academic exercise. The clear sense of the Global Conference has been that the small size and populations of island nations, and their specific vulnerability, provide an exciting opportunity to implement the new types of partnerships and policies necessary for sustainable development to work.

**Partnership between central governments and people**

First, there is the partnership between central governments and the people they serve. One of the major challenges identified in Agenda 21 is the need to activate a sense of common purpose on behalf of all sectors of society.

Central governments have a leadership role in engendering this sense of common purpose. In the Programme of Action, we are asking a great deal of small islands. Commitment at the highest political levels will be necessary. The many statements made today by Heads of State and Ministers from small island developing states attest, overwhelmingly, that this commitment is not lacking.



In establishing an effective partnership between central governments and people, it is obviously important that all sectors of society should be willing, and able, to participate in genuine partnership and dialogue. An implicit part of this partnership is the recognition of the independent roles, responsibilities and special capabilities of particular sectors of society. Equally care should be taken for the most vulnerable groups - often the women and children.

Special mention should be made here of the important contribution which non-governmental organisations can make. They can act as the watch-dogs on Government action. In exercising this function, both commitment and responsibility is required.

#### **Partnership within communities**

The second element I would like to touch on is partnership within communities, both regional and local. This is critical to the successful implementation of the Programme of Action because many of the problems and solutions identified in the Programme have their roots in local activities.

Community participation in decision making is traditional in island societies. An exciting new element is the adaptation of this to the modern world. The community approach followed in many small islands of the Pacific is one which New Zealand has adapted in its Resource Management Act - an Act which is, I believe, among the most advanced in any country in its concepts for sustainable management. A central element of this legislation is devolving decision making about local environmental policies and planning processes to the community level.

Community participation, to be truly effective, must involve all within the society. This means that indigenous and ethnic groups must feel part of the process. Within New Zealand we have sought to reach out to the communities, not only through modern methods such as television, but also through traditional methods, most notably on the Maori marae - the formal meeting places where matters of importance to the community are discussed in a sharing relationship.

#### **Partnership with island governments**

The third element I would like to highlight is partnership with island governments. New Zealand is a South Pacific country, with strong bonds to the island groups in the Pacific. The Programme of Action and statements made here today have confirmed our view that there are important tasks and challenges to be met.

Over two-thirds of New Zealand's Development Assistance is spent in the South Pacific. We need to get it right. Like other donors and agencies, we will need to check our objectives and activities against those articulated in the Programme of Action. This document will not be filed on a dusty shelf. It will be an essential tool for us in coming years.



# GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

## FAKATUFONO NIUE

Office of the Premier  
P.O. Box 40  
NIUE

Mr. President

Distinguished Leaders, representatives of Developed and Developing States, Representatives of Organizations, Institutions, Agencies, Advisors, Ladies and Gentlemen.  
Fakalofa/LAHI. ATU

Niue's delegation fully support the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The intention of my statement is also to draw the attention of this Conference to Niue's International status, because Niue is unknown to this part of the world. Last year Niue became a full member of UNESCO and is also a member of UNDP, the South Pacific Forum and other Regional organisations.

Niue is located 2,400 Km north east of New Zealand and is on the eastern side of the date line. Niue is in the centre of a triangle of the Polynesian Islands made up of Tonga, Western Samoa, American Samoa, and the Cook Islands.

Four decades ago, the United Nations spearheaded the concept of self-determination... A concept under which island colonies are given the freedom to determine their own political and economic direction.

.../2

My island country, Niue, prolonged the acceptance of this process on account that we wanted to establish economic independence first before accepting the option of political independence.

Recounting on the thrust of development in the first decade of the decolonization process, the ideal situation, we were led to believe, was to have been simply the transfer of technology, capital and money from the developed countries to the developing countries and modernization will take its natural course.

The situation as it now unfolds, is far from the ideal. In a speech delivered at the Preparatory Committee Meeting in New York, the representative of my country highlighted the natural and isolation constraints that are working against the efforts of my country to bring about sustainable development.

"Sustainable Development" in Small Developing Island States is, in reality, looking at minimizing the constraints, risks, and depletion of irreplaceable resources in order that development is sustained. The National Development Goal of my country is looking at addressing the very issues we are about to resolve in this conference.

I will briefly touch on this initiative of my little island state Niue. "The government and the Private Sector of Niue are committed to the creation of a sustainable self-reliant community united within the framework of a dynamic economy whilst recognising the contribution of its environmental and cultural values".

The National Objectives of Niue are as follows:

- A. The development of adequate infrastructure to sustain a viable tourist industry.
- B. The development of adequate infrastructure to sustain a viable agriculture, fishing and forestry base.
- C. The development of adequate infrastructure to sustain a viable private sector.
- D. To promote the development of human resources to levels which at least match our economic aspirations.
- E. To promote and respect the conservation and sustainable utilization of our cultural values.
- F. To promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of our unique environment.

These are our visions for now and in the future. And to facilitate the realisation of the stated vision, national committees for energy, natural disasters, population development, pesticide importation, and hospital aid society, have been formed to advise the government on policy.

Realising the limited time at my disposal, I am unable to elaborate further on my mission statement, but I would like to emphasize that, for any small developing state to achieve sustainable development, it must have the cooperation of all other nations.

In the writing of one of the sons of the Pacific, he referred to the Pacific as "The Sea of Islands". The sea is the centre of our universe, our livelihood, and one in which we continue to harvest from for our sustenance. Cooperation in the management of this resource would not only ensure that life in the sea of islands will be sustained, but conservation and protection of the sea is safeguarded.

The words and the tune of the song composed by the United Nations for the Global Conference On Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, have been put into music by the Government and the wonderful people of this land, Barbados. Niue adds its voice of support to this song. Let there be Action by this Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing states.

May God Bless this Conference, The Government, and the people of Barbados.

ADDRESS TO THE LEADERS OF THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT (ROUNDTABLE)  
OF THE  
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

BY

H.E. HONOURABLE FRANK F. LUI  
PREMIER OF NIUE ISLAND  
SPOKESPERSON FOR THE PACIFIC

ON

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN  
AND AMONG SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND  
THEIR REGIONAL GROUPINGS

6 May 1994  
Bridgetown, Barbados

- Mr President, Prime Minister L. Sandiford of Barbados
- Your Excellencies
- Heads of Government and State
- Honourable Ministers
- Distinguished Representatives
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure and honour, on behalf of the Pacific leaders, to offer a Pacific island perspective on the subject of Strengthening of Cooperation between and among the Small Island Developing States.

This Roundtable session is a key part of our Conference. It provides us the opportunity to share ideas with other leaders on how best to combine our efforts towards achieving the goal of economic development in an environmentally sustainable manner. Our discussions today, should provide the basis for strengthening the worldwide cooperative effort already underway. This is an aspect of the partnership we have been seeking in this High Level segment. It is an aspect that is vital to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Mr President, in the Pacific Region we have a well-established tradition of regional cooperation. Regional organisations such as the Forum Secretariat, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Pacific Commission, Forum Fisheries Agency, University of the South Pacific, Tourism Council of the South Pacific and others, play a central and well-accepted role through provision of technical and professional expertise to our governments. These organisations, some of which have been in existence for several decades, are vital to assisting the continuing development of our islands.

These regional organisations are essential, fundamentally because they respond to the vulnerabilities of small islands in their isolation, absence of natural and manpower resources, limited infrastructure and for all the other reasons we have been discussing in this Conference. Increasingly, the organisations are being staffed and managed by people of the region. This means, of course, that we are tackling the problem of capacity building in a practical way.

Mr President, you will know that ours is a region of many cultures and ancient traditions. It raises a dichotomy: the need to preserve the customs of yesterday; and the contrasting need to catch up with the rest of the world at the doorstep of the 21st century. It means that the cooperative effort that we undertake, must be both relevant and forward looking.

We have been able to enhance this effort by comparisons with and sometimes through borrowings from other regions. We have, for instance, found valuable the experience of the Caribbean in tourism. In turn, we believe we have deep and valuable experience in fisheries which we are sharing with small states in the Indian Ocean and elsewhere.

Mr President, these cross-regional exchanges of experience and personnel must continue. It has to be the bulwark of regional cooperation in achieving sustainable development.

Mr President, this Conference and the Programme of Action which we hope to endorse this afternoon, has shown us all the vastness and complexity of the task at hand. It is clearly impossible to take up any part of it alone, nationally or regionally. While our own experience in the Pacific points to the essential need for regional institutions, we accept that we must now look further afield to examine closely other mechanisms. Personal contacts at the highest policy level would be essential. Access by small island developing countries to the decision-making levels of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Global Environment Facility and bodies of that nature, are equally essential.

Attention to quality assessment and selectivity in some of our work is becoming increasingly important. In the Pacific, for instance, we have collected significant data useful to natural resource management. This information should be adapted for practical use by governments and the community. We confess that we have not always managed to do this. This is one practical area where the Pacific could usefully draw on the experiences of other regions.

Mr President, the sum of all this is that small island developing states must act in concert. They have neither the ability nor the facility to go it alone. It is for this reason that the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) came into existence. As we have seen in this Conference, AOSIS has become a vehicle for the articulation of the points of view and the ideals of the small island developing states. We must give it all the support that it deserves, especially in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Mr President, I have laid emphasis on regional cooperation. Because that is where there is a significant amount of Pacific experience. One cannot ignore the other key areas where governments must not only seek but foster cooperation in all levels of our national societies, among the non-governmental organisations, women and youth, in particular.

Mr President, allow me to express our most sincere and heartfelt appreciation to both the Government and people of this beautiful island of Barbados for the invaluable hospitality and very friendly atmosphere that has been extended.

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COUNTRY STATEMENT BY

HON. PARRY M. ZEIPI, MP  
MINISTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

TO THE

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

BARBADOS, APRIL 29TH, 1994

MR. PRESIDENT  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, I HAVE THE DISTINCT PLEASURE AND HONOUR OF CONGRATULATING YOU ON YOUR UNANIMOUS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

YOU BRING TO THIS HIGH OFFICE A WEALTH OF DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL SKILL AND EXPERIENCE WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL GUIDE US TOWARDS ACHIEVING A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE.

I WOULD REMISS IF IT DID NOT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY THROUGH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO EXPRESS MY DELEGATION'S MOST SINCERE AND HEARTFUL APPRECIATION TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL ISLAND OF BARBADOS FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY THAT HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO US. THIS WE THOUGHT REFLECTED THE TRUE "ISLAND WAY" OF WELCOMING VISITORS TO THEIR SHORES AND WE ARE TRULY HONOURED BY THAT RECEPTION.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO COMPLIMENT THE UNTIRING EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR ITS EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THE PREPARATIONS LEADING UP TO THIS GATHERING.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK AND CONGRATULATE THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR HIS OPENING STATEMENT WHICH CLEARLY REFLECTED THE NEED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN ENSURING THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED), INCLUDING THIS CONFERENCE, ARE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED.

MY DELEGATION FURTHER WISHES TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE, HER EXCELLENCY MS. PENELOPE WENSLEY, AUSTRALIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA, WHO HAS DILIGENTLY LED THE PREPARATORY PROCESS AND MADE POSSIBLE THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION HERE IN BARBADOS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

PAPUA NEW GUINEA WELCOMES AND ASSOCIATES ITSELF WITH THE IMPORTANT STATEMENT MADE BY BOTH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 (G77) AND THE CHAIR PERSON OF THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS) WHO HAVE SO ELOQUENTLY ARTICULATED THE PECULIAR VULNERABILITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND THE NEED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING A SOUND LEVEL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THESE STATES.

THIS CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS RECOMMENDED AT THE EARTH SUMMIT AND FURTHER ENDORSED BY THE 47TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESENTS AN IMPORTANT CHALLENGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY AS IT IS NOW NEARLY TWO YEARS SINCE OUR WORLD LEADERS MET IN RIO DE JANEIRO AND COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21.

THE OUTCOME OF THIS GLOBAL MEETING WILL, THEREFORE BE SEEN AS A FIRST TEST FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CLEAR COMMITMENT TO THOSE IMPORTANT UNDERTAKINGS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AS YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY MANY

FORCES WHICH ARE OUTSIDE THEIR CONTROL. SOME OF THESE ARE DUE TO THEIR SMALL SIZE AND REMOTENESS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND MARKETS; THEIR VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND SEALEVEL RISE.

MY DELEGATION CALLS UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS THAT EXIST AND ARE BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND SUPPORT THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO ENABLE ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

IN THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ONE OF THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION IS THE LACK OF RESOURCES, THUS EFFECTIVELY LIMITING ANY HOPE FOR ACHIEVING ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS CONTEXT, PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS ENCOURAGED BY THE EFFORTS ALREADY MADE BY VARIOUS AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, NOTABLY UNDP, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNESCO, FAO, AND OTHER RELATED INSTITUTIONS, TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONTAINED IN AGENDA 21.

...R. PRESIDENT,

MY COUNTRY THUS ATTACHES GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE EFFORTS OF THIS CONFERENCE AND WE STAND TOGETHER WITH OUR SISTER ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES READY TO FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS.

ACCORDINGLY, WE URGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS GOODWILL AND FULFIL ITS OWN OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS THAT WERE FORGED AT RIO.

MY DELEGATION WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY (GEF) WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE

NECESSARY RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT SOME OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION THIS CONFERENCE IS CURRENTLY DEBATING. IN VIEW OF THIS PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLS UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ON THE GEF BOARD.

THIS BRINGS ME NOW TO THIS PARTICULAR CONFERENCE, AND WHY PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST NON-CONTINENTAL ISLANDS, IS INCLUDED WITH SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES. THE REASON IS SIMPLE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN FACT COMPRISES IN EXCESS OF 600 ISLANDS MOST OF WHICH ARE INHABITED. MANY OF THESE ISLANDS ARE EXTREMELY SMALL. WITH 97 PERCENT OF THE LAND OWNED BY THE PEOPLE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SETTLE PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM ITS ISLANDS AND LOW-LYING COASTAL AREAS, LET ALONE ITS PACIFIC NEIGHBOURS, BY SEALEVEL RISE AND LOSS OF DRINKING WATER.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAS BEEN TAKING MAJOR STEPS TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT A REALITY. TWO NATIONAL SEMINARS HAVE BEEN HELD TO LOOK AT HOW WE ARE TO IMPLEMENT AGENDA 21. USING THE RESULTS OF THESE SEMINARS FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER MAJOR GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE NATION WITH A VIEW TO DRAWING UP A NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF THANKING THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THIS PROCESS. ASSISTANCE BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UNEP TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED.

ONLY LAST WEEK MY GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED THAT A NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BE DEVELOPED AND HAS GIVEN APPROVAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE COMPRISING GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR AND NON-GOVERNMENT

ORGANISATIONS AND A SECRETARIAT TO OVERSEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. TO GUIDE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA. IN A SHOW OF COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND A MOVE THAT I'M SURE WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE LOCAL PRIVATE SECTOR IS ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS, OF COURSE, WILL BE THE LONG TERM FUNDING OF THE SECRETARIAT AND EVENTUALLY THE COMMISSION AND CURRENTLY WE ARE SEEKING FROM SUITABLE BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL DONORS FOR THE OPERATION. THERE ARE OF COURSE MANY OTHER AREAS IN WHICH WORK MUST BE DONE. MANY WILL EVENTUATE WHEN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IS ESTABLISHED, OTHERS WILL ONLY COME WITH INCREASED FINANCIAL RESOURCES BUT THIS POSITIVE FORWARD PLANNING ROLE IS ONE THAT WE ARE HAPPY TO COMMIT TO.

ANOTHER MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVE OF MY GOVERNMENT IS ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE 'USER PAYS' POLICY TOWARDS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES WILL SOON BE IMPLEMENTED COMPELLING DEVELOPERS TO PAY THE COST OF MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. OUR EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD WE WOULD ONLY BE TOO PLEASED TO SHARE WITH OUR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS EXTREMELY RICH IN BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. IT RECOGNISES ITS VALUE AND AS A RESULT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO RATIFY THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONVENTION. UNFORTUNATELY A BALANCE HAS TO BE FOUND BETWEEN PRESERVATION OF THESE RESOURCES AND THE DEMAND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE PEOPLE. IT IS HARD TO DISUADE LANDOWNERS FROM LOGGING WHEN NO ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF GENERATING INCOME CAN BE OFFERED. THIS IS WHY PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD REGARDS THE ISSUE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WITH RELATION TO THE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICINAL USES OF ITS

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES AS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. WE KNOW THE ISSUE IS A HARD ONE TO RESOLVE, BUT WITH THE RIGHT WILL NO PROBLEM IS INTRACTABLE. BIODIVERSITY IS AFTER ALL AN ASSET TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

LOOKING THROUGH THE NATIONAL ACTIONS LISTED UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION BEING DEVELOPED BY THIS CONFERENCE, I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT MY COUNTRY IS EMBARKING ON MANY OF THEM ALREADY, INCLUDING ITS SPONSORING OF THE REGIONAL TREATY TO REGULATE THE MOVEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES INTO AND WITHIN THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION. THIS TREATY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1995.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN SPITE OF BEING RICH IN RESOURCES LACKS THE EXPERTISE TO DEVELOP THEM. WE, THEREFORE, OPENLY ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. IN FACT I SUSPECT THAT MANY, IF NOT ALL, OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THIS CONFERENCE, BENEFIT IN SOME WAY FROM THE EXPLOITATION OF MY COUNTRY'S FORESTRY, MARINE AND MINERAL RESOURCES. UNFORTUNATELY THE INVESTMENT BY THESE FOREIGN COMPANIES IS NOT MATCHED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS. DEVELOPMENT TO BE SUSTAINABLE MUST BE SUPPORTED BY STRENGTHENED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT. THIS PRINCIPLE IS THE THRENOLOGY OF RIO, AND THIS CONFERENCE IS NOW SEEKING TO FIRM UP ON THESE ISSUES. I, THEREFORE, INVITE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO FULLY PARTICIPATE WITH THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IN STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THOSE STATES.

MY DELEGATION UNDERSTANDS THAT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS A BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THEREFORE, DEVELOPING THE RIGHT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO CREATE THIS BALANCE IS OF GREAT NECESSITY FOR ALL LIVING THINGS, INCLUDING PEOPLE.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS CONVINCED THAT APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY ACTION IS REQUIRED AT ALL LEVELS OF OUR DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS. THUS, OUR EFFORTS AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

LEVELS SHOULD NOT ONLY BE EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE BUT ALSO COMPLEMENTARY TO EACH OTHER.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE SUCCESS OF THIS CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE, HINGES ON TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS.

FIRST, AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, PROPER ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION, POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS WITH THE COMMITMENT, DEDICATION AND POLITICAL WILL FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

SECONDLY, AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S), MUST SUPPORT AND LEND THEIR GENUINE SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

WE BELIEVE GENUINE PARTNERSHIP AMONG ALL OUR COUNTRIES DEVELOPED, DEVELOPING, LEAST DEVELOPED, ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, NOT ONLY OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES BUT OF ALL PARTS OF OUR GLOBAL VILLAGE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE PACIFIC AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONS ARE SMALL IN NUMBERS, SMALL IN LAND SIZE AND COMPARATIVELY SMALL IN ECONOMIC SIZE, BUT, ARE TRUSTODIANS OF SOME OF THE MOST DIVERSE CULTURES AND SOME OF THE MOST UNTOUCHED ENVIRONMENTS IN THE WORLD.



MR. PRESIDENT

IT IS POINTLESS TO TALK ABOUT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES UNLESS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHICH FOR DECADES HAVE EXPLOITED THESE ISLANDS, ARE NOT WILLING TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESOURCES.

MY DELEGATION, MR. PRESIDENT, IS CONVINCED THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL COME UP WITH A PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES WHICH WE BELIEVE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH GENUINE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AND CO-OPERATION.

FINALLY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA FULLY ENDORSES AND SUPPORTS THE BARBADOS DECLARATION. THIS DECLARATION WILL SET THE PACE AND LANDMARK FOR SUBSIDIARY PROGRAMMES OF ACTION TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY OUR GOVERNMENTS WITH THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

I THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

STATEMENT BY

SIR WIWA KOROWI, GCMG, KStJ  
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

TO THE

EIGE LEVEL SEGMENT

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

BARBADOS, MAY 5TH, 1994

MR. PRESIDENT  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, I  
CONGRATULATE YOU ON CHAIRING THIS HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT AND THANK  
YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS VERY IMPORTANT PART OF  
THE CONFERENCE.

AGENDA 21 IN CHAPTER one STATES THAT "NO NATION CAN ACHIEVE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON ITS OWN; BUT TOGETHER WE CAN - IN A  
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT." THIS SEGMENT OF  
THE CONFERENCE LOOKS AT POSSIBLE WAYS THAT THIS PARTNERSHIP CAN  
BE DEVELOPED.

MY DELEGATION WOULD AT THE OUTSET WISH TO ENDORSE THE STATEMENTS  
MADE BY THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS HIGHLIGHTING THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS  
AND CHALLENGES CONFRONTING THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND  
CALLING FOR NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIQUE AND SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF THE SMALL  
ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.

MR. PRESIDENT . . . . /3

MR. PRESIDENT,

PRIOR TO COMING TO THIS CONFERENCE MY DELEGATION WAS NOT UNDULY OPTIMISTIC THAT SUFFICIENT ATTENTION WAS BEING GIVEN BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ITS IMPORTANCE AND HENCE WERE CONCERNED AT THE USEFULNESS OF ITS OUTCOME. I WAS, THEREFORE, GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE PARTICIPATION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

HIS STATEMENT TARGETTED THE ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY THIS CONFERENCE AS WELL AS POINTING OUT THE NEED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE LEADERSHIP IF OUR GATHERING HERE IS TO ACHIEVE ANY TANGIBLE RESULTS.

I WELCOME THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP WHICH URGES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT NOT ONLY THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES BUT ALL PROGRAMMES CONTAINED IN AGENDA 21. MY DELEGATION TOTALLY AGREES WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE NEEDED RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD BE UNABLE TO FULFILL THEIR PART AND, IN FACT, WOULD MOST LIKELY CAUSE THE FAILURE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE...../4

I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS CONFERENCE HELD AT THE EAST-WEST CENTER FROM APRIL 26-27 1994. THE MEETING RESOLVED THAT IN FORMULATING DEVELOPMENT POLICIES THE INTERACTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT POLICIES, MARKET FORCES AND CULTURAL VALUES THERE MUST BE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE GOALS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CULTURAL INTEGRITY AND SOCIAL STABILITY AND THAT WHILE RESOURCE UTILISATION MUST BE OPTIMISED TO ENSURE MAXIMUM ECONOMIC RETURNS THIS MUST ONLY BE ONE ON A SUSTAINABLE BASIS.

ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF LEADING MY COUNTRY'S DELEGATION TO RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED). AT THAT MEETING WORLD LEADERS ADOPTED A GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION KNOWN AS AGENDA 21.

HOWEVER, I MUST SAY THAT I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE YET TO DELIVER ON MANY OF THE COMMITMENTS THAT THEY MADE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE YET TO SEE NEW AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE RECOMMENDED IN CHAPTER 33 NOR ANY SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO INITIATE THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSED IN CHAPTER 34.

ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE..... 5

ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE THAT THIS DELAY MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE LONG AND VERY DEEP RECESSION WHICH AFFECTED MUCH OF THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLD UNTIL ONLY RECENTLY, I AM GREATLY DISTURBED BY WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE THE MANY ATTEMPTS, SINCE RIO, TO STEER AWAY FROM THESE COMMITMENTS. WE WERE AFTER ALL TOLD IN THE LEAD UP TO UNCED THAT THE WORLD WAS FACING A CRISIS AND THAT ACTION WAS URGENT AND ESSENTIAL.

WHILE THE DEVELOPED WORLD APPEARS TO BE DELAYING ITS FULL COMMITMENT TO AGENDA 21, MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO ITS CONCEPTS. MY COUNTRY IS NO EXCEPTION, AND IN LINE WITH CHAPTER 33, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED THAT A NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NSDS) BE DEVELOPED. IT HAS FURTHER APPOINTED A STEERING COMMITTEE, COMPRISING GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA, PRIVATE SECTOR AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, TO COORDINATE THE FORMULATION OF THIS STRATEGY AND TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WHICH WOULD COORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NSDS.

WHILE THE FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSDS WILL INITIALLY COME FROM LOCAL SOURCES IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY IS ANOTHER MATTER. ASSISTANCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL BE VITAL; AGAIN I REFER TO AGENDA 21 WHICH STATES THAT SMALL ISLAND

DEVELOPING STATES WILL...../6

DEVELOPING STATES WILL BE CONSTRAINED IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF PLANNING FOR AND IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT THE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

MY MAIN CONCERN IS THAT, WITHOUT THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MANY OF OUR EFFORTS AT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE STILLBORN AND FURTHERMORE WILL BRING THE WHOLE CONCEPT INTO DISREPUTE AND MAKE FUTURE ACTION IMPOSSIBLE.

HOWEVER, IN A WEEK THAT IS SEEING SOUTH AFRICA FINALLY MOVE TO FULL DEMOCRACY, TRUELY A MAJOR EVENT, I WOULD PREFER TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, AND WOULD LIKE TO PLACE BEFORE THIS MEETING SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IS OBVIOUS TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY. AGENDA 21 RECOGNISES THAT SUCH STATES ARE SPECIAL CASES WITH REGARD TO BOTH ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THEY ARE ECOLOGICALLY VULNERABLE, AND FURTHER THAT THEIR SMALL SIZES, LIMITED RESOURCES, GEOGRAPHIC DISPERSION AND ISOLATION FROM MARKET CENTRES, PLACE THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE ECONOMICALLY AND LIMITED THEIR CAPACITIES AND CAPABILTIES TO COPE

WITH PROBLEMS AND...../7

1005..

WITH PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES THAT THEY CONFRONT AS WELL AS THEIR EFFORTS TO PLAN FOR AND IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES CAN BE ADDRESSED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL OR THROUGH REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION. THERE ARE OTHERS THAT WILL DEFINITELY REQUIRE SUPPORT, COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE SOURCES OF THEIR PROBLEMS ORIGINATE BEYOND THEIR BOUNDARIES.

THEREFORE, MR. PRESIDENT, MY DELEGATION IS OF THE FIRM VIEW THAT IF ANYTHING CONCRETE IS TO BE DERIVED FROM EITHER THIS CONFERENCE OR THE OTHER SUBSIDIARY PROGRAMMES CONTAINED IN AGENDA 21, IT WILL REQUIRE THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COME UP WITH A PRACTICAL SET OF PROPOSALS THAT CAN EASILY BE IMPLEMENTED AT ANY GIVEN TIME AND IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

THIS LEADS ME TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW, BUT RATHER IMPORTANT POINTS THAT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, TO PROVIDE MEANING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION THIS CONFERENCE IS GOING TO APPROVE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.

FROM THE COUNTRY.....S



FROM THE COUNTRY STATEMENTS AND REPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO US DURING THIS CONFERENCE, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY EFFORTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUT IN PLACE BY SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO IMPLEMENT AGENDA 21. WE ALSO NOTE THAT NATIONAL STRATEGIES BEING DEVELOPED AS A BASIS FOR ACTION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND PROMOTED IN ALL COUNTRIES.

WE, HOWEVER BELIEVE, THAT FURTHER PROGRESS IS REQUIRED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL TO ENSURE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS GIVEN APPROPRIATE SIGNIFICANCE AT ALL LEVELS OF DECISION MAKING. THIS WOULD IN TURN ALLOW FOR THE FULL INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TO OCCUR AT BOTH MICRO AND MACRO LEVELS.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT AND COMPLEMENT INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL EFFORTS, WHILE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN CLOSE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS CONFERENCE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS, AND ONE THAT I STRONGLY BELIEVE WILL DETERMINE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA

21 AND THE DECISIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE, RELATES TO THE ACCESS TO AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY AND ULTIMATELY THE RESOURCES SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES CAN MOBILIZE FROM BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SOURCES TO MEET INCREMENTAL COSTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO THINK THAT AT A NATIONAL LEVEL THIS WILL REQUIRE LINKS BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES AND NATIONAL BUDGETS TO BE IDENTIFIED.

BY INVITING THE WRONG KINDS OF TECHNOLOGY , SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND ELSEWHERE WILL BE JEOPORDISED, WITH POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AS WELL.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL WE BELIEVE THERE IS A NEED TO MOBILIZE THE LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.

THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION BOTH IN MOBILISING HUMAN RESOURCES AND ENHANCING ITS INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE MAXIMUM PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

WE ARE, MR. PRESIDENT, FULLY CONVINCED, THAT REGIONAL ACTION BASED ON PRIORITIES, IDENTIFIED IN NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

OF MANY SMALL ...../10

OF MANY SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES NEED TO BE BETTER COORDINATED WITH SUPPORT OF STRONGER REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND WITH IMPROVED ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES IF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THIS CONFERENCE IS TO BE REALISED.

IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, WE HAVE PUT IN PLACE A NUMBER OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS THE FORUM SECRETARIAT, FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY, SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME, AND OTHER ASSOCIATED INSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AND ALTHOUGH NOT TOTALLY SUCCESSFUL, THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NEVERTHELESS PROVEN TO BE USEFUL IN ATTENDING TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER NEEDS OF OUR REGION.

I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE HERE THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL TREATY TO CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND SUBSTANCES INTO THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION. IT IS BEING COORDINATED THROUGH THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM AND HAS THE SUPPORT OF ALL FORUM NATIONS. WE CALL ON ALL METROPOLITAN STATES WITHIN THE AREA TO CONTINUE IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE TREATY. PAPUA NEW GUINEA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT WAYS IN WHICH THE DEVELOPING STATES OF THE REGION CAN DEAL WITH THEIR OWN WASTES THROUGH RECYCLING. THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES HERE FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ASSIST.

THE TRANSHIPMENT...../11

THE TRANSHIPMENT OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND RADIOACTIVE ORIGIN THROUGH THE EEZ'S OF OUR ISLAND NATIONS IS OF GREAT CONCERN DUE TO ITS POTENTIAL TO DESTROY MARINE RESOURCES; AS MANY ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DEPEND UPON SUCH RESOURCES SUCH A LOSS WOULD BE DEVASTATING. WE DO THEREFORE, REQUEST THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES RESPECT OUR POSITION THAT SUCH TRANSPORTATION SHOULD NOT OCCUR.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. OUR ISLANDS ARE EITHER COMPOSED OF WIDELY SCATTERED ISLANDS OR THEY ARE VERY RUGGED. WE ARE ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT. FOR COUNTRIES OF MODEST SIZE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR EACH NATION TO SUPPORT ITS OWN TRANSPORTATION NETWORK ESPECIALLY INTERNATIONAL AIR SYSTEMS. PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS KEEN TO DEVELOP A VIABLE REGIONAL APPROACH TO AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT WHICH BENEFITS US ALL.

MR. PRESIDENT,

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT REPRIORITISING THE USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES. WHILE THIS APPLIES TO BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SOURCES, HERE I WILL ONLY COMMENT ON EXTERNAL SOURCES (OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE OR ODA). IN MY COUNTRY, AND I AM SURE THIS

APPLIES TO MOST...../12

APPLIES TO MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, VAST AMOUNTS OF ODA ARE USED UP BY THE FUNDING OF EXPERTS OR COMMISSIONING OF STUDIES WHICH PRODUCE NO TANGIBLE RESULTS.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ENCOURAGES PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND ENTERS INTO AGREEMENTS WITH MANY MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. OFTEN THESE AGREEMENTS RESTRICT WHAT THE COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IN TERMS OF MITIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND REHABILITATION. WE APPEAL TO THOSE STATES IN WHICH THESE MULTINATIONALS ARE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE STRENGTHENING OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION IN MY COUNTRY.

FINALLY, IT IS SELF EVIDENT THAT THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY IS TO BE USED TO HELP FUND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES. I, THEREFORE, REITERATE WHAT WAS SAID IN OUR COUNTRY STATEMENT AND STRESS THE VERY REAL NEED FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO BE GIVEN A PLACE ON THE GEF BOARD.

THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT.



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT  
AND CONSERVATION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS,  
H. E. RIGHT HONORABLE EZEKIEL ALEBUA

AT THE

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON  
THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
Bridgetown, Barbados

25th April - 6th May, 1994

CHECKED AGAINST DELIVERY

PERMANENT MISSION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
820 Second Avenue, Suite 800B • New York, N.Y. 10017 • Tel.: (212) 599-6192/3 • Fax: (212) 661-8925

Mr. President, Heads of Governments and delegations, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. The People and Government of Solomom Islands through my delegation salute and warmly congratulate you, your Government and people on your appointment as the President of this historic Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. May I also extend our appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of Barbados for allowing us to converge on this beautiful island for this very important Conference.

We join too, in acknowledging and commending the U.N. Secretary General, our aid donors and all those who have contributed towards the preparation of this Global Conference. Decisions to do this often were made under very trying conditions but the eventuality of this Conference is a clear evidence of a collective commitment and global action very much needed to continue after Barbados.

The statements made by the U.N. Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali and you yourself as Prime Minister of Barbados, at the Opening of this Conference have set a powerful momentum generated from the spirit of commitment made in the Earth summit in Rio two years ago. This momentum must

not be distorted by indifference, self-interest and insensitivity from either sides of the camp. To rescue this planet from both the destruction already being made and the potential damage, we its citizens can make, demands a global and collective approach from us all.

Mr. President it is with humility, honour and privilege that I address this august gathering of Small Islands Developing States in another joint endeavour to understand our own peculiar condition and to plan together to prolong our tenancy on this planet. You don't need an expert to tell you that we are neither landlords or tenants of this planet, therefore our responsibility for sustaining it, lies beyond ones backyard. During this Conference, it is intended that we define clearly what the problems are and what measures need to be taken by us all as a global community, forging a new partnership for Sustainable Development.

Solomon Islands is grateful to the United Nations for its continuous efforts to maintain World Peace and Security as well as promoting human prosperity. The charter of the organisation calls upon its member states, agencies and other



International organisations to work towards removing of want and alleviate poverty through systematic and achievable developmental goals. For example, in December 1967, the General Assembly declared the sixties to be the Decade of Development. In June 1964, the first UN Conference on Trade and Development adopted its Final Act, a blueprint drawn to achieve a better balance in economic relationship.

Mr. President,

The United Nations' determination at that time was to find ways of reducing the inequalities in the social structures of developing nations. The theme of the endeavour was "A Global Strategy for Development". Developing nations were being encouraged to adopt modern technologies with a view to create a new balance of benefits to all their citizens. Member states attempted to solve global problems using the accumulated experiences of some of the other member states who were then at the vanguard of progress. It was a cooperative effort to give meaning and substance to the very concept of a world community. Obviously, the quick fix method didn't work. Today we are still seeking for a workable

formula for development. The truth is, there is no one model for development.

The world has come a long way. From "A Global Strategy for Development" in the sixties to "An Agenda for Development" in the nineties. Now The Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. What will form the final outcome of this Conference poses a challenge for all of us, the international community. A more pressing question will be how and when are we going to implement the programme of action once agreed upon?

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands like most other Small Island Developing States, is afflicted with numerous environmental and economic difficulties, many of which have their root causes outside and therefore are beyond our control. To list these special problems will be overstating the issues before us. In fact with the assistance of South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Solomon Islands is one of the eight countries of the Pacific which now has a planning document called NEMS National Environment Management Strategy. This document

outlines our priority areas and what national actions, need to be taken to address those priority areas. Regional and international actions can now be easily identified and developed further with a view of implementing these actions in the future. The design employed in NEMS runs parallel to the Action Programme now being negotiated at this Conference.

#### Action Programme

Since the Rio Summit, Mr. President, Solomon Islands has slowly been progressing in its efforts to implement Agenda 21. Climate change, Biodiversity Conventions and the related Principles will form an important part of our government's planning strategy for sustainable development.

We strongly believe and support the various initiatives carried out by the South Pacific regional organisations, putting in place the necessary conventions and instruments aimed at protecting our fragile environment and the very much needed but limited resources of our region. We will support the recent initiative to ban the import of and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes in our region and will continue

to firmly support other initiatives coordinated through the South Pacific regional organisations, such as the South Pacific Forum, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, (SPREP) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

Solomon Islands economic development is based on the exploitation of our natural resources. Hence the government's new policy on the harvesting and exploitation of these natural resources to meet the development aspirations of its people, recognises the urgent need to do this in a sustainable manner and must strive to minimise negative impacts on the environment.

#### Human Resources Development

Mr. President,

Many who have spoken earlier, distinctly highlighted the central focus on the need to place people as the foundation of any development plan. The UN Secretary General in his opening statement said that "people are a country's most important asset, their well-being defines development". Making the best

of people and few resources pose critical challenges to planners and decision makers in Solomon Islands. Amongst other things, we place this as the highest priority - developing our 350,000 people to cope with a changing world in which some are more equal than others. Learning to acquire skills to cope better with the 21st Century is essential. Capacity building emphasising the need to include women and NGO's in development, institutional strengthening to improve health, educational training, environmental awareness, child care, family planning, nutrition and housing demands, are integral components of human resources development. The World Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo this year and the World Social Summit to be held in Copenhagen in 1995 signal to the international Community the scope and magnitude of the problem on a world scale. The UN Secretary General pointed out clearly that "international cooperation for development is one of the great innovations of the twentieth century". It is hoped that international commitment, good will to reach agreements, flexibility and a willingness to compromise will generate a new partnership to sustain the momentum started in Rio. Rio and Barbados will only be remembered for their ceremonial welcomes if this

cooperative style, constructive and partnership spirit are not forged here and now. It is our first and only chance.

In response to demands imposed by the need to change and adjust to external pressures, the government of Solomon Islands has to reorganise its administrative machinery and institutions. Structural adjustment programmes and corporatisation of some government institutions are evidence of the government's determination to improve efficiency and effective utilisation of existing resources with a view to plan, coordinate and implement national development programmes in a sustainable fashion.

A new Government policy has been put in place in the forestry sector aimed at optimising benefits to resource owners and the Government, cutting down on harvesting of logs and ensuring that impacts on the environment are minimised. Appropriate legislations are being drawn up to address environmental and developmental issues.

The country's first draft of environmental legislation which has one aim, the control of development, incorporates,

inter alia, two important principles, the precautionary principle and the needs of future generations.

Mr. President,

Something needs to be said about the role of the media in raising the level of awareness amongst the literate community of the world. It goes without saying that the media has created a powerful voice of the Small Island States both regionally and internationally, an element that must be acknowledged and fostered further by leaders of SIDS. In this regard, I would like to commend the work of the media for the level of creativity and innovation without which this Conference would not have gained the publicity it deserves. The featuring of the UN radio Special Documentary Series on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States is an example of good publicity. Appropriate media publicity is essential and the challenge for the media world is to take the same message to the illiterate population.

Solomon Islands, Mr. President, is committed to redirecting its development trend to ensure the present and the future generations enjoy a healthy environment. It is committed to safeguarding its resources so that the children

and grandchildren are not robbed of the necessities of life. Action at the national level will require understanding and cooperation between all levels of government, communities, resource owners, NGOs, investors and aid donors.

Solomon Islands hails the Action Programme for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States as a global strategy for sustainable development, an integrated programme of international cooperation, which outlines measures to be undertaken by each member state, in particular, small island developing states.

It is through this understanding of global commitment that we wish to raise an issue that is so dear to the hearts of the people of the Pacific region. This is the subject of nuclear tests and dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific Ocean. We appreciate the global concerns and efforts for environmentally sound and sustainable utilisation of our resources, but to us in the region, all these include the dignity of human being and guaranteeing to the individual full enjoyment of his/her fundamental rights. Our populace feels threatened by these tests and our resources and environment are being subjected to the many problems that this great gathering of sovereign nations is trying to address.



The success of the implementation of the Action Programme will demand patience, understanding, right motivation, and above all a far greater effort and a bigger sacrifice than anyone has ever so far volunteered to give. Its implementation must be guided by a moral purpose and directed towards the desired objectives, by political will of small island developing states as well as the entire international community.

Whilst Solomon Islands accepts the lead for an Action Programme, we are very conscious that responsibility for development must primarily be shouldered by developing nations themselves. Even though our economic development is in its infancy, and at its most difficult stage, we are already taking steps to deal with incipient environmental imbalances. We appreciate the assistance we received so far from our traditional aid donors and the South Pacific regional programmes.

It is our wish to see that assistance provided under the Action Programme be easily accessible to SIDS. Development assistance should be uncumbersome and granted to meet the needs of the recipient country. We hope that the external capital and know-how would become an addition to our own

strength and not as bonds that would increase our dependence on dominating economies.

Today, this conference is in itself, a fresh expression of the spirit which created United Nations, namely, concern for the present and future welfare of humanity. It is our hope that this conference would not aim merely at securing limited agreements and declarations, but at establishing peace and harmony in life - among all races and with nature.

We want to leave Barbados with lasting memories of success rather than being haunted by monsters of failure.

*Shakespeare*  
As ~~Charles Dickens~~ says, "this is not the be all and the end all."

Thank You



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FORESTS,  
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS,  
H.E. RIGHT HONOURABLE EZEKIEL ALEBUA

AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

THURSDAY 05 MAY 1994

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS  
25 APRIL - 06TH MAY 1994

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr Chairman,  
Heads of States and Governments  
Colleagues, Friends  
Ladies and gentlemen

I take special pleasure in greeting you all. This gathering of Leaders and representatives of developing and developed countries marks a historic event in the lives of our peoples, our governments, regional institutions, NGO community and the entire international community. A new partnership is born.

It is pleasing to note that Pacific Leaders have made a special effort to get here. This is an evidence of the theme, we now face to address today. A Theme that must be realised in deeds rather than by words. Our presence here today supports and forges this new partnership. A partnership that must be nurtured and developed further after Barbados. We have started in Rio, make a stopover in Barbados and now face the challenge, Where do we go from here?

Mr Chairman,

This question demands a collective approach, constructive spirit, a willingness to reach agreements, flexibility and goodwill to build a new intra-regional and international partnership. This co-operation between and among nations has a common purpose and that is to rescue our planet. Solomon Islands pledges to be a partner in this business.

Solomon Islands shares the unique features which characterise Small Island Developing States. For example, ecological fragility, economic vulnerability and the threat of climate change. Indeed, urgent concern about these phenomena brought us together to Barbados.

Solomon Islands is made up of 962 islands with a total land area of 28,369 square kilometres and a sea area (Exclusive Economic Zone) of 1.34 million square kilometres. We have a population of approximately 340,000 but growing at 3.4 per cent per annum - an alarming rate. However, appropriate measures are being taken aimed at reducing that. The culture is diverse and some 68 different languages are spoken including English as the official language and Solomons Pijin, being the national language. Solomon Islands has the most diverse avifauna of all the Pacific Islands excluding Papua New Guinea. Solomon Islands also has a high level of endemism with the longest lagoon and the highest raised coral atoll in the world.

The employment sector accounts for about 15 per cent while the bulk of the population live in a subsistence economy, living off the land and the sea. In Solomon Islands, people own the resources including land, the forest and the reefs, thus they are the resource owners.

Mr Chairman,

In a small country like the Solomons you can see how unity in diversity can form the basis for co-operation and nation building. If the foundation is there already to be built upon, then seeking and forging of this new partnership is driven by political will and determination of our people. A strong desire to join the international community to collectively pursue and pledge our commitment to the Programme of Action, is an indication of our firm belief in international co-operation.

The Barbados Declaration and the AOSIS Communique, both of which were generated from the spirit of partnership began in Rio is an investment we want to make.

Since the Earth Summit in Rio, Solomon Islands as a Member State of AOSIS and the Group of 77 as well as the South Pacific Forum has actively been engaging in international conferences, committee and Preparatory work leading up to Barbados. We have been busy at home as well. As a result of the UNCED process, Solomon Islands with the assistance of SPREP has produced NEMS (National Environment Management Strategy) which outlines priority areas, actions to be taken at national level and identify areas where possible assistance might be needed from external sources. We have also been involved in reviewing and enacting legislations relating to utilisation of our natural resources both marine and land, carry out structural adjustment, streamlining Government bureaucracy and we are currently working on a plan of action generated from Agenda 21. We look forward to including in our planning strategy elements from the Barbados Agreed plan of Action, those which directly require action to be taken at national level. My delegation renders its full support and urges that it be endorsed by consensus. It is hoped that the international community will also take on appropriate action in the implementation of the Programme of Action including financial commitment.

Solomon Islands attaches great importance to the entire Programme of Action. Developed countries which have publicly indicated their commitment to the Programme of Action, not only give us reassurance and hope, but also deepens mutual understanding necessary for the forging of this new partnership. We too pledge to do our part in carrying out our responsibilities.

At this juncture, acknowledgement and tribute must be paid to Governments, the UN Secretariat and agencies, Organisations, NGO community, the media and individuals who have been burning the midnight oil since Rio to enable us to conclude the first Global Conference with an agreed document. This is the first test of international co-operation translated into a Programme of Action underpinning the very much needed partnership which will drive us from Barbados and into the 21st Century.

Mr Chairman,

I like to highlight one area of highest priority on our agenda. I am aware that there are other major initiatives being undertaken at international level; population and development and the social summit, these processes I hope will form a common World Action Programme for development - an agenda for development. However, Solomon Islands places human beings at the centre of concerns of sustainable development. Therefore significant attention must be given to projects which will enhance the quality of human life in our country. We feel the following elements of human resource development form the foundation of our concern:

**Capacity building, Institutional strengthening, Population control, Family as an institution, Women and reproductive health, Child care, Food and nutrition, Housing and sanitation, Disposal of waste, Environmental health, Education and training, technology transfer, Adult education, Human infrastructure - cultural development.**

Mr Chairman,

Without addressing the need to develop the human resource of our country, the implementation of the Programme of Action, will be greatly hampered. We believe there are certain basic prerequisites to development one of which is the sustainable development of human beings.

In other words sustainable development corresponds to the development of the human resource of a country. Solomon Islands recognises the need to address the gender equity and women in development as a critical element of human resource development.

I believe that if we are going to maintain existing and forge new partnerships whether it be in the form of a declaration, a Programme of Action or a written communique, our first and foremost responsibility is not finance, though essential it may be, but the sustainable development of the human population.

It is critically important to understand and appreciate the needs and problems of others with whom the partnership is to be enhanced. Barbados should be seen as the first intersection on the road from Rio. The green light is on. We must not stop here.

Mr Chairman,

I thank You



**Statement to the Global Conference on the Sustainable  
Development of Small Island Developing States  
Bridgetown, Barbados, 2 May 1994**

**Mr Sione Tongilava  
First Alternate Head of Delegation of Tonga**

Mr President, His Excellency the Rt. Honourable Erskine Sandiford Prime Minister and Head of Government of Barbados, Excellencies the Heads of States and Heads of Governments, Distinguished and permanent Representatives of United Nations Member States, Distinguished Member States of the United Nations Regional Commissions, Distinguished Representatives of the United Nations, Specialised Agencies, Distinguished Representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations, Distinguished Representatives of the United Nations Secretariat for the excellent organisation of this historic conference. Honoured representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr President, our delegation extends to you with great respects our most sincere and heartfelt congratulation on your having being elected to chair this monumental and historic Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States. Please extend to your government our delegation's deep appreciation and admiration in the farsighted decision which made your government offered to invite the United Nations to hold its First Global Conference of Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States here in Barbados.

We also like to extend to the people of Barbados our most sincere gratitude for the genuine hospitality offered to members of our delegation which surely will occupy soft spots in our hearts and memories for a long time to come.

Mr President, my statement is only but a prelude to our delegation's official statement which will be delivered by H.E. Baron Vaea, Prime Minister of Tonga on Thursday afternoon, 5th May 1994 during the high-level segment programme of the global conference.

Mr President, when the Brundtland Commission coined the phrase "Our Common Future" the small island developing states of the world including Tonga expected a new and equitable global partnership of development criteria to emerge and in particular the Rio Agenda 21 declared in the introductory statement in 1989 that the General Assembly called for a global meeting to devise integrated strategies that would halt and reverse the negative impact of human behaviour on the physical environment and promote environmental sustainable economic development in all countries. And the Agenda 21 Agreements which were negotiated two and a half years before the Rio Earth Summit declared and unanimously agreed and approved 27 Principles as the guiding lights for the 21st Century and beyond.

And now Mr President the United Nations in its wisdom has adopted Agenda 21, and the world community, by adopting this political commitment at the highest level on development and environment cooperation is a key-word on sustainable development and by co-operation the world community must work together to protect the fragilities and vulnerabilities of the physical and the human environment of the small islands developing states and at the same time strictly adhere to the principles of sustainable development in Agenda 21.

I do not think Mr President that it is wise to ignore the interests and concerns of the small island developing states since they were really given the unquestionable mandate by nature itself from the beginning of time and history to live, inhabit in an area which is 1/5 of the earth surface. We must work together to safeguard our 'common future'.

Mr President, the world's great religions do have sacred documents which set out the rules to guide the behaviours of the believers of a particular religious body. The Christian religion calls its book the Holy Bible and my country to a large extent is a member of that group. What I am trying to demonstrate in this moral analogy is the totality of the belief of the people of Tonga in the Bible. And now, our Bible is undergoing another retranslation directly from the Creek, Hebrew and the King James English version. This is the fourth retranslation of the Holy Book into the Tongan language since its arrival in Tonga 168 years ago. This exercise is only but an upgrading of the last translation into the modern day language.

The Bible of the environment was first written in Stockholm in 1972 and it was upgraded into the modern day language in Rio in 1992, under the title of Agenda 21. It sets out all the guiding principles of Sustainable Development which is why distinguished leaders of the world community from both the developed and the developing countries, the rich and the poor countries, the big and the small countries and finally the small island developing states assemble here now in Barbados to find ways and means of how to help the sustainable development of the small island developing states

Mr President, this is the first major follow-up Global Conference after Rio and particularly to test whether the Earth Charter declaration of the environmental Bible could be implemented according to the obligations and dedications agreed to in Rio. The great thing about the Holy Bible is that the true believers still believe Almighty God during time of sorrow, during time of suffering, during time of danger, during time of turmoil and during time of temptation. But above all the Holy Bible says that it is better to give than to receive. Therefore, Rio Principle 16 states that the polluter bears the cost of the pollution. In other words it is better for the rich polluters to give more than to let the small island developing states receive the polluters greenhouse gases such as CFCs and CO2 to cite only a few. How right and true the Biblical concept is of better to give than to receive.

Mr President, in the Main Committee's debates in Room 2 last week participants started to use the term 'where appropriate' to the Rio Declaration for example Principle 22 states I quote, "Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognise and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development," unquote. It is now questioned in the debate in the Main Committee whether indigenous people could be employed in the management of regional sustainable development projects,

Mr President, if say 100 years from 1994 towards the end of the 21st century in the year 2094 the United Nations will reconvene the 21 Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Two things will happen, one of good news and of course one of bad news. The good news is that perhaps 10 or more will be elevated to the developed and the rich countries. The bad news is that may be some of the low lying island developing states will become dinosaurs and disappear into the sea as the result of more emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by the polluters.

Mr President, two of the most famous statements of modern history were those given by Abraham Lincoln in Getysberg when he said that the government of the people by the people for the people shall not be perished from the earth and the other by Wiston Churchill when he addressed the British House of Commons in 1940 with the offer of blood, toil, tears and sweat. These two immortal statements were received only with token applause. No standing ovations but history is still vibrating with the prolongation of these two everlasting statements.

In closing Mr President, Abraham Lincoln once said, I quote "That my greatest task when I walk, on the earth is to pluck and uproot thorn bushes from the ground and to replant roses," unquote what actually what he meant was not to pollute the environment but to develop sound sustainable development for future generations to enjoy. Thank you, Mr President.

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where we have become wiser and therefore accepted, that development is not concerned only with rapid economic growth and meeting basic human needs; but it also requires us to indulge in using environmental resources in a more frugal manner. In other words, we are increasingly being challenged to use, conserve and enhance our resource bases so that the ecological processes on which life depends are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be maintained.

In the context of Small Island Developing States, sustainable development is a monumental undertaking, but I trust that through our cooperative efforts here in Barbados we will become wiser, more resilient and be able to come up with a "realistic approach" which will lead us toward sustainable development. I emphasise realistic approach to highlight the fact that it is not going to be easy and perhaps our own experience in Tonga as a small island developing state is common to most island states.

As a small island in the South Pacific, Tonga is beset by a host of obstacles in its endeavour toward sustainable development. With 172 small islands covering a total land area of 747 square kilometres, the country as a whole is not endowed with the basic resources which are needed for effecting sustainable development. We have in the past, in our endeavour to achieve better quality of life for our people, put our scarce and fragile resources at risk: natural forest cover depleting; soil fertility receding; underground water quality is being threatened by pollution; and nearshore marine resources overfished, but to name a few. But whilst we were in these difficult situations, we were also somewhat fortunate that international, regional, sub-regional institutions and organisations did not fail to respond to our call for assistance. Much, more of course remains to be done and we look forward to closer cooperation with them in the near future.

With the present emphasis on sustainable development, we accept that the onus is on us to work toward this goal. However, Tonga cannot by itself succeed in achieving this goal; it will continue to need the guidance and assistance of the international community in the follow up implementation after Barbados. Further, there is also requirement for the Small Island Developing States to play their parts in putting to practice the necessary reforms which are vital for sustainable development. What is therefore needed at this point in time is for this conference to refine the conceptualisation of sustainable development so that it will have practical application in Small Island Developing States. Provided we do this, I am sure that the international community and our respective Small Island Developing States will need to have a clear Action Plan in pursuing the goal of sustainable development.

AN ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER  
KINGDOM OF TONGA,  
BARON VAEA  
TO THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, BARBADOS.

Your Excellency, the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, President and Most Distinguished Host for the United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Distinguished Representatives of the Member-States of the United Nations; Distinguished Representatives of the United Nations Participating-Governments; Distinguished Representatives of the Non-Governmental Organisations; Distinguished Representatives of the United Nations-Specialised Agencies; Distinguished Representatives of International Financial Institutions; Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr President, I convey to you and to this historic Summit Meeting, greeting of best wishes from His Majesty's Government and People of the Kingdom of Tonga. It is our most sincere hope that this conference through your able leadership Mr President, will lay down the foundation for a realistic translation of the popular concept of sustainable development for practical application in the context of Small Island Developing States. May I also extend through you Mr President, to the Government and People of Barbados, our gratitude for the generous hospitality that has been extended to all members of my delegation. We indeed feel at home in your beautiful island state and our experience here will, remain to become fond memories for a long time. Mr President, I would like to express to you personally our sincere appreciation of your kind invitation to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga to participate in this conference.

Mr President, our gathering here in this small island developing state in the Caribbean region is a significant indication of our willingness to chart a new approach to integrating environment and sustainable development in Small Island Developing States. As a Small Island Developing State, we in Tonga, have in the past treated these two intrinsic parts of the development process as separate entities. The emphasis being focussed on economic growth alone; we were merely following living experience. I am glad that this same experience has taken us to a point

In conclusion Mr President, I believe the message transmitted to us Small Island Developing States from the Rio Earth Summit Agenda 21, 1992, has been received loud and clear, and now, the role of successfully implementing it will undoubtedly, be a matter of universal concern. I believe the role of rectification and amendment of the global manmade adverse threat to life on board our spaceship earth, would regrettably be associated with our global current generation by future researchers and historians that is, the generation that oversee global development at the adjoining period of the 20th and 21st centuries. Mr President, whatever actions and strategies that we will jointly decide to take, on the theme of our conference "sustainable development", may, amicable cooperation, commitment, hope and trust be always incorporated into all our endeavours.

Thank you.



Remarks of the Honorable Elinor G. Constable  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Bureau of Oceans and International Scientific and  
Environmental Affairs  
United States of America  
To The  
United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable  
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islands are carried forward to the Washington meeting, and are addressed in response to the work we do here.

The U.S. has collaborated actively with UNEP to promote the development of a protocol on land-based sources of marine pollution for the wider Caribbean region (under the Cartagena Convention). In a recent meeting of experts in Puerto Rico, we urged that negotiations on this protocol begin. We hope the countries of the wider Caribbean, including the U.S., will move forward together to prevent further pollution of our waters.

The U.S. also recognizes that climate change and its associated impacts, especially sea level rise, are of particular concern to small island developing States, and we are committed to doing our part in addressing these issues. We were the first of the industrialized countries to ratify the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and President Clinton has promised that the U.S. will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels by the year 2000. This past October, he released the national action plan for climate change, which is the U.S. blueprint for achieving this objective. We are searching for additional steps we can take to carry us into the next century.

The U.S. Climate Change Country Study initiative is currently assisting several island governments in their efforts to address the potential impacts of climate change, including sea level rise. The initiative provides technical assistance and financial support to conduct inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, and to develop adaptation plans, including integrated coastal management planning, as a response to sea level rise, and other aspects of climate variability.

In keeping with the spirit of Rio, this Administration has made it clear that sustainable development is a national priority. It is at the heart of President Clinton's establishment of the President's Council on Sustainable Development, a national forum for partnerships among public, private and non-governmental communities to develop national strategies, including sustainable communities.

Sustainable development must ensure conservation and stewardship of natural resources. For many small island states, coral reefs and their related ecosystems -- mangroves and seagrass beds -- are the foundations upon which local livelihoods, cultures, and indeed the islands themselves, are built. In terms of biodiversity, these ecosystems are among the richest in the world, equivalent to the tropical rain forests on land.

The health of these ecosystems is rapidly declining. By some estimates, over ten percent of the world's coral reefs have been degraded beyond recovery, and another thirty percent may face the same fate over the next ten years. The problems often result from development, including sedimentation, pollution, overfishing, and agricultural drainage. But they are also caused by global factors -- including climate change and ozone depletion. The response, therefore, must be global in scope, one in which nations join in partnerships to halt and reverse this degradation. These rich resources are important to the global community, and essential to many islands peoples' livelihoods.

We know how to solve many of these problems. As Gus Speth pointed out earlier at this meeting, coral mining can be ended, and marine protected areas can be established. Integrated coastal zone management can be employed. The international community can work together to address climate change and ozone depletion. We believe that through international cooperation, new programs can be developed in which developing and developed countries work together, in partnership, to address the crises that these ecosystems now face.

I encourage you to read the information briefs presented by the United States. These describe the general approach we are taking and many of the programs we currently support in small islands, both domestically and internationally.

Much of this conference has and will focus on the issue of financial resources to support sustainable development, as this issue is a necessary and critical component of the implementation of the Programme of Action. Mr. President, we all know there is never enough money. This perennial problem is also our most serious challenge. As our government prepared for this conference, we looked at our current activities, with an eye towards comparing the draft Programme of Action to our current programs. This comparison was informative.

The U.S. is a major contributor to development assistance to small island States through our bilateral assistance, the World Bank, the regional development banks, and other multilateral assistance agencies. The U.S. has been very proactive with these organizations in promoting policies and procedures to ensure that the financing we provide truly promotes sustainable development. These include environmental impact assessments, energy efficiency, and improved integrated coastal resource environmental management. We think these sound practices should be an integral part of their development assistance activities. We also welcomed Gus Speth's call for a Barbados "Renewable Energy" Initiative and would urge that relevant multilateral and

bilateral financing agencies contribute to promoting greater use of renewables in small island developing States.

The World Bank and regional development banks represent large sources of funds for development. Multilateral development banks should be encouraged to finance and support smaller institutions such as community banks. Small scale grants and microenterprise loans, if implemented properly, can provide important new sources of financing. We will be vigilant in encouraging development assistance organizations to which we contribute to provide assistance aimed at the sustainable development of small island developing states. Case in point: next week the Asian Development Bank's board will meet. We should work to place the small island developing states' Programme of Action on their agenda.

Innovative financing mechanisms are receiving increased attention, including at this conference and recently at the meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development's ad hoc working group on finance. We strongly support the exploration of such mechanisms along with the improved effectiveness and the setting of priorities of existing bilateral and multilateral assistance toward sustainable development goals. At the same time, we must move forward to give some content and meaning to what these innovative financing mechanisms are and put them into practice.

For example, like the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Bhutan, Papua New Guinea, Bolivia and Panama have created or are creating trust funds whose boards are made up of representatives from the public and private sectors, including NGO's. These funds are transparent in operation and accountability.

My government wants the Commission on Sustainable Development to be a vital mechanism for promoting international partnership and cooperation, and we believe that the CSD could place more emphasis on creative national and regional funding mechanisms.

Recent negotiations on the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have confirmed the intention of donors to reach the target \$2 billion replenishment level. The U.S. pledged to provide \$430 million to the restructured facility, a significant contribution. We expect the restructured GEF to play an important role in implementing the Programme of Action.

The U.S. is taking a new look at our assistance resources in order to become more responsive to the concerns of small island developing States. Moreover, we are prepared to explore how our export finance agencies and trade promotion programs might

contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, through increased emphasis on facilitating the export of environmentally sound technologies to small islands.

Some of the most innovative sustainable development projects are being undertaken by NGOs and local communities. We encourage governments to enter into partnerships with nongovernmental groups in planning and implementing environment and development actions. Sustainable development requires both top-down and bottom-up efforts.

We recognize that the related challenges of environmental protection and sustainable development find sharp expression in the situation of small island developing states. These states, like all countries, can achieve sustainable development. But achieving this objective is not easy for any of us. We owe it to ourselves to work together for our common good, because we all share the risks of failure. This conference is a unique opportunity to develop a model for sustainable development in the context of small island developing states which can inspire us all. I look forward to working with you to develop a Programme of Action that will lead to concrete results. Let us pledge ourselves to achieve this goal.

Thank you.

Remarks of the Honorable Elinor G. Constable  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Bureau of Oceans and International Scientific and  
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United States of America  
To The  
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Development of Small Island Developing States  
April 29, 1994

Mr. President, distinguished heads of state and government, ministers, your excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen:

Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address this conference. On behalf of the U.S. delegation, I want to express our most sincere appreciation to the people of Barbados for their warm hospitality and leadership in organizing this conference.

At the Earth Summit in Rio, the peoples of the world made it known that we all belong to a single global community. To be sure, our countries come in different sizes and shapes. Some are richer; some are more populous. But we are all interconnected; what each does affects others. We sometimes hear it said that the problems small island developing States face from climate change -- or the challenges they confront in pursuing sustainable development -- are the same as we might face in the U.S. This surely is not so. The problems are different. What is the same is the risk: the risk to our global community if we do not take care of our environment, if we do not safeguard the future through the sustainable development of all of our nations and peoples.

We decided at Rio that we must have a common agenda to deal effectively with the related problems of environment and development. We recognized that none of us can accomplish this alone.

UNCED called for this conference on sustainable development of small island developing States to bring special attention to the problems that small islands face as they look to the future. We have worked closely with you through the last year to identify the special concerns of small island developing States and to build partnerships to address those concerns. Working together on these vital issues is of utmost importance to the U.S. and to the success of all our futures.

As a member of both the Caribbean region and the Pacific region, the U.S. has a very real partnership with many small island developing States. We have been closely tied to small island States in the Caribbean and the Pacific for over a century. We draw from our experiences in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and the State of Hawaii. These islands and their people face many of the same problems as the independent and freely associated states of the Pacific Caribbean and Indian Ocean regions. For example, we have worked with our insular areas to develop new programs aimed specifically at protecting invaluable coastal resources, including coral reefs. The lessons learned from these and other experiences in coastal zone management are being drawn upon as we support the members of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program in their development of an integrated coastal zone management scheme.

The small islands developing States Programme of Action can and must be seen as a model for the rest of the world in implementing the goals of the earth summit. We intend to take the results of this conference forward in our bilateral and multilateral relationships. As Ambassador Wensley said in his remarks earlier this week, "We know that small islands have big problems, but in addressing their problems we can help find solutions for problems that are not unique to island States but which are of profound importance for us all." The wisdom of his observation has been recognized throughout this conference. The sustainable development of small island developing states is important to all of us.

The Programme of Action must not become just another document sitting on a dusty shelf. Instead, let it become the ship we use to navigate our way to collaborative, creative and concrete results reflecting mutual commitment to sustainable development in small island developing states. My country is committed to developing a Programme of Action that is not practical and meaningful.

We want to ensure that this conference is part of the continuum of world activity following Rio, that it builds upon the work that has been done and contributes to the work yet to come. As the first conference to address the specific implementation of Agenda 21, it is critically important to foster discussions in many arenas. Of particular interest to this conference is the upcoming UNEP Intergovernmental Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Use Activities. The U.S. will host this meeting in November 1991 in Washington. We should work to ensure that the issues facing small



REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY E WIRTH  
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
May 5, 1994

Remarks of the Honorable Timothy E. Wirth  
Under Secretary of State  
United States of America  
To The  
United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable  
Development of Small Island Developing States  
May 5, 1994

Thank you Mr. Prime Minister and distinguished delegates.

Standing here on this beautiful island it is hard to picture the challenges facing small island developing states that have been identified during the past two weeks. The idea of an island is frequently associated in the human mind with refuge from ordinary cares. But we realize that today many small islands face unprecedented threats to their environment and tremendous challenges in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The Earth Summit recognized these problems and called for this conference to be held in order to bring special attention to the problems facing the small island developing states. Our delegations have worked hard and well throughout these past two weeks to identify and define the specific concerns and needs of these nations.

Now, we must turn our attention to implementing a sound, effective program of action that can help ensure the sustainable development of small island states. As is clear from the work done thus far, this will require a concerted and sustained international commitment. However, it is also clear from the events of these past two weeks that there is no lack of commitment to taking action in this area.

First we must begin with climate change, which, with its potential for sea level rise, presents such a forbidding prospect for the future of many small island states. The United States considers addressing climate change to be a very high priority and we are committed to a global partnership in this area. As a initial step, we are committed to limiting U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels by the year 2000. We urge all developed countries to take the steps necessary to achieve their national commitments for limiting emissions this century.

However, we recognize that even if these measures are implemented, atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases will continue to grow, thus increasing the potential for sea level rise and other severe global consequences. We therefore believe international discussions need to begin now with regard to what steps should be taken for the period after the year 2000. A strong, sustained program of action in the area of climate



outbreak of coral bleaching in French Polynesia is just one more sign of the seriousness of this problem. Some sources estimate that ten percent of all coral reefs have been degraded beyond recovery, and another thirty percent will be in peril over the next ten to twenty years. This is of particular concern to us here because coral reefs are an essential resource base for the sustainable development of many small island states, and a rich resource of bio-diversity, key to the discovery of new foods, fiber, fuel and pharmaceuticals for our children and grandchildren.

The United States believes that we must all begin to work together now to halt this alarming trend. As a first step in this effort, I am pleased to announce that the United States is developing a multifaceted Coral Reef Initiative. Plans for its core elements include strengthening countries' capacity to preserve, manage, and protect such ecosystems, and improving research and monitoring for management and sustainable development. As this Initiative becomes more fully developed, we will invite partnerships with other countries and entities, including non-governmental organizations, in what will need to become a truly international effort.

We intend to invite key countries, international organizations, and NGO's to a proposed intersessional meeting under the auspices of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development by early 1995. We hope to focus attention on coral reef ecosystems and provide an opportunity for substantive and pragmatic discussion about how we can all cooperate in protecting these vital resources. If we can address the threats to coral reefs, like marine pollution and coastal zone degradation, we will also address many fundamental challenges to the sustainable development of small island states.

Finally, if we are to realize all the ambitious goals set out during these past two weeks, a unified international effort will be needed. This will include an unprecedented degree of cooperation among the major funding sources for sustainable development, including bilateral donors, multilateral development banks, and the private sector. It will require what Prime Minister Sandiford so well described this morning on a new concept of multi-lateralism. It will require new and imaginative forms of financing, including debt for nature, public-private partnerships, and the promise of intellectual property protection combined with the enormous patrimony from nature's diversity. It will require the full engagement of non-governmental organizations, some of the most effective and creative institutions available to carry out the mandate of sustainable development and, at the same time, to hold governments accountable. And from our perspective from the United States of America, it will require what President Clinton and Vice President Gore have called a new partnership: we look

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, NOUS CONSIDERONS CETTE CONFERENCE MONDIALE SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES EN DEVELOPPEMENT COMME UNE OCCASION FORMIDABLE DE NOUS ENGAGER AVEC D'AUTRES PARTENAIRES SPECIALEMENT ET EXCLUSIVEMENT SUR NOS DIFFICULTES. IL S'AGIT EN EFFET DE LA PREMIERE FOIS QUE LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE SE CONCENTRE AINSI SUR LES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES.

LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU EST L'UN DES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES DU PACIFIQUE SUD. NOUS SOMMES PETITS PAR NOTRE POPULATION ET NOTRE SUPERFICIE ET NOTRE SURVIE DEPEND ENTIEREMENT DE NOS RESSOURCES BIEN LIMITEES. MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, NOTRE TROISIEME PLAN QUINQUENNAL DE DEVELOPPEMENT - 1992-1996 - RECOUVRE TROIS THEMES MAJEURS:

- 1) LE DEVELOPPEMENT QUI CONTRIBUE A L'AUTOSUFFISANCE ECONOMIQUE;
- 2) LE DEVELOPPEMENT QUI AMELIORE LA QUALITE DE VIE DE LA POPULATION RURALE;
- 3) LE DEVELOPPEMENT QUI ABOUTIT A UN EQUILIBRE ENTRE LES REGIONS.

PLUSIEURS PRINCIPES PRIMAIRES ONT ETE RECOMMANDEES A TOUS LES INTERVENANTS AU PROCESSUS DE DEVELOPPEMENT POUR ASSURER QUE CES THEMES SE TRADUISENT DANS LES TOUS LES ASPECTS DE LA PLANIFICATION ET DE LA MISE EN OEUVRE DES PROJETS. CES PRINCIPES SONT LA DURABILITE, LA PARTICIPATION COMMUNAUTAIRE, L'ETABLISSEMENT DES PRIORITES. BIEN QUE BEAUCOUP DE NI-VANUATU DES REGIONS RURALES ONT EU ACCES A L'EAU POTABLE, AUX SOINS DE SANTE, AUX ROUTES ET AEROPORTS, D'AUTRES AU CONTRAIRE ONT PERDU ACCES A CES INFRASTRUCTURES. POUR AVOIR UNE REELLE VALEUR, C'EST-A-DIRE UN IMPACT A LONG TERME, LE DEVELOPPEMENT DOIT ETRE DURABLE. LE DEVELOPPEMENT NE PEUT ETRE DURABLE QUE SI LES BENEFICIAIRES (DU VILLAGE AU PLUS HAUT NIVEAU DU GOUVERNEMENT) AIENT ETE IMPLIQUES DANS TOUS LES ETAPES DU PROCESSUS DE DEVELOPPEMENT, A SAVOIR: L'IDENTIFICATION DES BESOINS, LA DETERMINATION ET LA MISE EN OEUVRE DES PROGRAMMES AINSI QUE LA CAPACITE A ENTREtenir ET A MAINTENIR CES PROJETS.

SON EXCELLENCE L'HONORABLE ERSKINE SANDIFORD

PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA BARBADE

ET PRESIDENT DE CETTE CONFERENCE

EXCELLENCES

DISTINGUES COLLEGUES

MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS,

JE VOUDRAIS ME JOINDRE AUX DISTINGUES COLLEGUES QUI M'ONT PRECEDES POUR VOUS FELICITER , MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT POUR VOTRE NOMINATION EN TANT QUE PRESIDENT DE CETTE PREMIERE CONFERENCE MONDIALE SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES EN DEVELOPPEMENT.

JE SAISIS CETTE OCCASION POUR VOUS EXPRIMER NOTRE APPRECIATION ET NOTRE GRATITUDE AU GOUVERNEMENT AINSI QU'AU PEUPLE DE LA BARBADE POUR AVOIR BIEN VOULU ACCUEILLIR CETTE CONFERENCE ET POUR L'HOSPITALITE QUI NOUS EST ACCORDEE DURANT NOTRE SEJOUR DANS VOTRE BEAU PAYS.

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, LE SOMMET DE RIO DE JANEIRO EN 1992 A NECESSITE PLUSIEURS ANNEES DE TRAVAIL, DEUX ANNEES VONT BIENTOT S'ECOULER DEPUIS QUE NOUS NOUS SOMMES REUNIS A RIO DANS LE CADRE DE LA CONFERENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT. C'ETAIT DURANT CETTE CONFERENCE QUE NOUS AVIONS REUSSI A SENSIBILISER LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE SUR LES DIFFICULTES QUI NOUS ACCABLENT ET SUR NOS SOUCIS PARTICULIERS. L'INITIATION DE LA CONFERENCE DE LA BARBADE A NECESSITE LA CONTRIBUTION DE NOMBREUSES ORGANISATIONS TANT GOUVERNEMENTALES QUE NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES, DES MEDIAS AINSI QUE DE LA BONNE VOLONTE DE CERTAINES FORTES PERSONNALITES. NOUS SOMMES HEUREUX D'AVOIR PU CONTRIBUER AUX DIVERSES NEGOCIATIONS AYANT ABOUTI A LA TENUE DE CETTE CONFERENCE SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE.

NOUVELLES FORMES NOVATRICES DE PARTENARIAT ENTRE LES PEUPLES. UN TEL PARTENARIAT DOIT SE REPERCUTER JUSQU'AU NIVEAU DES COMMUNAUTES LOCALES QUI INFLUENCENT PROFONDEMENT LA VIE DES PEUPLES. L'ABOUTISSEMENT DE NOS DELIBERATIONS DEPEND ENORMEMENT DE LA COOPERATION QUE NOUS POURRONS ETABLIR AVEC LES PAYS ET INSTITUTIONS BAILLEURS DE FONDS EN VUE DE LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PROGRAMME D'ACTION.

POUR LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU, NOUS SOUHAITERIONS VOIR LES CONCRETISATIONS DE NOS DECISIONS A TOUS LES NIVEAUX, A SAVOIR AU NIVEAU LOCAL, REGIONAL ET INTERNATIONAL. LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PROGRAMME D'ACTION ADOPTE A BRIDGETOWN NECESSITERA NOTRE ENGAGEMENT CONTINUE AINSI QUE CELUI DES BAILLEURS DE FONDS. TOUT EN ACCEPTANT NOTRE RESPONSABILITE A ASSURER LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PROGRAMME D'ACTION, NOUS SOUHAITERIONS QUE L'ACCES AUX FACILITES DISPONIBLES DANS LE CADRE DE CE PROGRAMME NOUS SOIT FACILITE, PLUS PARTICULIEREMENT AU PROFIT DE CES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES LES MOINS AVANCES ECONOMIQUEMENT ET LES PLUS VULNERABLES ECOLOGIQUEMENT. NOUS AVONS ACCOMPLI DES PROGRES DEPUIS LE SOMMET DE LA TERRE ET NOUS CONTINUERONS A AGIR DANS CE SENS APRES LA CONFERENCE DE LA BARBADE.

NOUS AVONS APPRIS DE NOS PROPRES ERREURS ET DE CELLES DE NOS VOISINS. NOUS SERONS DESORMAIS FERME A NE PAS ENGAGER NOS RESSOURCES A NOTRE DESAVANTAGE. AU TERME DE CETTE CONFERENCE ET LORSQUE NOUS QUITTERONS LA BARBADE, PUISSONS-NOUS NOUS RAPPELER QUE NOS ILES, QUE NOTRE MONDE NOUS ONT ETE LEGUES AFIN QU'A NOTRE TOUR NOUS LES LEGUIONS AUX GENERATIONS FUTURES. NOUS NE SOUHAITONS PAS, J'EN SUIS CONVAINCU, QUE NOS GENERATIONS FUTURES SOIENT LES VICTIMES DES DECISIONS ET DEVELOPPEMENT D'AUJOURD'HUI.

JE CONCLUERAI, MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, EN CITANT LA BIBLE: "DIEU A CREE L'HOMME AFIN QU'IL PROTEGE SES CREATIONS ET QU'IL NE LES DETRUISE".

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT,  
EXCELLENCES,  
MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS,

JE VOUS REMERCIE DE VOTRE ATTENTION.

SON EXCELLENCE L'HONORABLE MAXIME CARLOT KORMAN  
PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU



UNE POPULATION DE 160,000 HABITANTS PLUS D'UNE CENTAINE DE LANGUES SONT PARLEES. COMPARATIVEMENT AUX AUTRES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES, L'UN DE NOS SOUCIS PRIMORDIAUX DEMEURE LA CROISSANCE DE NOTRE POPULATION. MALGRE LES PROGRES ACCOMPLIS, IL RESTE BEAUCOUP A FAIRE. LE PROBLEME CRUCIAL ACTUEL CONCERNE LES 80% DE NOS ENFANTS QUI QUITTENT L'ECOLE PRIMAIRE CHAQUE ANNEE. DES PROGRAMMES D'EDUCATION FORMELLE ET INFORMELLE ET DE FORMATION SONT MIS EN OEUVRE PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT ET DIVERSES AGENCES EN VUE DE FAIRE FACE A CE PROBLEME. LE GOUVERNEMENT, AVEC L'AIDE DE CES DIVERSES AGENCES, ASSISTE ET ENCOURAGE LES JEUNES FEMMES ET JEUNES GENS DANS LEUR QUETE DE QUALIFICATION, DE SAVOIR ET DE RESSOURCES, AFIN DE LEUR DONNER L'OCCASION DE CONTRIBUER AU DEVELOPPEMENT SOCIAL, ECONOMIQUE, CULTUREL ET SPIRITUEL DE LEUR FAMILLE, LEUR COMMUNAUTE ET DE LEUR PAYS. LE GOUVERNEMENT DE VANUATU A DECLARE L'ANNEE 1994 COMME "L'ANNEE DES JEUNES NI-VANUATU", AFIN DE SENSIBILISER LE SECTEUR PUBLIC ET LE SECTEUR PRIVE DES BESOINS PARTICULIERS DE LA GRANDE PORTION DE LA POPULATION DE VANUATU.

MESURANT LES BESOINS DE NOTRE PEUPLE ET LES BESOINS DE DEVELOPPEMENT DE NOTRE PAYS, NOUS REALISONS LES DIFFICULTES QUE NOUS AVONS ET QUE NOUS AURONS A LES ASSOUVIR COMPTE TENU DU MANQUE DE RESSOURCES FINANCIERES, DU SAVOIR-FAIRE TECHNOLOGIQUE ET DU MANQUE DE RESSOURCES HUMAINES QUALIFIEES DISPONIBLES DANS NOTRE PAYS. NOTRE PETITE TAILLE AINSI QUE LA DISTANCE QUI NOUS SEPRE DES PRINCIPAUX MARCHES SIGNIFIENT QUE LA PROVISION DES SERVICES PRIMAIRES TELS QUE L'EDUCATION, LA SANTE, LE LOGEMENT, LE TRANSPORT, LA COMMUNICATION N'EST POSSIBLE QUE MOYENNANT UN PRIX EXORBITANT.

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, JE VOUDRAIS PAR AILLEURS SOULIGNER LE ROLE IMPORTANT QUE JOUE LES ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES DANS LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DE NOTRE PAYS. IL CONVIENT EGALEMENT DE RECONNAITRE LE ROLE DES MEDIAS DANS LA DIFFUSION DES INFORMATIONS SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE.

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT. CETTE CONFERENCE CONSTITUE LE POINT DE DEPART VERS UN DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DE NOS PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES EN DEVELOPPEMENT. L'HUMANITE EST A LA VEILLE D'UNE ERE NOUVELLE PLEINE DE PROMESSES MAIS CES PROMESSES NE POURRONT SE REALISER QU'AVEC DE



INTERVENTION

DE

SON EXCELLENCE L'HONORABLE MAXIME CARLOT KORMAN,  
PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

A LA CONFERENCE DES NATIONS UNIES  
SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE  
DES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES EN DEVELOPPEMENT

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADE  
DU 25 AVRIL AU 6 MAI 1994

*SAMOA*



PERMANENT MISSION OF SAMOA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Bridgetown, Barbados  
25 April - 6 May 1994

STATEMENT OF SAMOA  
DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR TULLOMA NERONI SLADE

GENERAL DEBATE  
28 April 1994

*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Mr President,

Samoa is proud and honoured to be here.

May I say that it is a matter of the greatest satisfaction to my delegation to see you, Sir, presiding over this historic Conference. It gives me the particular honour, on behalf of the Samoan Government and our people, to say how deeply grateful we are for the warmth of our reception in Barbados and the hospitality accorded us all. How typical of a small island to give in such large measure.

We are here because of the acknowledgments and commitments we, the international community, made in Rio. We acknowledged in Principle 6 of the Rio Declaration that the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed among them and those environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. The situation and needs of small island developing states, in our view, fall within Principle 6, by whatever manner of reading, be it the letter or the spirit of the Principle. Under Agenda 21 it is clear that small island developing states, and islands supporting small communities are a special case both for environment and development.

The acknowledgments made are clear. They are realistic, and they are acknowledgments of responsibilities. This is a Conference about responsibilities. For all of us - small state (for it must bear the primary burden) and large, developing and developed, poor and rich, island and non-island. The world community cannot continue with its present wasteful and environmentally damaging consumption habits and life-styles. For the small island developing states, there is added urgency, for ecological disturbances and threats of climate change are real enough.

From their position of disadvantage, small island states have had to seek out platforms and to raise high their voice. Together we must continue to do so in Barbados, and after Barbados. If at times there is emotion in that voice, it is because to islanders their islands are, first among all else, a matter deep of the heart.

Small island developing states face a range of handicaps, many quite severe. They are ecologically fragile and vulnerable and have all the environmental crises and challenges of other developing countries concentrated in a limited land area. Certainly they are most acute in small islands. Many face the threat of sea-level rise that comes with global warming, and the possibility of devastation. Most tropical islands, like my own, now experience the more



immediate impacts of increasing frequency of cyclones, storms and hurricanes associated with changing weather patterns. These events cause major set backs to socio-economic development. We know, because my own country has gone through the experience of two severe cyclones within the past four years.

The characteristics of small island developing states constitute critical impediments to their sustainable development efforts. It would be wrong to underestimate these, and wrong also to ignore the external factors which cause them. The environment of the Pacific is under threat from practices and events that have their origin outside the region, including climate change and the transboundary movement of wastes. There is immense diversity in our part of the world, with over 2000 ecosystems including flora and fauna found nowhere else in the world. In some islands more than 90 per cent of the endemic plants are now rare, threatened or extinct. The ecosystems under particular threat, and which are also of global conservation significance, are those which make up the region's tropical rainforests, coral reefs and wetlands.

We in the Pacific, indeed all island peoples, have a deep and critical attachment to our environment. The living natural resources of small island countries, including the surrounding ocean, are the basis for subsistence and for economic, social and cultural well being. Our traditions of environmental husbandry bear the greatest respect for nature's bounty and sustainability for the long-term survival of our people. With the warming climate and rising seas all this will be lost, our lands together with our living cultures.

A clean, safe and healthy marine ecosystem is vital to all small island developing states. Indeed, to all of us. It is why the Pacific countries are making a significant and determined effort to be actively engaged in the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. We support a strong and positive outcome from that Conference, as we do the international quest to determine an acceptable international code for responsible fishing.

It is also why the Pacific countries lead their strongest support to the call for urgent action to stop the depletion of living resources in the marine areas. Only days ago FAO denounced, and we thank them for doing so publicly, the fact that the principal commercial marine species are being devastated by modern subsidised fishing fleets with their sophisticated advanced technology. We are especially concerned because the waters of the Pacific islands constitute the largest tuna fishing area, yielding over 85 per cent of the world catch.

Because the options are limited, there are major and complex challenges to planning and to implementing sustainable development for small island developing states. And there are serious constraints in meeting these challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community. The very fact of our gathering here in this global conference to consider the sustainable development of small islands developing states is clear testimony to the need for international cooperation and for partnership. It is the only way forward.

Let me add that it is not simply the complexity and not simply the constraints that warrant that cooperation. It is because of the causes and the responsibility for what has happened to our world and for what is happening. It is because of the interdependence that now binds all countries and peoples. For surely what is measured out to small island developing states must reap results for us all.

We realise that the forging of partnerships is set for consideration at the High-Level-Segment, and our leaders will pronounce on that important theme in due time. But allow me to say at this juncture that any partnership for sustainable development must be based on mutual responsibility. Not aid. These are difficult and recessionary times. True. But we submit that the international support needed for sustainable development is a reach beyond aid and the funding of development aid projects.

The partnership that we speak of cannot be a partnership of equals, for the ingredients of equality are not there. There are too many disparities between the rich and the poor, between the large and the small. But we think it must be a true and an equitable partnership of global concern, to foster effective cooperation among states and societies. Clearly, there is need to recognise the vulnerabilities of small island developing states, and to allow for their capacities. There are also important partnerships that we must forge at the national and regional levels, with and among non-governmental organisations, women, and youth in particular. Their expertise, commitment and vitality must complement the endeavours of national governments.

For our part, Samoa accepts the primary responsibility for its environment and for the sustainable development of its islands. We believe in people-centred development and the need to instill and cultivate a culture of sustainability and self-reliance. We see this as an essential aspect of environmental responsibility. It is why we have, since Rio, developed a comprehensive national environment management strategy, and have taken steps to adhere to key international conventions and to take part in international consultations. But we would need to own up to our inability, alone, fully and properly to implement our national

strategy. Like many other small island developing states, certainly those that we know in our part of the world, Samoa lacks the capacity and the technical ability to fully undertake the task. In all frankness we need help.

All small island developing states need assistance. In many fields. And none more so and more critically than in the area of human resource development and capacity building. Wide-ranging skills are needed and all sectors of the community must be engaged. Technological capacity, scientific research, planning and sound management will be among the principal areas for attention. Technology, the right technology, is indispensable. Education and training will be the key. They will open the way to self-reliance and the creation of a pool of indigenous talent that can adapt and innovate - and who can, and must, take over from foreign consultants. We are told of the startling fact that over 90 per cent of technical assistance - now valued at more than \$12 billion a year - is spent on foreign consultants who come in the name of national capacity-building.

Much, indeed, will depend on the efforts of small island developing states. But they deserve and require an international system that lends strong support to these efforts. There is an overall need to effect the transition to sustainable development, and to reduce vulnerability.

The particular vulnerability of small island developing states to drug activity and the impact of that activity on their development has been mentioned in this debate. We have it from the United Nations International Drug Control Program that right now, and increasingly, the Pacific island countries are being used as drug trafficking transit points. Drugs in the hands of international criminal elements and money launderers have the grim potential to cause social and economic catastrophe. It is a sinister threat that all must recognise, and act against. We must achieve the level of cooperation necessary to enhance and make more vigilant the international reciprocal arrangements in criminal and judicial matters that are now in place. Above all, we must move to explore more sustaining and viable development possibilities.

The weaknesses and vulnerabilities of small island developing states mean that they must have substantially increased international support, on a sustained and dependable basis, to enable them to build the capacities and the stronger and more diversified economies they require to effect the transition to sustainable development and to reduce their vulnerability.

The Program of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing states to come out of this Conference is a vital step towards this.

Mr President, you will know from the draft now being negotiated that substantial parts of the draft Program of Action are to be undertaken at the national level. Rightly so, because there lies the primary responsibility. It demonstrates the commitment of small island developing states to do what they can.

We think we have the makings of a sound Program of Action. But one of our own concerns is to ensure the Program itself is sustainable. In my region, sustainable development has been the principal focus of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). SPREP has been prominent in the preparatory process of the Conference, and will no doubt need to continue to do so hereafter. The organisation has been of invaluable assistance to all of us small island states represented at this Conference. Samoa believes that SPREP and other like bodies dedicated to sustainable development are essential to the regional institutional mechanisms to support the Program of Action. SPREP is already the vehicle for a high degree of effective cooperation among the Pacific states and some major donor countries, as well as the United Nations system. Its responsibilities for sustainable development and the work that needs to be done is so crucial that such cooperation must continue and be enhanced.

For us in the Pacific, SPREP has worked well largely because it represents a clear and dedicated focus on the sustainable development of small island developing states. To implement the Program of Action effectively, we believe there is a critical need for the same clear and dedicated focus at the international level. For this reason, my delegation would strongly support the establishment of a clearly identifiable and competent entity within the United Nations Secretariat to support the inter-governmental and inter-agency work on the sustainable development of small island developing states.

Samoa believes deeply that the voice of small states must be heard, and that their viewpoint be taken seriously. They are the most exposed to the dangers and to loss. They have to live with the awful irony of being the most vulnerable, yet the least responsible. More critically, they would have pertinent and important contributions to make to global discussions on these issues. For all these reasons, we believe that small island developing states are entitled to participate in and should be given access to the decision-making levels of all important environment-related bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Global Environment Facility. My delegation will accordingly be working in this Conference for the establishment of the necessary foundation and the mechanisms to ensure such participation and access for small island developing states.

This Conference is history-making and singularly the most important development for small island developing states. We do not see it as terminating here. Rather, we must make it a high point in international cooperation, and see to it that the Program of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing states is firmly set as a milestone on the way towards global sustainability.

Thank you



ADDRESS OF FAASOOTAU LOA PATI  
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT  
WESTERN SAMOA  
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES  
BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, MAY 1994

1. Mr President, honourable heads of Governments, my distinguished colleagues. It is a pleasure and an honour for me to address this High-level Segment on the historic occasion of this Conference.

2. For my country, this Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States, holds the key to the commitments made in Rio. For what we do here in Bridgetown will be the hallmark for sustainable development for our entire world community. We are therefore grateful to the United Nations, to our developed country partners, to all those who worked long and hard to bring this Conference about. Most especially I ask you, Mr President, on behalf of the Government and people of Samoa, to express to the Government and people of Barbados, our deepest gratitude for this most memorable of settings, the warmth of your hospitality and the excellent arrangements.

3. Mr President, this occasion calls for us to look into the future. But it is necessary to reflect realistically on where we are now. Clear objectives and commitments were made in Rio. We have to ascertain that we have made progress, real progress, in addressing the concerns that brought us together in Rio. We have to be sure that we, all of us, are better prepared to take concrete action on those concerns as a result of this Conference.

4. For our part, Samoa accepts the primary responsibility for its own environmental problems. Since Rio, we have taken steps to draw up and to implement environmental management strategies and programmes. We have taken action necessary at the Governmental level, but have also involved our non-governmental organizations, communities, women and youth. Internationally, we are a party to and taking action to ratify the relevant conventions.

5. Mr President, during this brief period, we have experienced the many problems inherent in integrating development and environmental concerns. As expected, trading-off development and environmental benefits involve hard and unpopular choices. Our capacity to do all that we consider urgently necessary is very limited. There are many factors beyond our control, just as a lot of the expertise, technologies, and information necessary for our sustainable development, are beyond our reach.

6. The reality, of course, is that there is a need for all countries to work together, to support and assist one another in achieving sustainable development. For the sustainability of small island developing countries is as crucial to them as it is to the welfare of all other countries. That was clear in Rio, and has become abundantly so in the course of our work in Barbados.

7. Mr President, therein lies the essence of this Conference.

8. The theme set for the High-level Segment is both apt and timely: the forging of partnerships for sustainable development. Samoa believes that there is a vital need for true partnerships among rich and poor countries, within regions and within individual countries themselves. It is the only way forward. There is not one among us that can deal effectively or realistically with the common problems of climate change, transboundary movement of wastes and the conservation of biodiversity.

9. True partnerships must recognize the vulnerabilities of small island developing states and the inequalities of their position measured against that of developed countries. Above all, true partnership is about responsibilities and the acceptance of commitments. Developed countries have primary responsibilities under the Conventions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the use of ozone depleting substances, and in the use and transfer of clean and appropriate technologies. Partnership arrangements should not be used to sidestep these responsibilities.

10. Partnerships must also be forged within regions and regional groups, as with national government agencies and community based and grassroots groups. The joint management with resource owners of biodiversity conservation activities should be encouraged. Enabling mechanisms for ensuring the participation of communities in decision making related to programme and project planning and implementation should be established.

11. Mr President, in Rio, the special case of small islands was recognized. We expect the pledges and the promises of Rio to be made good in Barbados. The Programme of Action which has been developed and negotiated is not simply for the sustainable development of small island developing states but is an essential blueprint for our common welfare and future. It must be supported with adequate and firm commitments of resources at all levels. We expect all small island developing states, the innocent victims of climate change induced by practices of developed countries, to be allowed increased access to the resources, technologies and information to enable them to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

12. We have not delayed action for our own sustainable development. We will continue to so act after Barbados. We are hopeful, however, that our task will be made easier by the outcome of this Conference.

Thank you.



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme  
(SPREP)

Statement to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of  
Small Island Developing States  
Bridgetown, Barbados, 28 April, 1994

Vili A. Fuavao  
Director

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the intergovernmental environmental organisation, established in 1982 with a mandate to assist the 22 island countries and territories of the South Pacific Region to undertake activities aimed at environmental protection leading to sustainable development. As part of its technical support to the South Pacific region, SPREP played an active role assisting its member countries in the preparations for UNCED as well as providing continuing assistance in the post-UNCED period leading up to this Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. These latter preparations included an Experts Meeting held in Canberra, 5 - 7 May, 1993 and a Regional Technical Meeting for Indian and Pacific Oceans held in Port Vila, 31 May - 4 June, 1993, both of which enabled the South Pacific small island developing states (SIDS) to consolidate their views and present coordinated input to the draft Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. SPREP has also played an ongoing supportive role to its 22 island countries and territories and their Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) partners in the negotiating process of the draft Programme of Action.

From its long association with, and detailed knowledge of environmental protection issues of the small island developing states in the South Pacific, SPREP is aware of the importance of looking at sustainable development as a total package, to ensure consistency among a number of parallel international processes such as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Convention on Biological Diversity; the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, to name a few. Such consistency will ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach to sustainable development which is of vital importance to South Pacific island countries.

Like many other SIDS, our islands of the South Pacific occupy some of the smallest habitable land areas on earth and are extremely vulnerable to natural and human-induced disturbance of their fragile environments. Rising population growth in many of our South Pacific islands is placing a burden on the carrying capacity of the land, water and marine resources. There is the ever-persistent threat of sea level rise which has the potential to desolate some of our low-lying



atolls. Our common aspirations for improved living standards and economic development with attendant waste disposal and pollution problems create a recipe for potentially non-sustainable development of the South Pacific region's relatively scarce natural resources. However, our problems are not insurmountable because the South Pacific is blessed with an invaluable resource - a cooperative approach to regional development as an extension of traditional ways which place high value on cooperation and consensus in problem resolution. It is in this spirit that the South Pacific SIDS are working with SPREP to address their priority issues which include:

#### Climate Change and Sea-level Rise

As outlined in the draft Programme of Action, climate change, with attendant concerns for sea-level rise and impact on human health and social well-being, are of paramount concern to small island developing states (SIDS). The SIDS of the South Pacific have expressed concern that the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) does not contain targets and timetables for the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which are seen by SIDS as essential to address this issue in a meaningful way. It is their wish that a Protocol to the FCCC would provide a more definite plan for reduction of these emissions. A number of national, regional and international actions have been identified to make effective use of the FCCC and to build effectively on efforts to reduce uncertainty and develop appropriate response strategies. SPREP is continually assisting South Pacific SIDS with this work.

#### Management of Energy Resources

The absence of fossil fuel reserves in most of the South Pacific island countries, resulting in heavy dependence on imported fuel is seen as a major constraint to sustainable development. Given this and the unwanted side effects of fossil fuels, South Pacific SIDS wish to see greater research and development of environmentally friendly energy sources with capacity for commercial mass production.

#### Natural and Environmental Disaster Preparedness

South Pacific SIDS are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones with associated detrimental economic, social and environmental impact. These natural disasters are of special concern because of the size of the islands and their narrow resource base. The South Pacific SIDS welcome the initiative of the United Nations in proclaiming the 1990s as the "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction" and, through SPREP, are coordinating a regional report on natural disaster preparedness for the global conference to be held in Yokohama next month.

#### Environmentally Sound Management of Waste and Toxic Substances

This is an important issue for South Pacific SIDS. The urgency to find their own solutions is being addressed by the countries themselves through development of waste management strategies within their National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS). However, of major concern are wastes, produced elsewhere and often of a very hazardous nature, over which the South Pacific SIDS have little control. Concern over the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes within the South Pacific has resulted in the South Pacific Forum initiative to negotiate a regional treaty which would take account of specific needs of the region and serve to complement international umbrella instruments such as the Basel Convention.

## Coastal and Marine Resource Protection

In recognition of the importance of coastal and marine resources to achievement of sustainable development objectives, South Pacific SIDS are undertaking Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) programmes with assistance from SPREP. South Pacific approaches to ICZM recognise that their definition of coastal management is quite different from that of some of the more developed countries, especially as they place a heavy emphasis on traditional resource management and stress the importance of 'process' and 'resource-owner consultation'

## Conservation of Biological Diversity

Whilst South Pacific SIDS are renowned for their species diversity and endemism, the small size of these islands and their ecological fragility means that their biological diversity is among the most threatened in the world. In the past there has been a strong emphasis on lack of sufficient information as rationale for inaction. However, South Pacific SIDS have recognised that information collection should no longer be a prior condition for *in situ* conservation projects. Rather, the nature of traditional, often communal land and marine resource ownership in many of these countries results in community support, rather than additional resource information, as the major requirement for conservation efforts. Through the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) implemented for the South Pacific region by SPREP, recognition of traditional ownership and management of areas, whilst integrating certain approved development activities, in "Conservation Areas" is increasingly emphasised. Rather than adopting conservation models from more developed countries, due recognition is being given to this traditionally-oriented, yet innovative approach to conservation.

To effectively address the identified issues, South Pacific SIDS have adopted a number of mechanisms, especially of an administrative and institutional nature, which are effectively assisting them on the path towards sustainable development.

## Institutional and Administrative Capacity

Within the South Pacific, the effectiveness of a sub-regional approach through South Pacific regional organisations responsible for resource development, technical assistance and environmental protection, is well recognised and has been accepted as the mode of implementation for addressing issues of concern to the countries of the South Pacific. The six or seven organisations of which SPREP is the one primarily responsible for environmental protection, work cooperatively to assist the region's national governments to strengthen their in-country capacity to manage their own environments. The importance of this type of sub-regional approach, closely linking the organisation with the national governments, non-government organisations, landowner and community groups, is considered the most appropriate mode of operation by South Pacific SIDS who value an organisational structure that is close to the people and which can take into account their South Pacific specificity and traditional values. Implementation of outcomes relevant to the South Pacific countries from this Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will be dependent on a mode of operation that takes this close relationship into account.

National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) have been developed in many of the South Pacific SIDS with assistance from SPREP in partnership with donor and technical

support organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Australian Government. The strength of these NEMS lies in their development through a process of intensive consultation between government, the private sector, non-government organisations and the wider community. The NEMS planning tool is the first step in a process to integrate development planning and environmental management in South Pacific SIDS. In-country institutional strengthening has been undertaken as a complementary activity to the NEMS to ensure that the South Pacific SIDS have adequate numbers of trained personnel to undertake activities such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), environmental education and community awareness raising and the staffing of Environment Units or agencies within government.

State of the Environment Reports, documenting the current status of natural resources have been produced by most South Pacific SIDS as valuable base-data against which to gauge possible deterioration of the environment as well as serving as part of the planning tool process of NEMS. These documents have been used to raise environmental awareness and their information has been reproduced in video form in local languages to ensure that awareness of the importance of sustainable development reaches the wider community.

Environmental Legislation Reviews have also been undertaken in most South Pacific SIDS to identify the need within existing statutes for environmental protection provisions and to ensure that sustainable development practices are given a strong legal backing. These legislation reviews also attempt to take account of both the western style law and customary law practices, the latter of which play an important role in resource management.

The administrative and institutional mechanisms adopted by South Pacific SIDS merge a "bottom-up" and "top-down" approach, which takes account of traditional management and land tenure systems, customary law enforcement mechanisms and incorporates these into planning processes which are proving to be a very effective way to ensure long-term sustainable development of South Pacific SIDS. Together with a co-operative regional approach which is exemplified by the working relationship that South Pacific SIDS have developed with their environmental organisation, SPREP, these mechanisms augur well for future sustainable development of the region's resources. The impetus that has been given to this process through Agenda 21 and through the draft Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is a valuable support. These complement the activities of the recently approved Capacity 21 Project funded by UNDP and implemented by SPREP and the existing GEF-funded and SPREP-implemented South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP). These will contribute to the efforts towards sustainable development of the South Pacific as we progress into the 21st Century.

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Statement to the  
Eminent Persons Meeting

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ROUND TABLE DIALOGUE AND BRIEFING FOR THE GROUP OF  
EMINENT PERSONS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Bridgetown, Barbados  
21 - 22 April, 1994

DISCUSSION PAPER

Vili A. Fuavao

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the intergovernmental environmental organisation, established in 1982 which has a mandate to assist the 22 island countries and territories of the South Pacific Region with environmental protection and achievement of sustainable development. SPREP played an active role in assisting its member countries in the preparations for UNCED as well as assisting South Pacific countries in the post-UNCED period leading up to this Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. These latter preparations involved an Experts Meeting, Canberra, 5 - 7 May, 1993; a Regional Technical Meeting, Port Vila, 31 May - 4 June, 1993; as well as coordination of the South Pacific region's participation in negotiation of the draft Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

From its long association with, and detailed knowledge of environmental protection issues of the small island developing states in the South Pacific, SPREP would like to highlight the following priority points for the Eminent Persons Group to assist them in drawing up their recommendations on ways to respond to the challenges faced by small island developing states.

The importance of looking at sustainable development as a total package, with consistency among a number of parallel international processes such as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Convention on Biological Diversity; the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, etc. cannot be overstated. Such consistency will ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach of vital importance to South Pacific islands countries.

Priority issues identified by South Pacific SIDS include:

### Climate Change and Sea-level Rise

As outlined in the draft Programme of Action, climate change, with attendant concerns for sea-level rise and impact on human health and social well-being, are of paramount concern to small island developing states (SIDS). The SIDS of the South Pacific have expressed concern that the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) does not contain targets and timetables

for the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which are seen by SIDS as essential to address this issue in a meaningful way. It is their wish that a Protocol to the FCCC would provide a more definite plan for reduction of these emissions. A number of national, regional and international actions have been identified to make effective use of the FCCC and to build effectively on efforts to reduce uncertainty and develop appropriate response strategies.

## Energy

The absence of fossil fuel reserves in most of the South Pacific island countries, resulting in heavy dependence on imported fuel is seen as a major constraint to sustainable development. Given this and the unwanted side effects of fossil fuels, South Pacific SIDS wish to see greater research and development of environmentally friendly energy sources with capacity for commercial mass production.

## Natural and Environmental Disaster Preparedness

South Pacific SIDS are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones with associated detrimental economic, social and environmental impact. These natural disasters are of special concern because of the size of the islands and their narrow resource base. The South Pacific SIDS welcome the initiative of the United Nations in proclaiming the 1990s as the "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction" and through SPREP, are coordinating a regional report on natural disaster preparedness for the global conference to be held in Yokohama next month.

## Environmentally Sound Management of Waste and Toxic Substances

This is an important issue for South Pacific SIDS. The urgency to find their own solutions is being addressed by the countries themselves through development of waste management strategies within their National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS). However, of major concern are the wastes, produced elsewhere and often of a very hazardous nature, over which the South Pacific SIDS have little control. Concern over the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes within the South Pacific has resulted in the South Pacific Forum initiative to negotiate a regional treaty which would take account of specific needs of the region and serve to complement international umbrella instruments such as the Basel Convention.

## Coastal and Marine Resources

In recognition of the importance of coastal and marine resources to achievement of sustainable development objectives, South Pacific SIDS are undertaking Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) programmes. Within the South Pacific emphasis is increasingly being placed on adoption of ICZM approaches which take into account traditional resource management and which do not merely adopt models from more developed countries which often do not take into account the importance of 'process' and 'resource-owner consultation' in resource development and management. The definition of coastal management is also quite different

## Conservation of Biological Diversity

Whilst South Pacific SIDS are renowned for their species diversity and endemism, the small size of these islands and their ecological fragility means that their biological diversity is among the most threatened in the world. In the past there has been a strong emphasis on lack of sufficient information as rationale for inaction. However, South Pacific SIDS have recognised that information collection should no longer be a prior condition for *in situ* conservation projects. Rather, the nature of traditional, often communal land and marine resource ownership in many of these countries results in community support, rather than additional resource information, as the major requirement for conservation efforts. Through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) implemented for the South Pacific region by SPREP, recognition of traditional ownership and management of areas, whilst integrating certain approved development activities, in "Conservation Areas" is increasingly emphasised. Rather than adopting conservation models from more developed countries, due recognition is being given to this traditionally-oriented, yet innovative approach to conservation.

## Institutional and Administrative Capacity

Within the South Pacific, the effectiveness of a sub-regional approach through South Pacific regional organisations responsible for resource development, technical assistance and environmental protection, is well recognised and has been accepted as the mode of implementation for addressing of concern to the countries of the South Pacific. The six or seven organisations of which SPREP is the one primarily responsible for environmental protection, work cooperatively to assist the region's national governments to strengthen their in-country capacity to manage their own environments. The importance of this type of sub-regional approach, closely linking the organisation with the national governments, non-government organisations, landowner and community groups, is considered the most appropriate mode of operation by South Pacific SIDS who value an organisational structure that is close to the people and which can take into account their South Pacific specificity and traditional values. Implementation of outcomes relevant to the South Pacific countries from this Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will be dependent on a mode of operation that takes this close relationship into account.

The merging of a "bottom-up" and "top-down" approach, which takes account of traditional management and land tenure systems, customary law enforcement mechanisms and incorporates these into planning processes may prove to be the most effective way to ensure long-term sustainable development of South Pacific SIDS.

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# Press Briefing

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## South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

### Journalist Encounter

#### The Impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on Small Island Developing States

Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) are most vulnerable to Global climate change, and sea level rise. As most populations, agricultural lands and infrastructure facilities of SIDS are found in the coastal zone, any changes due to sea level will have significant and profound effect on the economies of these nations. The existence of certain low lying countries would be threatened by sea level changes and inundation of outlying islands and loss of these lands may be the result. Global climate change may affect both subsistence and commercial fisheries production. Further among others, it may impact on vegetation and saline intrusion will adversely affect the freshwater resources. The increased frequency and intensity of hurricane and storm surges that may result from climate change will have profound effects on both economies and the environments of SIDS. Public access and more information on climate change and its effects as these may affect the SIDS, be made available to enable appropriate response strategies to be developed and implemented.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) is expected to make significant contribution to reducing the threat of global climate change and sea level rise as well as mitigating and assisting countries to adapt to these impacts.

- Therefore, promotion of sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of coastal ecosystems; and
- Development of integrated plans for coastal zone management is required.

The FCCC, however, does not contain targets and timetables for the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and these are considered by SIDS as essential to address the climate change in any meaningful way. The development and use of renewable energy resources and dissemination of information of sound and efficient energy technologies are also seen as having a central role in mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. These issues are currently being addressed through elaboration of the convention.

To make effective use of the FCCC and to build effectively of efforts to reduce uncertainty and develop appropriate response strategies, commitments on national, regional and international levels are needed.

(a) National actions

National action and policies concerning climate change and sea level rise shall be based on those priorities identified, for example, in National Environmental Management Strategies in the Pacific, including:

- early ratification of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol, its amendments, and other related legal instruments;
- promotion more efficient use of energy resources in their development planning and use appropriate methods to minimise adverse effects of climate change on their sustainable development;
- taking account of the latest scenarios for climate change and sea level rise into development planning;
- improving understanding at political and public levels of the potential impacts of climatic changes;
- increased participation in the research, assessment and monitoring of climatic impacts and the development of response strategies, including oceanographic and atmospheric monitoring programmes, and to participate in international discussions of these issues;
- developing comprehensive coastal zone management programmes; and
- implementing necessary adaptive measures to minimise impact of climate change and sea-level rise.

(b) Regional Action

On the basis of national priorities develop regional approaches to:

- monitor climate variability and change and sea level rise through existing programmes and projects;

Provide technical assistance to build endogenous capacity through:

- assistance to countries considering ratification of the FCCC and assistance to countries which have ratified the convention and assumed their major responsibilities;
- assistance to regional institutions in training with monitoring and assessment of causes and impacts of climate change;
- catalysing support for the development of national climate change programmes;
- quantifying greenhouse gas sources and sinks; and

- implementation of relevant aspects of SPREP's Climate Change Programme and WMO's *Changing Climate in Paradise*.

(c) International Action

The international community should:

- implement immediately the prompt start resolution agreed to by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- provide improved access to financial resources for the development and implementation of response adaptation strategies recognising the specific vulnerabilities and disproportionate cost borne by SIDS;
- where appropriate, channel financial resources for regional action through action through the relevant regional organisation;
- provide access to environmentally sound and energy efficient technology to assist island countries conserve energy and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases;
- develop an effective mechanism which ensures that any reforestation carbon offset scheme genuinely contributes to the improvement of the overall carbon balance, and is not aimed at justifying the continued unabated emission of gases;
- provide improved access to information from the activities carried out to reduce uncertainties of climate change;
- support activities of relevant international and regional organisations and agencies in the areas of:

(a) climate services for sustainable development;

(b) new frontiers for climate services and predictions;

(c) dedicated observations of the climate system;

(d) studies of climate impact assessments and adaptive response strategies to reduce vulnerability;

(e) develop comprehensive coastal zone management programmes;

(f) assess the vulnerability and identify coastal areas at risk to accelerated sea level rise; and

(g) strengthen emergency preparedness and coastal zone response resources.

- facilitate attendance by representatives of SIDS to meetings of the IPCC and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to ensure that SIDS' concerns are taken into account.

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**Case Study:**  
**Integrated Coastal Zone**  
**Management**

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Presentation of Case Studies

Theme	Presenter	Date, time and place of presentation
1. Tourism and Sustainable Development in Small Developing Islands	Dr. George Vassiliou former President of the Republic of Cyprus	25 April after the conclusion of the opening ceremony of the plenary
2. Natural Disasters and Sustainable Development of Small Developing Islands	Dr. Godwin O.P. Obase Secretary-General, WMO	25 April at noon in the Plenary
3. Waste Management with particular reference to Water Pollution in Small Developing Islands	Ms. E. Dowdeswell, Executive-Director, UNEP	27 April at noon in the Plenary
4. Coastal Zone Management in Small Developing Islands	Dr. Vili Fuavao, Director South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	28 April at noon in the Plenary
5. Alternative Energy Sources for Small Developing Islands	Prof. Bisnodat Persaud, Director Centre for Environment and Development, University of the West Indies	29 April at noon in the Plenary
6. A Regional Environmental Early Warning System for Small Developing Islands	Mr. John Scott, President, Center for Public Service Communications, Arlington, Virginia, USA Assisted by :  Mr. Jeremy Collymore, Regional Director Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency  and  Mr. Cyril Serridge, Executive Director Caribbean Meteorological Organization	4 May at noon in the Plenary

A/CONF.167/CRP.5  
15 April 1994  
ENGLISH ONLY

## COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

prepared for the  
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

by

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at the request of the secretariat of the  
Global Conference on the Sustainable Development  
of Small Island Developing States

Case Study No. 4

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations on the subject matter.



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

## *Coastal Management in Small Island Developing States (SPREP Secretariat)*

*Presented by Dr Vili A. Puavao, Director, SPREP*

### *Abstract*

The concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) should be viewed as promoting the sustainable development of coastal resources. In the context of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), effective ICZM can only be achieved through the adoption of 'island appropriate' methodologies and approaches. That is, SIDS problems require SIDS solutions. In this paper we examine a range of issues that need to be considered when developing ICZM approaches in SIDS. The coverage is by no means comprehensive, and the issues will vary in importance from state to state. However, these issues, when considered in terms of past SIDS coastal management experiences, dictate the need for a *process-oriented* approach to ICZM. A number of recommendations are provided, both general and specific, that we feel are important for promoting and establishing effective ICZM in small island developing states.

### *1. Introduction*

#### *1.1 International agreements and Coastal Zone Management - UNCED and the Barbados Conference*

Decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) have without a doubt influenced the direction taken in the management of coastal areas. Whether these international agreements are responsible for a *paradigm shift* in the way we manage the coastal zone (Cicou-Sain, 1993) or whether they have simply formalised a trend towards integrated management, the increased support for this approach is a measure of the change in perspective that has occurred. While there is agreement to the general direction, the approach to coastal management and its application to specific groups, in this case small island developing states, requires some discussion. Indeed this is true of much of Agenda 21, which reflects a global consensus but requires more specificity if it is to be applied to particular groups. The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Conference), called for in Chapter 17(g) of Agenda 21, recognises this need.

During the negotiations in preparation for the Barbados Conference there has been recognition that the lack of an integrated approach to coastal and marine area management has increasingly



resulted in degraded coasts and coastal resources in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). As sustainable development in small island developing states depends largely on coastal and marine resources (UN, 1993), the development of any coastal management technique is fundamental to their future. In doing so it is important to recognise that for islands their *smallness* has a profound influence on their social goals and development options, as well as magnifying the impacts of poor decisions. This is true for both inappropriate development as well as ill-conceived solutions. The particular constraints and opportunities facing SIDS in the management of their coastal resources must therefore be carefully considered before any particular model or solution is proposed.

Particular dimensions of the "coastal management problem", recognised in the Action Programme for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be considered and endorsed by the Barbados Conference, are the paucity of "data"<sup>2</sup> necessary to manage the coastal zone, the lack of institutions at the national level, and the need for an approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) that is relevant to islands. As a result the Action Programme calls for better information to assist decision-making, the strengthening of appropriate institutions and legislation, and the development of island-appropriate methodologies for ICZM. By examining a range of special issues for sustainable development in SIDS, including population, climate change, waste management, economic and institutional capacity, it is possible to better describe how these issues can be addressed by ICZM.

## 1.2 Objectives

To assist countries make progress with the broad recommendations in the Action Programme this paper aims to:

- examine a range of issues that need to be considered, as relevant ICZM approaches are developed for small islands;
- provide an overview of the coastal management issues and problems confronting small developing islands;
- assess the effectiveness of coastal management in the context of small developing islands;
- explain the concept of "integrated coastal zone management" and its relevance to sustainable development in small developing states; and
- provide recommendations concerning future actions.

There is no doubt that practical arrangements to improve management of the coastal zone are required in SIDS. It is hoped this paper will provide some insights concerning the next steps to be taken with the use of ICZM for islands.

It will first be important to briefly outline some concepts and definitions used in relation to coastal zone management. Without examining all aspects of sustainable development in SIDS, a number of special issues are discussed in terms of their impact on the planning and management of the coastal zone. The evolution of coastal zone management and the potential role or approach to ICZM for islands is then discussed before recommendations are presented.

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<sup>1</sup> Table 1 lists the Small Island Developing States, their population and population growth rate estimates, and land and sea areas (adapted from Griffith & Asho, 1993 and UN, 1992)

<sup>2</sup> The term "data" is used here in its broadest sense - while the information or understanding exist in terms of traditional knowledge it is not readily available to assist collective decision-making

Table 1: Small Island Developing States - Population, Population Growth Rates, Land and Sea Areas (sources: Griffith & Ashe, 1993:273; UN, 1992)

Country	Population ('000) 1990	Pop. Growth Rates (1980-1990) <sup>1</sup>	Land (km <sup>2</sup> )	EEZ (x 10 <sup>3</sup> km <sup>2</sup> )
<i>Atlantic</i>				
Cape Verde	370	2.5	4,033	
Sao Tome & Principe	121	2.6	964	
<i>Caribbean</i>				
Antigua & Barbuda	76	0.1	444	
Bahamas	253	1.9	13,935	759
Barbados	255	0.2	431	167
Dominica	7,170	2.3	751	20
Jamaica	2,456	1.4	10,991	
Grenada	85	-0.6	344	27
Trinidad & Tobago	1,281	1.7	5,130	77
St. Kitts & Nevis	44	-0.1	268	68
St. Lucia	150	1.9	616	68
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	116	1.2	383	68
<i>Indian Ocean</i>				
Comoros	550	3.4	1,862	
Maldives	214	3.1	298	959
Seychelles	69	0.9	280	249
Mauritius	1,082	1.1	2,045	1,183
<i>Mediterranean</i>				
Cyprus	701	1.1	9,241	99
Malta	353	-0.3	316	66
<i>Pacific Ocean</i>				
Cook Islands	18	-0.2	240	1,850
Federated States of Micronesia	99	2.7	701	2,978
Fiji	764	1.9	18,272	1,290
Kiribati	72	2.1	690	3,550
Marshall Islands	39	2.7	181	2,131
Nauru	9	1.8	21	120
Niue	3	-1.9	259	390
Northern Mariana Islands	22	2.6	471	1,823
Palau	17	2.7	424	629
Papua New Guinea	3,874	2.3	462,243	3,120
Solomon Islands	320	3.6	27,556	1,340
Tonga	95	-0.2	699	700
Tuvalu	9	1.1	346	857
Vanuatu	153	3.1	11,900	650
Western Samoa	159	0.3	2,935	120
<i>South China Sea</i>				
Singapore	2,723	1.2	581	

<sup>1</sup> population growth rate figures include migration.

## 2. Concepts

There has been considerable discussion in the literature concerning the terms to be used and their definitions (eg Brachya, *et al*, 1993; Clark, 1992; Kenchington & Crawford, 1993; Sorensen & McCreary, 1990; World Coast, 1993). The vast majority of this literature derives from, and largely relates to, the developed, continental situation.

In SIDS, particularly where the traditional culture predominates, much of the standard coastal zone management terminology is quite alien. For example, what is the "coastal zone" to a community which manages all its resources (from the catchments to the open sea) through customary tenure and use rights, semi-autonomously and irrespective of government authority? How and why should such a categorisation be made? What purpose does it serve? What does "integration" mean, especially between communities which have largely acted in complete independence of each other longer than anyone can remember? What is "planning" to a community which reacts to a very different set of social, cultural and economic objectives and concentrates all the resources of the extended family on immediate, up-coming key events of local and cultural significance? More generally, what is "planning" to societies which have traditionally had an abundance of natural resources for their needs requiring minimal strategies to ensure continuity of supply? What are "plans" for coastal management to communities used to managing their affairs day by day and week by week through meetings and verbal consensus? Or to communities which manage by focussing more on a highly refined process than on a "planning system" of prearranged progress towards long-term objectives?

While some SIDS may find the basic concepts and terminology of coastal zone management more compatible with their own resource management practices, any rigorous application of standard methodologies would be both overwhelming and inappropriate to the range of small island circumstances. For example, while "integration" or perhaps more appropriately "co-ordination" of activities and decision-making is needed in most SIDS, the nature of that integration is likely to be quite different to the standard developed, continental nation model often proposed for coastal zone management.

### 2.1 Coastal zone

For conventions sake we will use the term "coastal zone" rather than "coastal area" as it appears to be the more widely accepted. However, it would be more appropriate for SIDS to adopt terminology that is appropriate to their individual circumstances, to minimise in-country misunderstandings.

Continental and large island states recognise their coastal zones as distinct regions with resources that require special attention, resulting in the well established sectoral approach to these areas - this same concept has been transferred, inappropriately and unsuccessfully, to the small islands context.

The "coastal zone" in many small islands, from a systems and ecological perspective, is for all intents and purposes the whole island. Layered on top of this are a range of political, cultural and legal arrangements which affect the utilisation and management of resources in the coastal zone.

Defining the coastal zone in the small islands context should involve flexibility. From an ecological perspective, generalisations concerning what constitutes the "coastal zone" can be

made for small islands. However, from the cultural and political perspective the definition of the "coastal zone" needs to be developed on an island by island basis. For example, what constitutes the coastal zone based on customary tenure? In SIDS it varies from only small areas of land adjacent to the coast, through to systems incorporating areas from the centre of the islands out into the oceans, or in some cases even the entire island.

## 2.2 Coastal zone management

Generally speaking, where coastal zone management has been attempted in small developing islands it has been based on the developed, continental countries' models of sectoral management. This has been due to at least three factors: political (and therefore administrative) structures in small islands based on former colonial systems; coastal management techniques and methods developed in and for the larger developed countries; and overseas development assistance for coastal management being driven by the experiences of developed countries. The evolution of coastal management is discussed later in this paper (section 4).

## 2.3 Integrated coastal zone management and sustainable development

There are many definitions of ICZM. The concept of ICZM has been described in the Noordwijk Guidelines for ICZM as:

"...a governmental process and consists of the legal and institutional framework necessary to ensure that development and management plans for coastal zones are integrated with environmental (including social) goals and are made with the participation of those affected. The purpose of ICZM is to maximize the benefits provided by the coastal zone and to minimize the conflicts and harmful effects of activities upon each other..." (World Bank, 1993:1)

It has also been described as:

"...a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, integrated approach to the planning and management of coastal areas. This encompasses a process of assessment, planning and management for the sustainable development, multiple use and conservation of coastal areas, resources and ecosystems... It is a *process* that must be tailored to fit into the institutional and organisational environments of the countries involved, including political and administrative structures, cultural patterns and social traditions (Scura, *et al.* 1992). With the diversity of environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions (in SIDS) the ICZM process will, by necessity, differ from island to island." (SPREP, 1993:3).

The World Coast Conference's pre-conference workshop for the Eastern Hemisphere (McLean & Mamura, 1993) defined the ICZM 'frame' as:

"...a dynamic process in which a coordinated strategy is developed and implemented for the allocation of environmental, socio-cultural, and institutional resources to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of the coastal zone."

It is important to note that all of these definitions / descriptions, refer to ICZM as a "process". However, in reality it is often an amorphous process without a clearly defined methodology.

SIDS need to take advantage of this, as it will be the flexibility of approach that will enable ICZM to be of such relevance to the SIDS situation.

The concept of sustainable development is best described as a process, rather than an end-point, guided by a range of principles. The Rio Declaration, that was endorsed by the world's leaders at the Earth Summit 1992, contains a range of principles that reflect the political will of the day. While these principles may require interpretation at the national and local level, sustainable development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs will commonly involve:

- participation of local communities and relevant groups in the planning and implementation of development and conservation activities;
- integrated planning, in particular the incorporation of environmental and population considerations into economic and sectoral policies and plans;
- application of the precautionary approach to planning and development.

Where the definition of the coastal zone includes the entire island, then successful coastal zone management would essentially be synonymous with the sustainable development of those zones. As suggested by Griffith and Ashe (1993), ICZM is designed to promote sustainable development of coastal resources. Ideally, ICZM in the small islands context should be viewed as being synonymous with "integrated island management". This has considerable import for small islands, especially those yet to establish coastal management programmes. Separate Sustainable Development and Integrated Coastal Zone Management programmes would for all intents and purposes be an unnecessary duplication of effort.

### *3. Sustainable Development of SIDS - Some Issues for ICZM*

If appropriate models for sustainable development are to be developed for SIDS, then a number of special issues need to be taken into account. This section does not seek to address the full range of such issues, rather it discusses those with particular implications for ICZM in SIDS generally. Appropriate models for sustainable development will require tailoring to the particular circumstances of individual SIDS and their regional context. The issues considered below, therefore, serve to illustrate the need for a different overall approach for SIDS ICZM to that generally assumed for the large developed countries and within the context of which the concept of ICZM arose.

#### *3.1 Population*

It is often suggested that growing populations pose the greatest threat to the environment and sustainable development. While population growth is an important concern, there is no simple connection between the number of people and the extent of damage. Environmental degradation (and constraints to sustainable development) are not caused simply by more people, but, perhaps more importantly, by what they do - their economic activities, the technology they use, and their patterns of resource consumption (Chung, 1993).

With a limited land area and often fragile environments, the rapid growth of populations is often an important concern for island countries. As the great majority, if not all, the

population of SIDS is within the coastal zone, population has become a major consideration for SIDS coastal zone management.

A common feature of many SIDS is the concentration of people in small, predominantly coastal, areas as a result of internal migration from rural to urban areas, outer islands to main islands, or small to large islands, compounded by often high rates of natural population increase. This is hardly surprising given the limited land areas able to support people in many SIDS. In such cases, however, it is not unusual for SIDS to support extremely high population densities, such as in Male (Maldives) and Funafuti (Tuvalu). These localised concentrations of population usually contribute to considerable environmental stress on the resources of the immediate coastal zone.

Even for large high islands, degradation of coastal resources (particularly lagoon, reef and mangrove environments) is for SIDS an early, and perhaps the most significant, environmental impact of a high population density with an unsustainable intensity of terrestrial resource use. In such situations the overuse and degradation of marine resources of islands with high coastal populations are compounded by the large burdens of topsoil, associated organic matter and agricultural chemicals transported by streams from the water catchments. It is clear, therefore, that SIDS ICZM must take account of activities inland of the coastal areas and promote the use of less damaging practices in these areas by appropriate means.

In this light, the concept of "carrying capacity" - that the number of people that can be sustained on an island is largely a function of limited land area, fragile environments and technology - has a basis in common sense. As does the opposing concept of "critical mass" - where many SIDS, either for their total population (eg Niue), or for outer or smaller islands of island groups (eg Kiribati, Maldives), are close to or below what may be considered to be the minimum level of population for sustainable communities. Calculating the thresholds for either, however, can be very difficult and becomes more of an academic question than a practical tool for coastal zone management, particularly in the context of SIDS. It is clear, though, that both conditions exist for SIDS, often simultaneously in the same island group, making both significant considerations for SIDS ICZM.

Another feature of SIDS is that many have dominant, or at least prominent indigenous cultures. While it is difficult to generalise for all SIDS, nonetheless regional patterns may be discerned. In the Pacific region most SIDS have strong cultural traditions, which are largely centred on the extended family. In such cultures it is often the case that large families are the norm and as a result, rates of population increase around the region are commonly between two and five percent. The comments expressed by some of the Pacific region's leaders at a special population seminar organised by the South Pacific Forum in 1993 demonstrated how strongly the cultures of the Pacific hold to their current views on large families.

The relatively high rates of population growth of many SIDS is masked by another regional population trend, that of high external migration. The effects of migration on coastal zone management and sustainable development go beyond the artificial lowering of population growth rates. These migrants often remit large amounts of cash to their families which has a distorting effect on the sustainable development equation of the SIDS. In some cases remittances routinely exceed export earnings. This tends to mask environmental problems, by supplying an easy alternative to dealing with the root of the problem - for example the rapid decline in the inshore subsistence fishery can be more than matched by the importation of canned fish.

### *3.2 Economic Development Conditions*

In addition to these conditions referred to in the previous section, 3.1 Population, there are a number of common elements to economic development in SIDS. Due to the location of development activities almost entirely in the coastal zone, and the cumulative effects of inappropriate development on coastal resources, these conditions are of particular significance to the development of ICZM appropriate for SIDS.

The great majority of development is government initiated and aid funded. Often aid projects are targeted at infrastructure development. Increasingly there is a trend to developing in-country capacity for self-sufficiency, stimulation and nurturing of small private sectors, and a growing emphasis on human resource development. Integration of development efforts towards long-term sustainability is a relatively new development objective, and one which almost without exception has yet to show tangible results in SIDS. The co-ordination of government sector planning which has begun, with varying degrees of success, does not fulfil the objective of long-term integration of both government and community planning and management efforts.

Many SIDS have economies that are still largely subsistence based, but with a slowly growing cash economy. Few have economies that could continue in anything like their current direction without on-going substantial aid inputs, and/or remittances. Even fewer SIDS have diversified economies - instead most rely on a few key economic activities (eg tourism, fishing, tropical fruit production and export). This makes most SIDS vulnerable to the performance of a few external markets, and the task of establishing long-term sustainable development even more problematic. It also gives rise to a particular view of resources and development that is not often recognised for large developed nations - all resources are there to be used and will be used. There is often little or no opportunity to consider options for the preservation of coastal resources by such means as national parks and reserves in the established meaning of these terms.

In terms of the coastal zone, the great majority of exploitation occur adjacent to the coast and will often involve the development of coastal resources. Management, and particularly the planning for and integration of development in the coastal zone, is often a problem in SIDS. There is unlikely to be a tradition of, or capacity for, planning developments - particularly in terms of integrating project planning with other development objectives. National economic reliance on only a few economic activities also tends to preoccupy decision makers with the survival and development of key sectors, especially when markets for these sectors are depressed. Integration of planning and development effort is thus not always a logical new direction for decision makers.

In SIDS with strong subsistence activity (and particularly those with customary tenure and management of resources), management of coastal resources is usually even more focussed on use of all possible resources. Apart from government development projects, economic development at this level is likely to be small scale, but may cumulatively have considerable negative environmental impacts on coastal resources. Planned resource development at this level, however, is usually confined to the lands of individual customary authorities (frequently the village council). There is often no practice of, or opportunity to, co-ordinate effective long-term economic development between these units of authority. In these circumstances, therefore, coastal resource development is characterised by a relatively large number of

discrete administrative and management units along the coastline, although each unit is likely to have responsibility for resource development from the catchments to the open ocean.

The development of appropriate models for integrated coastal zone management in small, developing island states needs to be appropriate to their circumstances as developing nations. As discussed by Bloye Olsen (1993), the accepted guideline for developing countries is "...to define sustainable patterns and intensities of development". More popularly this is expressed as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. If this approach were adopted as a principal objective for integrated coastal zone management for island developing nations, it would require plans to identify what human activities and intensities of use are sustainable in the coastal zone, and then propose appropriate strategies for achieving them.

This contrasts markedly with the standard Western model of integrated coastal zone management, which may be considered to have largely developed to bring order to the chaos existing between the competing uses of the coastal strip of land and water and to reverse the resulting severe degradation of coastal resources.

### 3.3 Climate change and Sea Level Rise

SIDS are particularly vulnerable to climate change, variability and sea level rise. With the concentration of population and development found in the coastal zone, any changes due to sea level, as indicated by IPCC scientists ("Business as Usual"), will have significant and profound effects on the economies of these nations and therefore coastal zone management. The existence of certain low lying countries would be threatened by sea level changes. Inundation of outlying islands and loss of these lands may result in loss of exclusive economic zone rights over large areas. Global climate change may alter the distribution of zones of upwelling and may affect fisheries production, in addition, it may impact on vegetation and saline intrusion will adversely affect the freshwater resources. The increased frequency and intensity of cyclone and storm surges that may result from climate change will have profound effects on both economies and the environments of SIDS. Public access to and more information on climate change and its effects on SIDS, should be made available to enable appropriate response strategies to be developed and implemented. These response strategies may well be an integral part of coastal zone management plans.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC, 1994) which came into force on March 21 1994 is expected to make a significant contribution to reducing the threat of global climate change and sea level rise as well as mitigating and assisting countries to adapt to these impacts. In particular, parties to the FCCC have recognised that small island countries are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have committed themselves, *inter alia* to:

- (d) Promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement ... of ... coastal and marine ecosystems;
- (e) ... develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management..." (FCCC, Article 4.1 (d) and (e))

While there is still debate about the magnitude of climate change and sea level rise, for SIDS the issue is less important not to take into account. A precautionary approach needs to be used



throughout coastal zone management to ensure that climate change and sea level rise are adequately addressed in coastal zone plans and management approaches.

### 3.4 Waste and Sewage

This is one of the most visible and commonly perceived environmental problems in SIDS coastal zones. Many SIDS pollution control programmes focus on "land based sources" of pollution. As discussed above, this is in part often simply due to local overpopulation, but is also a function of the nature of the economic activities being undertaken, the technologies being used, and the intensities of resource use being practised by that population. In many areas traditional ways of disposing of waste are still being employed, even though the products and wastes of industrialised society are now being widely imported and are not amenable to traditional waste management practices.

Solutions to these problems, however, tend to be rather difficult in that while some relatively small, localised coastal areas may have heavy population densities, the total population and the government's financial capabilities are likely to be too small to support the investment in infrastructure necessary to provide collection and disposal of the wastes in question. In particular, scattered and generally small island populations make the economic operation of recycling almost impossible for all but the most lucrative items without some form of subsidy, or regional approach.

With the exception of some SIDS with relatively heavy investment in particular single sector industries which create significant pollution (such as fish canneries in American Samoa), many SIDS tend to exhibit pollution problems that result from the cumulative effects of individual actions, for example: the disposal of toxic materials such as used engine oil, car batteries, and old stocks of agricultural chemicals, or the end results of water catchment forest clearance, disposal of plastic items and contamination of ground water by inadequate sewage disposal facilities.

In many cases SIDS need help to reach their people in order to educate and inform them of appropriate ways to manage modern wastes, or to integrate national policies to limit importation of particularly damaging materials. Often developed nations' solutions are proposed from outside which take little account of relevant circumstances in the SIDS.

### 3.5 Institutional Arrangements

Some general characteristics of SIDS have particular implications for the development of appropriate institutional arrangements for sustainable ICZM. These include:

- the generally small size and limited ability of government machinery to administer and manage complex new programmes;
- the often ex-colonial nature of many bureaucracies;
- government bureaucracies that are often heavily dependent on the support of aid programmes, both financially and in terms of expatriate staff and advisers;
- often disproportionately large bureaucracies in relation to the size of the population and the economy; and

- often a disjunction between government and its bureaucracy, which may be more inclined to see the machinery of government as existing to carry out government and ministerial decisions rather than to participate in the decision making process.

In addition, the day to day work of island governments tend to be strongly sectoral, and slow to respond to new directions in any sustainable way. While many contain environment and/or planning units with a mandate to co-ordinate government sector planning and management, these can generally be considered to be new and still unable to strongly influence the way that government has become accustomed to carrying out its business. As a consequence, there is often little capacity to plan and undertake new approaches, especially strongly integrating programmes involving both government and community levels of decision making.

If, as seems inevitable, relatively radical approaches are required on the part of SIDS governments to integrate resource planning and management in their coastal zones, then a particular commitment and direction is required of governments to discover and implement processes and plans appropriate to their particular circumstances. This will require creativity, for example it may be that in those SIDS with customary resource tenure and management, that "integration" between villages is likely to be objectionable and even impossible, and instead some form of co-ordination should be aimed at.

A common feature of many Pacific SIDS is the traditional role of decision-makers in strongly authoritarian, hierarchical cultures. This often results in decision-makers taking decisions without first seeking technical advice. It may even make it difficult for decision makers to accept technical advice delivered by new government structures and mechanisms such as those which may be proposed to carry out ICZM.

Another related socio-cultural feature in the Pacific is the likelihood that most of the effective decision making occurs at the local level. In SIDS with strong traditional cultures and customary land tenure, village authority is paramount in managing the daily activities on village lands and for village resources. National or government level decision making may have a limited impact on these more traditional practices, which has obvious implications for attempts to initiate planning, and to integrate or co-ordinate the decision making of a number of separate villages. In these circumstances there may even be a strong antipathy towards the co-ordinated decision making and management required by ICZM. Even in SIDS without strong traditional cultures, island life often fosters a feeling of self-sufficiency that may cause less extreme but nonetheless significant difficulties for integrated planning and management.

Many SIDS have traditional cultures which influence the way in which decisions are made and resources managed. Often this places a greater emphasis on local community decision-making than might be expected under developed continental nations models for ICZM. Even where traditional cultures are not strongly represented, the scattered and self-sufficient nature of island communities can give rise to a more strongly parochial view of local coastal resource management.

Certainly the way in which ICZM programmes are developed for SIDS will often need to be more participatory and afford greater authority to local communities than may be indicated by Western concepts of ICZM. The process by which an ICZM programme is developed is likely to be particularly critical and will need to be designed in ways that are appropriate to cultural tradition or local practice. This is likely to be essential in SIDS where a traditional

culture based on customary resource ownership is dominant. It should therefore be a feature of ICZM in SIDS to seek to assist and complement traditional or existing decision-making bodies rather than to try from the outset to introduce new and alien structures or try to replace existing ones.

#### *4. Coastal Management in the Context of Small Developing Islands*

##### *4.1 The evolution of coastal management*

In general, the use of coastal zone management in SIDS, either to address sustainable development or coastal development issues is not well developed. It is important, however, to consider the evolution of such coastal zone management programmes in existence in SIDS in order to identify the features of coastal zone management which have proven to be appropriate for their particular island circumstances.

The evolution of coastal management in SIDS had its beginnings in the importation of concepts and models originating in the developed, continental nations. These were either introduced by aid programmes, or in the case of the US Territories as part of a federal programme, on the basis that these approaches were necessary in order to resolve problems then becoming evident in the coastal zones of SIDS. While the aims of coastal zone management were, and still are, widely appreciated as being important and necessary for SIDS, early approaches to SIDS coastal zone management, however, often belied the fundamentally different environmental, economic and social context from which they arose.

Some of the earliest coastal zone management in SIDS was undertaken in the US Territories as extensions of the US Federal coastal zone management programme. Essentially this amounted to direct transfer of the Western (US) model of coastal zone management to SIDS. In Majuro for example, the Coastal Conservation Act, modelled on US Federal law, gives a definition of the coastal zone extending inland 25 feet from the mean high water mark. This results in a coastal strip along both seaward and lagoon coasts, but excluding the central portion of the narrow, low-lying atoll islands from the coastal zone.

Other early coastal zone management approaches in SIDS were issue driven and therefore sectoral in original principal. In order to resolve single sector problems in the coastal zone, it was recognised that other matters beyond the immediate focus of the sector in question needed to be considered, but the approach remained monosectoral in essence. Examples of this approach can be seen in coastal management centred on mangroves in the British Virgin Islands and American Samoa, coastal defences in the Maldives and Kiribati, and tourism in Fiji.

The use of more comprehensive approaches than might otherwise have been employed to plan for the long-term resolution of a single sector or resource problem, has occurred in some SIDS. Most notably this has involved the expansion of other "standard" planning mechanisms such as land use planning into a form of coastal zone management. Examples of this approach are current in Jamaica, Cyprus and Mauritius. Again, while the focus of the approach is wider and the objectives perhaps more integrative than might otherwise have been possible, nonetheless the focus still usually represents only an aspect of a full coastal zone management approach.

A variation on the expanded planning approach for coastal areas, and one which perhaps more closely resembles coastal zone management is that of special area planning for coastal areas, such as for Pago Pago harbour in American Samoa. In this instance, however, the emphasis is on the clean-up of pollution. Special area planning will usually be found to have arisen in response to a particular problem and it is unusual for the planning process to lose its obsession with the particular problem, which weighs the exercise against a more comprehensive coastal zone management approach.

One feature likely to be common to all these approaches is that each has as its basis the resolution of a particular problem or set of problems, and while these approaches might perhaps be sensitive to coastal issues and processes, their purpose is essentially more narrowly based than would be the case for ICZM. The objective is rarely, if ever, to establish what are sustainable activities in the coastal zone, their appropriate intensities of use, and to establish plans and a process to achieve them. In other words, if this is to be a principal objective of coastal zone management for SIDS, then we must look at other examples to discover possible models for the introduction and achievement of coastal zone management in ways that are appropriate for the special circumstances of SIDS.

There are a small number of projects designed specifically as ICZM projects in a few SIDS. These tend to be one of two types - either a comprehensive island-wide project, or a pilot project focussing on a particular or representative area. For example, Barbados is nearing completion of the development of a feasibility study for the preparation of an ICZM plan for the whole island. Examples of the pilot project approach are beginning in Western Samoa under the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and New Zealand bilateral assistance. While it is too early to judge the success of these projects, nonetheless they are attempts to make ICZM relevant to the particular circumstances of SIDS. All are characterised by being designed to cope with the full range of coastal issues, and not driven by a particular sector or resource problem. They are also characterised by particular emphasis on institutional arrangements and the process of development and implementation, and especially the role of local communities and levels of decision making and management. At least some of them are attempting to identify sustainable coastal activities and their appropriate intensities of use.

In the Pacific, Western Samoa has developed an approach to villages that seeks to fulfil the special requirements of this particular SIDS in an appropriate way. This acknowledges that:

- the individual village is the primary authority for coastal resource management;
- government authority for the overall approach is an essential first element;
- the *process* of beginning discussion with the villages and introducing information as a basis for discussion aimed at reaching an agreement to work together towards common objectives is critical and the key focus of project development;
- the sustainability of the project, and indeed long-term coastal management, depends upon exploration and assistance in the development of sustainable levels of appropriate development; and
- the development of a mutually acceptable and culturally appropriate mechanism for the implementation of co-ordinated management both in and between villages.

One further mechanism for the development of appropriate ICZM is also currently being experienced in several of the oceanic regions of the world. These are integrated management strategies. In the Pacific islands region they are called National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS), and are an example of a regional approach, with the initiative coming from SPREP. These strategies seek to consider all environment and development issues and, following an integrative analysis of the national situation, propose integrated, sustainable development strategies. Clearly for Pacific island SIDS such a strategy incorporates ICZM, but takes it further in the sense that it also includes macro-economic analysis and other such over-arching development issues. Each NEMS does, however, consider coastal issues, and most specify ICZM needs and programmes.

#### 4.2 Constraints and Opportunities

A relatively comprehensive listing of SIDS special constraints on sustainable development has been proposed by Griffiths and Ashe (1993). Table 2 is adapted from this listing, with some special characteristics relating to the institutional capacity for ICZM included.

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TABLE 2: *Island Characteristics and their Constraints on Sustainable Development (adapted from Griffiths and Ashe, 1993:279)*

##### *Ecological / environmental characteristics*

- small size
- narrow range of natural resources
- limited and fragile resource base that allows less room for error in its utilisation and management
- susceptibility to natural environmental events (earth quakes, hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, etc)
- little natural organic biological diversity
- distance from continents and external competition fosters species endemism
- generally little overall climate variability, but potential for climate upsets
- tendency towards ecological instability when isolation is breached
- abundance of marine biodiversity and similarly high rates and number of species due to environmental change

##### *Geographical characteristics*

- relative isolation
- a completely circumferential sea frontier and EEZ, giving a high ratio of ocean space to land
- extensive land-sea interface which increases the fragility of coastal ecosystems and the demand for coastal zone management
- no interior hinterland or central terrestrial core area that is essentially distant from the sea such that coastal resource planning and management are essentially synonymous with national resource planning and management
- dominance of the sea and its use for shipping makes these countries particularly vulnerable to hazards associated with international shipping and waste disposal
- small land mass to ocean space makes islands especially vulnerable to global environmental phenomena such as sea level rise

##### *Socio-economic characteristics*

- extreme openness of their economies (external relations of trade, aid technology flows and investment)
- more dependant on foreign trade than larger countries and having less influence on the terms in which that trade is carried on
- extreme dependence on the external sector (other states, aid agencies and large transnational corporations)
- low economic resilience to recovering from shocks
- intimate association relation between economic development and environmental assets
- a narrow range of skills and specific difficulty in matching local skills with jobs

#### *Institutional capacity for ICZM*

- likely to lack technical expertise in-country
  - likely to have poorly developed institutional systems to manage ICZM
  - may have disjunction between national and local decision-making
  - may have poorly developed planning culture
  - may have government decision-making reflecting authoritarian and hierarchical cultural systems (ie not participatory)
  - small overall size of individual islands may be offset by non-ecologically based units of local administration, the management of which can be highly parochial
  - concepts behind ICZM may be quite alien and cut across established/traditional practices
- 

It is not a sufficient strategy, however, to simply look at constraints when considering the adaptation of developed, continental nations ICZM concepts to the SIDS context. While it is important to recognise constraints to this process and plan to overcome or avoid them, it is equally, if not more important to recognise those unique features of SIDS which offer particular opportunities for the development of appropriate models for ICZM in SIDS. The following list includes those features of Pacific island SIDS considered to be particularly significant in this context. Other regions and/or SIDS may find that for them a slightly different listing better fits their particular circumstances.

#### *Opportunities*

- SIDS will generally exhibit a high level of community involvement in resource management across the coastal zone. This is partly because of the restricted size of island coastal zones, but also because of the involvement of people in organised families and wider communities in the range of resource management activities from ocean to water catchment. SIDS with a high level of subsistence economic activity and especially those with strong customary land and marine tenure systems will be particularly involved in land and resource management.
- SIDS with strong indigenous cultures also have traditional, and therefore widely accepted and appropriate, decision making and management mechanisms for natural resource management. While some of the concepts of integrated coastal management may be new to such authorities, many will have mechanisms that may not have been used for some time that can adapt to new circumstances. This is a distinct advantage over Western cultures where local resource management is vested in organisations and institutions with a less intimate connection with their immediate environment.
- Most SIDS demonstrate a high degree of subsistence use of coastal resources. This dependence on local resources should be able to be translated into a vital interest in, and commitment to, their sustainable development and conservation management.
- Many island cultures and communities are more closely attuned to the concepts of family and community, which will generally assist an easier understanding of the importance of allowing for the needs of future generations.
- Sustainable development is a goal which requires active community participation and commitment. Most SIDS are well placed to manage community debate and decision making, being generally more structured and active in this regard compared to the majority of large developed countries.

- The areas of concentrated human impact on coastal resources in most SIDS are relatively small. In addition, the range of human activities is likely to be somewhat less than in more populous developed countries

## 5. *Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Small Developing Islands*

### 5.1 *The need for integrated planning and management*

The need for an integrated approach to coastal and marine management has been investigated and documented for a number of areas, but rarely in SIDS. Kenchington and Crawford (1993:112-115) note a number of studies and reports for the US, Australia, Indonesia, Europe and the Mediterranean, which identify the issues and problems necessitating integrated planning and management. They conclude that the problem is that sector-based, short-term, small area management systems do not address the broader issues of ecological sustainability and long-term community interest. A need for coordination or integration of decision making at the sectoral and local level was recognised (Kenchington & Crawford, 1993). It is that sectoral approach, which until relatively recently, had been the model inherited from and/or imposed by the developed, continental countries, and proven to be ineffective in the long-term, especially in SIDS. In many SIDS it is obvious that the special issues facing small developing islands (outlined above in section 3) have not been adequately addressed by past and most current management strategies.

There has recently been a general increase in international awareness of the need for ICZM since the IPCC process started and UNCED was held. This is exemplified by the proliferation of ICZM literature, especially guidelines by international agencies (eg World Bank, 1993; OECD, 1993; Chua & Scura, 1993; Clark, 1992). The statement emanating from the World Coast Conference on Coastal Zone Management recognised the urgency and "...need for coastal states to strengthen their capabilities for integrated coastal zone management, working towards the development of appropriate strategies and programmes by the year 2000." (World Coast, 1993:4).

The greatest need for ICZM programmes appears to be in the developing nations, and especially in SIDS. Sorensen (1993) has identified five arguments for ICZM in developing nations which are equally compelling for SIDS. They are: the maintenance of coastal zone dependent fisheries productivity; coastal aquaculture development; increasing coastal tourism revenues; sustaining mangrove forestry; and avoiding costs associated with natural hazard devastation. He further suggests six reasons why coastal countries are not considering ICZM: "...the issues are not of significant magnitude to force coastal management onto the national or state agenda; opinion leaders are not aware of the ICZM concept and its potential benefits; insufficient political stability of the national administrations; insufficient economic resources to initiate new programs; availability of alternative national programs to achieve ICZM objectives; and the lack of support by international assistance institutions." (p55).

The urgency for some model or form of successful coastal management has escalated in most SIDS as population and development related environmental pressures have also increased. The economic, environmental and social costs of not adopting an integrated approach to management and planning far outweigh the costs of developing such a process. However, the problem facing SIDS is to identify appropriate approaches and/or methodologies for ICZM that are applicable to their circumstances and perspectives.

## 5.2 ICZM development in the small developing islands context

As noted above, it is as important for SIDS that ICZM reflects the particular island circumstances and the ethics and directions of development initiatives in developing countries, as it is to seek to reflect developed countries' models of ICZM. That is, SIDS problems require SIDS solutions. The challenge for sustainable SIDS ICZM under such circumstances, therefore, is to bring together the essential concepts of ICZM in ways which meet community and cultural needs and aspirations. This will dictate a largely *process-oriented* approach, but the bottom line is that unless this is achieved there will be only a limited possibility of interesting, involving, and committing the very communities whose actions are at the centre of the coastal management equation and who dictate the day to day resource management over their part of the coast. Nonetheless, the challenge for traditionally-oriented SIDS is considerable: to put in place appropriate and acceptable new structures to assist local authorities to appreciate, manage, and co-operate/co-ordinate with each other to meet the new threats. The positive side of this is that many such SIDS are living examples of traditional cultures successfully and continually adapting to modern circumstances.

The level at which ICZM in SIDS should be developed needs to be identified. Fully national programmes may be the most appropriate for some countries, but for others, especially those with strong customary tenure systems, may find it more effective to begin at the sub-national/community level -- that is, at the level of cultural appropriateness. The scale at which success is most likely should be the entry level for establishing ICZM in SIDS. However, no matter what the entry level is determined to be, it will be extremely beneficial to have official sanction from the highest possible political level.

For SIDS with dominant traditional cultures, such as in the Pacific islands region, a different conceptual approach to ICZM development should be encouraged. The customary systems, structures and processes should form the basis of ICZM, and ICZM be developed around those systems, rather than merely including customary processes into ICZM, as tends to be currently attempted. Such an approach would require the *initial* development and implementation of ICZM to be based on the scale of the most 'effective management unit', be it the village, district or whole island level. This type of approach may in the short-term be slower and more difficult to develop, but it should in the long-term prove to be far more effective, especially when scaled up to encompass larger areas.

Although it is extremely clear that there is no "one solution" to developing ICZM in SIDS, there are, however, certain principles which should be adhered to. The following principles were among the recommendations contained in UNCED's Agenda 21 action programme, and highlighted in the Nourdwijk Guidelines (World Bank, 1993), they are:

- The precautionary principle
- The polluter pays principle
- Use of proper resource accounting
- The principle of trans-boundary responsibility
- The principle of intergenerational equity.

In developing an ICZM project for the Pacific islands region, SPREP felt it was important that the linkages between the regionally identified principles for sustainable development and those for integrated coastal zone management be made. The principles adopted were:



- The needs of present generations must be met in a sustainable manner without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Equity in participation must be promoted in sustainable development.
- Adverse environmental impacts of economic development must be minimised.
- The precautionary principle must be taken into account.
- Policies relating to resource use and development planning must integrate environmental, economic and social considerations.
- Pacific island governments need to uphold their international responsibilities, as should the international community towards the Pacific islands region.
- The culture and traditions of the region must be taken into consideration.

The current development of SIDS ICZM approaches has occurred over time and with each being able to draw on information of relevant past experiences. One of the most recent developments has been the preparation of regional ICZM projects. SPREP is currently seeking to implement its regional ICZM project, the Caribbean Environment Programme is believed to be also preparing such a regional project. Others such as the Mediterranean "Guidelines for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas" are also under action.

It is apparent that there are a number of critical regional needs which combine to give rise to the need for such a regional approach. At both a regional and sub-regional level there are:

- substantial commonalities in terms of island socio-cultural, economic and ecological characteristics;
- similar infrastructural and human resource needs for the development of appropriate country ICZM; and
- similar information needs with important benefits to be gained from shared basic resources, capability to deliver translated and targeted information, networking between SIDS in the region and with developed country experience and practice, delivery of appropriate training and human resource development programmes.

In addition regional organisations have the appropriate status with member governments to bring the basic concepts of ICZM before senior politicians in ways that national public servants are perhaps unable to access. This is a most significant component of the SIDS effort, because while it is vital that local communities and decision making be centrally involved in the process, it is the government politicians who are the ultimate decision makers in terms of project acceptance and compliance for the large national development projects. They are also the respected elder statesmen of their culture and wield considerable influence which may not be amenable to advice from within the public service.

Of vital importance for establishing integrated planning and management in SIDS are the "triggers" in-country that start the process. Ideally, the process should originate from within rather than from outside. The Noordwijk Guidelines (World Bank, 1993:11-12) touch on this:

"Any one of a number of problems can trigger the need for a more effective, better integrated approach to the management of a given coastal area, that is, for ICZM. Typically, some major crisis or event precipitates action by awakening the stakeholders as to the urgency of a problem or condition. Governments then become involved and seek ways to remedy the problem. Unfortunately, given human nature, a decision to

embark upon a major management strengthening and improvement effort such as the ICZM process, is seldom undertaken in advance of the appearance of major problems and/or conflicts in spite of the fact that the problems are likely to be more tractable and solutions less costly at an earlier stage. Many coastal problems are not calamities but creeping disasters such as pollution, erosion and disappearance of biodiversity."

In the SIDS situation, the "creeping" disasters would tend to manifest themselves faster than in the continental situation, and the resultant "disaster" proportionally greater in effect, due to the small island size (ie proportion of total habitat and population affected). Many of the "creeping disasters" listed in section 3 are already at a critical level within many SIDS. However, any solution will also tend to be similarly affected by the small size - it should be possible to notice the effects of integrated planning and management more rapidly than would be expected in the developed, continental situation. The size and nature of many SIDS makes the concept of integrated management a feasible one.

Over the years there have been a vast number of coastal management plans, including some of an integrated nature, prepared for (rarely by) SIDS. The great majority of these plans have languished on shelves gathering dust or growing mould through either the lack of an appropriate process or simply because they were inappropriate. The development of appropriate ICZM plans (as proposed in this paper) will also suffer the same fate unless the next step - implementation - is taken.

### 5.3 *Implementation needs*

The two keys to any coastal management and planning process, including ICZM, are (i) implementation, and (ii) monitoring and evaluation. There are very few examples of effective implementation of coastal management plans, let alone ICZM, in SIDS. Successful implementation of ICZM in SIDS will require, at least: education and awareness programmes; capacity building (institutional and human); long term stability (funding and institutions); and appropriate methodologies.

Education and awareness is an essential component for developing and implementing ICZM programmes anywhere. The initial targets should preferably be the decision makers at all levels. It is this group that needs to fully understand the consequences of their actions and policy decisions on the coastal zone. In many Pacific SIDS the traditional decision makers tend to be very conservative and reluctant to adopt new or different ideas, especially at the local community level. Public awareness campaigns in formats appropriate to the country concerned will also be essential. It is with these campaigns that innovative approaches should be encouraged.

One of the main tenets of this paper is that "appropriate" methodologies and approaches must be adopted and used for effective ICZM to occur in SIDS. What is deemed appropriate will vary considerably between SIDS. As for the development of ICZM in SIDS, it will be the *process* of implementation that is critical. For example, in the Pacific islands region the ~~decision making processes involve a considerable number of meetings~~ both as a means to provide information, as well as the prime means to arrive at a consensus decision. This is reflected in the considerable emphasis on meetings and workshops in the regional ICZM project developed by SPREP. This is the "Pacific Way", and may be inappropriate for other regions or SIDS, but in any case it will be flexibility, not rigidity, in implementing ICZM in SIDS that is required.

There has been much discussion of "top-down" versus "bottom-up" approaches to implementing ICZM. This apparent dichotomy of strategies is rather misleading and unproductive. The "bottom-up" approach that SPREP uses in the Pacific islands region also involves top level sanctioning. SPREP has found that it is essential to receive approval to proceed from the highest political level, particularly when operating at the "grass roots" level. The implementation approach adopted will obviously vary from SIDS to SIDS. For example, in Singapore it has been found that the "top-down" approach is the most effective (Scurz, *et al.*, 1992).

It has been well recognised that capacity building of both institutions and human resources is essential for effective implementation of ICZM in SIDS. At the national level this would include the establishment or strengthening of institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for ICZM. Capacity building for the planning and implementation of ICZM may also include the strengthening of regional and international networks, in particular, between SIDS; identifying ways of involving NGOs and other major groups in the ICZM process; and adequate resources for education and awareness as well as for the development of appropriate methodologies and tools referred to above.

As noted earlier in the paper, the majority of coastal management and planning activities to date have been funded by sources external to the SIDS. This funding has more often than not been for a set period, usually of one to three years' duration. External sources of funding will be essential for developing and especially implementing ICZM in most SIDS. Herein lies one of the key problems with ICZM implementation in SIDS. As most external funding is for a finite period with no guarantee of renewal, once that funding stops then the country needs to be capable both financially and institutionally to carry on with the implementation and the evaluation and modification process. Essential to the development of ICZM programmes in SIDS is the recognition of the need for long-term stability in the programme. ICZM is not a one-off project, it needs to be viewed as an integral part of long-term government procedures. It will obviously be important to look at means to generate income for long-term ICZM, including such concepts as polluter/user pays.

In this paper we have provided an overview of some of the issues that need to be taken into account when developing ICZM in SIDS. It is by no means comprehensive, and the issues will vary in importance from state to state. The concept of ICZM should be viewed as promoting the sustainable development of coastal resources. In the context of small island developing states, integrated coastal zone management is essentially synonymous with integrated island management. The following section sets out recommendations which we feel are important for promoting and establishing integrated coastal zone management in small island developing states.

## 6. Recommendations for Future Action

### 6.1 Role of the Barbados Conference

The Barbados Conference should:

- promote the development of ICZM appropriate for SIDS as a matter of urgency;
- support the development of regional and sub-regional projects to assist SIDS to carry out this task.

### 6.2 National and sub-national level

In initiating Integrated Coastal Zone Management SIDS should:

- be carefully and deliberately tailored to the particular ecological, social, cultural and economic characteristics of small islands;
- be strongly oriented towards the process of achieving plans and strategies;
- initially aim to develop and implement ICZM at the level of the most effective management unit;
- seek to assist and complement traditional or existing decision making and management bodies rather than try from the outset to introduce new and alien structures or try to replace existing ones;
- seek to define what human activities and intensities of use are sustainable in the coastal zone and provide strategies to achieve them;
- be broadly participatory and afford appropriate authority to local communities;
- take into account a broad definition of the coastal zone and include activities inland of the coastal areas by promoting less damaging development practices;
- deliver appropriate information material on climate change and other technical topics to decision makers and the public;
- encourage the early ratification or accession to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) and develop appropriate protocols (eg carbon dioxide reduction protocol initiated by AOSIS) and become parties to other legal environmental agreements;
- increase national scientific monitoring and research capabilities of climate change impacts, to support the adoption of appropriate adaptive measures and policies and development of response strategies to mitigate impacts of climate change and possible sea level rise;
- adopt the precautionary principle, especially in the context of climate change and sea level rise.

## 6.2 Regional level

Regional and sub-regional organisations should:

- establish regional and sub-regional ICZM programmes to promote and assist SIDS to prepare and implement appropriate national or sub-national ICZM programmes;
- develop technical assistance programmes to assist SIDS with ICZM;
- develop public education and awareness information to assist SIDS to reach both decision makers and public / local communities with appropriate and innovative education and awareness programmes;
- develop networks to link SIDS with each other and with other sources of relevant information;
- develop and implement programmes for informing and persuading SIDS leaders to adopt ICZM approaches appropriate to their circumstances and to ensure government commitments to them;
- Funding for SIDS ICZM should be coordinated, where appropriate, via regional and sub-regional programmes to ensure that the most appropriate approaches are taken in individual SIDS, and comprehensively supported in terms of technical advice, information and project funding.
- collect and disseminate information on climate change between SIDS in order to improve understanding of present and potential impacts of climate changes;
- develop and enhance programmes and projects to monitor and improve the understanding of climate change, variability and sea level rise to assess the impacts of climate change on coastal areas and activities;
- provide technical assistance for ratification and develop appropriate protocols in the FCCC to meet their commitments.

## 6.3 International level

- To continue to advocate in international fora and with the international aid donor community, the special needs of ICZM for SIDS and the need for different approaches as proposed in this paper;
- recognise that ICZM is a long-term process which will require continual monitoring, evaluation and modification, and therefore ongoing international support;
- encourage funding and other assistance that enables ICZM capacity building (both institutional and human resources) to ensure the long-term stability of ICZM programmes in SIDS;

- support regional and sub-regional organisations to assist SIDS in developing ICZM and to cope effectively and creatively with climate change issues;
- develop appropriate protocols for FCCC and immediately implement the convention;
- provide improved access to information from the activities carried out to reduce uncertainties of climate change and assist inter-island exchange of the information.

## 7. Acknowledgments

A number of people contributed to the development of this paper. They were: Vili Fuavao<sup>1</sup>; Andrew Smith<sup>2</sup>; Gerald Miles<sup>3</sup>; Chalapas Kaluwin<sup>4</sup>; and Roger Cornforth<sup>5</sup>.

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