

United Nations General Assembly
Second Committee Special Event
Panel discussion on

“Strengthening the Resilience of Small Island Developing States within the
context of Sustainable Development”

United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 2,
42nd Street and 1 Avenue, New York, NY 10017
November 1, 2013, 10 AM-1 PM

Concept Note

Background

The special case of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for sustainable development and their unique and particular vulnerabilities has been acknowledged by the international community at least since the Rio Summit in 1992. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted in Barbados in 1994, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted in 2005 set forth actions and strategies to build resilience. Most recently, the special case of SIDS was reaffirmed in “The Future We Want”, during the Rio+20 deliberations.

SIDS vulnerabilities span across all sectors of sustainable development. During Rio+20, the international community acknowledged that SIDS remain a special case in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, their exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, and the impacts of climate change, particularly sea level rise, and natural disasters.

As a result of these vulnerabilities, “The Future We Want” noted that SIDS have made less progress than most other groupings in economic terms, and their overall progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is slower than that of other groups. The Future We Want

(b) Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for

Strategy of BPOA, identifying priority areas and actions needed through a series of multi-stakeholder consultations, and how these have been reflected into a national sustainable development strategy (Maurice Ile Durable), which would serve as basis to strengthen resilience building addressing identified vulnerabilities and priority areas for follow up national actions and for exploring partnership opportunities.

Climate change challenges and options for SIDS

Low-lying SIDS and those with large coastal areas are facing continuous challenges of climate change and sea level rise. These countries have been advocating for the international community to address such challenges and are engaged in various strategies on their own to adapt to these environmental vulnerabilities. This section will examine the vulnerabilities

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Moderator

Ambassador Janine Coye-Felson, Special Adviser to the President of the General Assembly

Panellists

Mr. Osman Mahomed, Executive Chairman, Commission on Maurice Ile Durable, Mauritius

H.E. Makurita Baaro, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kiribati to the United Nations

Mr. Peter Allum, Assistant Director, IMF's Strategy, Policy and Review Department

Dr. Jose Regidor Garcia, Rector Magfco, Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Sede Institucional, Member of the Board of Trustees of the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS)

Format

The Panel discussion will be a series of presentations by the panellists followed by an open debate. At the end a summary of the debate will be provided and the chairperson will conclude.

Biographies of Proposed Panelists

Mr. Peter Allum

Mr. Peter Allum is Assistant Director in the IMF's Strategy, Policy and Review Department, where he currently provides leadership in the design and monitoring of the IMF's policy engagement with its small state members. In this role, he oversaw a March 2013 report to the IMF Executive Board on Fund engagement with small states. He has participated in meetings with small island developing states from the Caribbean and Pacific, and presented at the October 2013 meeting of the Small States Forum in Washington DC.

Mr. Allum has more than 20 years experience in the IMF. Over the past decade, much of this work was with African countries, including from 2004-06 as resident representative in Uganda. Outside of Africa, he has worked with country authorities from the Middle East, central Asia, and Latin America.

Prior to joining the IMF, Mr. Allum was an economist in the UK Department of Trade and Industry, UK Treasury, and in the British Embassy in Washington DC.

Mr. Osman Mahomed

Mr. Osman Mahomed has, Since July 2011, ~~overs~~ ^{overs} a national initiative that ensures the sustainable development of Mauritius and ~~g~~ ^g its future for all its citizens. Through the

He is honorary member of the Medical School Las Palmas and member of the Canary Academy of Science; on November 2010 he was appointed as member of the Royal Academy of Medicine.

H.E. Makurita Baaro

Ambassador Baaro submitted her credentials to the Secretary General in August 2013 and became the first resident Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kiribati to the United Nations. From 2011 until her latest appointment Ms. Baaro was Relations Manager in the