

COMMUNIQUE
Fourth Summit of the Heads of State and Government
of the
Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
Adopted at Johannesburg, 1 September 2002

1. The Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) met on 1 September, 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September, 2002. The meeting was chaired by H.E. The Honourable Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Independent State of Samoa, and was attended by: H.E. (Heads of State and Government)
2. The meeting was also attended by the following Heads of Delegation of AOSIS member States: H.E. (Ministers, PRs, etc)
3. The following special observers were also in attendance: (UN, SIDS regional organizations, NGOs)
4. We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of AOSIS express great satisfaction with the agreement on the special provisions contained in Chapter VII of the draft Plan of Implementation for the WSSD on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. The section elaborates the special case for Small Island Developing States in the context of sustainable development.
5. We note with appreciation the substantive and constructive role that AOSIS delegations have played throughout the WSSD and its preparatory process.
6. We acknowledge the continued efforts of Small Island Developing States for sustainable development and the need for full and effective implementation of Chapter VII. The experience of the past decade reveals considerable constraints now exacerbated by, amongst other things, increasing vulnerability and the emerging challenges of HIV/AIDS, poverty, climate change, continued environmental degradation, trade and economic marginalisation and the need to harness the opportunities provided by the rapidly advancing information and communication technologies.
7. We express our determination to put in place a long-term strategy for the effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action in order to overcome these constraints and achieve sustainable development through national action, regional cooperation and international support. This will require particular attention to capacity building, resource mobilisation, securing adequate health standards and job creation.
8. We reviewed the current concerns to Small Island Developing States, and highlight the following as particularly pressing:

- i. We recognize that the special case for Small Island Developing States in environment and development captures the unique circumstances of the **vulnerability** of Small Island Developing States. Developing the capacity to manage vulnerability and build resilience to economic, social and environmental shocks is urgent and we call on the international community to support the efforts of Small Island Developing States. ✓
- ii. In respect of **capacity building** we reiterate our call for the international community to support and strengthen existing and new capacity building efforts of Small Island Developing States in all their aspects, and to strengthen co-operation among Small Island Developing States. ✓
- iii. We urge the international community to put in place appropriate mechanisms to support Small Island Developing States in their efforts to adjust to **globalization and trade** liberalization, and call on the WTO to recognize the special situation of Small Island Developing States and ensure that in the elaboration of its Work Program on Small Economies as a follow-up to the Doha Ministerial Declaration it takes due account of the difficulties encountered by Small Island Developing States including effective operationalization of special and differential treatment and capacity building initiatives, and in this respect we welcome the provision made in the draft Plan of Implementation of WSSD for small economies.
- iv. We are deeply concerned about the adverse impacts of **climate change** and sea-level rise that are already being experienced by Small Island Developing States and the severe hardships associated with increasing climate variability, and call for urgent international and domestic action to address climate change and its consequences, including the early ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, greater public awareness and mobilization of resources for adaptation.
- v. The protection and preservation of the **biological diversity** of Small Island Developing States is urgent and we call for international assistance to enhance the capability of Small Island Developing States to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- vi. We recognize the increasing impacts, including costs and loss of lives, of **natural disasters** in Small Island Developing States and urge the international community to support efforts to develop and strengthen national and regional capacities to mitigate these impacts.
- vii. **Land degradation** and drought, and the consequences of the loss of agricultural production seriously compromise efforts to achieve poverty reduction and the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, and we urge the international community to increase its financial and

technical support to the implementation of initiatives under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

- viii. We are resolved to seek and to establish global **sustainable energy** partnerships that can ensure that adequate, affordable and environmentally safe energy is available to promote the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- ix. **Water** is essential for life. The economic and social wellbeing of Small Island Developing States are dependent upon the quality and quantity of fresh water and adequate sanitation, and we call on the international community to support the development and strengthening of capacity to effectively manage the water sector which is constrained by small size and limited human resources.
- x. We recognize that as custodians of vast **ocean** areas Small Island Developing States have special responsibilities. Technological and financial assistance is required to ensure that Small Island Developing States are able to manage their ocean areas, including the sustainable development of ocean resources and the protection of ocean health.
- xi. We acknowledge that tourism is one of the most important economic sectors in most of our countries. Nevertheless, many environmental, cultural and socially degrading effects of tourism are adversely impacting Small Island Developing States, and we call on all countries to re-commit themselves to the principles of **sustainable tourism** and for programmes of implementation, along the lines adopted in stakeholder communities in Small Island Developing States.
- xii. We urge the multilateral development financial community to consider augmenting the quantum of resources devoted to **financing sustainable development** and in this connection we urge the developed partners to be more responsive to agreed official development assistance targets. We note with appreciation the success in efforts for the replenishment of the resources of the GEF, which is a committed and reliable partner in financing sustainable development in Small Island Developing States.
- xiii. We regard international cooperation on **taxation** issues as important, and there should be provisions for our participation in the international rule-making process, to ensure transparency and non-discrimination in the implementation of regulation, operation and best practices.
- xiv. We note with concern that the **HIV/AIDS** pandemic continues to be a major challenge for Small Island Developing States, and call for intensified

XV gerar os dejetos
apoiar aos PE/ED em projectos de
tratamento de dejetos solidos e urbanos

*desenvolvimento
 sustentável*

*desenvolvimento
 sustentável
 dos recursos*

international and regional efforts, including steps to ensure access to affordable treatment and medication.

→ X Transport
9. We express to all our international partners and donor countries, to the United Nations agencies and all other international organizations our appreciation for their continuing support and assistance.

10. We look forward to the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the support of the international community in the preparations at national, regional and inter-regional levels for the convening of an international meeting to review the Barbados Programme of Action in 2004.

11. We recognise the special value of regional and inter-regional cooperation amongst Small Island Developing States and the role performed by their regional organizations and educational institutions, and call for further strengthening of links between these organisations for sustainable development. We also encourage the pursuit of further regional and inter-regional cooperation amongst and between AOSIS member States.

12. We reaffirm our strong support for the United Nations SIDS Unit, and call for its strengthening as the focal point for Small Island Developing States within the United Nations system.

13. We express gratitude to member States that have hosted AOSIS workshops and meetings of experts. We also express our appreciation to the Chairman of AOSIS and all AOSIS officials who have worked tirelessly to accomplish the mandates and goals of AOSIS in many international negotiations. AOSIS should continue to strengthen its advocacy role, including in the preparations for the proposed Barbados+10 Conference.

14. We reaffirm our agreement to exchange views at future international meetings to ensure that AOSIS remains a forum to promote the shared interests of its member States, and to strengthen cooperation among Small Island Developing States.

15. We offer to the Government and People of the Republic of South Africa our warmest gratitude and congratulations for the fine arrangements for the WSSD.

Done at Johannesburg, 1 September 2002.

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