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A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS
20TH TO 21TH NOVEMBER 2003

**Report of the Caribbean Regional
Meeting to Review the Programme of
Action for the Sustainable
Development of Small Island
Developing States**

The overview document prepared by the UNEP/ROLAC Secretariat for the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is based entirely on the *Report of the Caribbean Meeting to Review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*. Every effort has been made to ensure that it is an accurate summation of the content of that document.

I. Introduction

1. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation⁽¹⁾ reiterates that small island developing States are a special case both for environment and development. Although they continue to take the lead in the path towards sustainable development in their countries, they are increasingly constrained by the interplay of adverse factors clearly underlined in Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States⁽²⁾ and the decisions adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly. In addition, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calls for a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004, in accordance with the provisions set forth in General Assembly resolution S22/2. In this context requests the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session to consider convening an international meeting for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

2. As a follow-up to the call by the Johannesburg Plan of Action for a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session (New York, USA; 28th April to 9th May 2003) on the Preparation for the International Meeting to Review Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development agreed that a number of regional preparatory meetings be convened in accordance with paragraph 7 of UNGA resolution 57/262 in the various regions where SIDS are concentrated.

3. In accordance with the decision of the Commission for Sustainable Development, the Caribbean Regional Meeting was convened in Trinidad and Tobago from October 6th-10th, 2003. The meeting was organized by and hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, with generous support from the governments of Denmark and New Zealand.

4. In order to facilitate Caribbean SIDS preparations for the Caribbean Regional Meeting UNEP/ROLAC on the basis of requests received from Caribbean SIDS, assisted eight Caribbean SIDS (Barbados, Bahamas, Cuba, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) in the preparation of their National Reports. These reports provided the basis for the countries' inputs to the Caribbean Regional Meeting.

5. The following Caribbean SIDS were represented: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

6. In addition, UNEP/ROLAC in collaboration with the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD), the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) and the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) convened a Caribbean

⁽¹⁾ The final text negotiated by Governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26 August – 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa.

⁽²⁾ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25th April -6 May 1994 (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.94.1.18 and corrigendum, Chap 1, resolution 1, annex II.

Civil Society Consultation in Trinidad and Tobago on October 3-5, 2003, immediately before the convening of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting.

7. The objectives of the meeting were:

Provide an opportunity for a coordinated Caribbean Civil Society input into the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of SIDS.

Review the implementation of the BPOA by Caribbean Civil Society taking into consideration the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Action.

Identify a number of specific actions which could contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS.

Prepare draft recommendations which could be used as the basis for the Caribbean Civil Society input to the Caribbean preparatory meeting convened from October 6th to 10th 2003.

8. A report of the Caribbean Civil Society Consultation is attached as **Annex I** to this document.

9. UNEP/ROLAC also provided assistance to the CARICOM Secretariat to facilitate the preparation of a regional synthesis based on all the National Assessment Reports prepared by Caribbean SIDS.

10. Presentations of National Assessment Reports were made at the meeting describing Caribbean SIDS achievements on sustainable development, challenges to the implementation of the BPOA and new and emerging issues. There was general consensus that the enhancement of the quality of life of peoples, including their health, well being and safety, as called for in the BPOA, must remain at the heart of the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS. Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the meeting concurred that the implementation of the BPOA, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), the Monterrey Consensus, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the other internationally agreed development goals requires enhanced support and the mobilization of resources from the international community as well as renewed action by SIDS themselves.

II. Summary of Main Conclusions

11. The general theme of the meeting was the need for Caribbean SIDS to increase their resilience to the vulnerabilities confronting them. Taking this into consideration recommendations were made with the view of increasing Caribbean SIDS resilience to environmental, economic and social vulnerabilities. The main conclusions and decisions are summarized in the text that follows.

A. Environmental Vulnerabilities

a) Climate Change

12. It was acknowledged that in order to build resilience to climate change there is a need to:

- a) seek support from the international community for the development regional climate models at scales appropriate to SIDS in order to provide them with the necessary tools to assist in planning for adaptation to climate change;

- b) mainstream adaptation to climate change into various sector plans (i.e. agriculture, fisheries, health and water resources management) as well as into national sustainable development plans;
- c) improve public education, awareness and dissemination of information on climate change issues as well as to develop collaborative research on the impact of and adaptation to climate change;
- d) develop partnerships including with the insurance sector to provide incentives for financing retrofitting of existing structures and design of new structures based on vulnerability reduction measures;
- e) improve access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technology related to climate change by, *inter alia*, assessment of technology needs, identification of barriers to technology transfer, improvement of enabling environments for technology transfer and the identification of capacity related needs to facilitate technology transfer.

b) Natural and Environmental Disasters

13. There is recognition, for the need of more detailed research on the complex nature of vulnerability to natural and environmental disaster in Caribbean SIDS. In addition, integrated development planning, vulnerability mapping to facilitate the integration of disaster mitigation measures into sustainable development plans, the enforcement of building codes and legislation, the completion of the work on vulnerability indices and capacity development were all identified as urgent requirements, which required the development of programmes, with the support of the international community.

14. Affordable insurance and re-insurance was highlighted as an important means of building resilience in disaster prone SIDS. In this regard, it was recommended that this issue be highlighted again in the comprehensive review of the BPOA and that an appropriate international institution be identified to undertake a feasibility study on cost-effective and affordable facilities that could be made available for SIDS.

c) Management of Waste

15. Concern was expressed over the unresolved issue related to the passage through the Caribbean Sea of ships bearing nuclear waste and the threats posed by such shipments. It was agreed that the most acceptable solution would be the cessation of nuclear waste shipments through the region. It was further recommended that regional mechanisms be established to protect the oceans and coastal areas from ship-generated wastes, oil spills and the trans-boundary movement of toxic and hazardous material, taking into account the relevant international maritime instruments in this area. In addition, the need to develop regional and national capacity to manage the generation and disposal of hazardous and special waste in SIDS; mechanisms to facilitate an increase in public awareness and information sharing on best practices; the promotion and implementation of community based management programmes; the establishment of indicators and the implementation of a national system of monitoring; the evaluation of existing waste management systems in order to identify more SIDS-appropriate systems and models, and where necessary seek international assistance to develop SIDS-appropriate systems for recycling, waste minimisation and treatment, reuse and management were highlighted.

d) Coastal and Marine Resources

16. The importance of protecting and effectively managing the regions coastal and marine ecosystems to ensure their continued contribution to the sustainable development of the Caribbean SIDS including sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities as well as the importance of completing the work on the delineation of their Exclusive Economic Zones was highlighted. Taking in account that the Caribbean Sea is one of the most heavily used seas for the movement of all types of ships and cargo as well as a valuable resource for the regions tourism industry, Caribbean SIDS continue to advocate, within the United Nations, for the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

17. In addition, it was recommended that there is a need for:

- a) research, mapping and data collection of coastal and marine resources to support the restoration and rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems as well as for improved legislation, enforcement and surveillance;
- b) mechanisms to facilitate the integration of coastal zones measures with other policies (e.g. watershed management);
- c) the development of capacity for the sustainable development and management of the oceans, in particular for the production of energy, (i.e. Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC));
- d) coastal zone management processes, policies and practices to take into consideration the needs of all stakeholders, have as an integral part measures to ensure the integration and implementation of livelihoods improvement of coastal communities; and
- e) continued support for NGO involvement initiatives such as the International Coral Reef Initiative.

e) Water Resources

18. Lack of adequate water management, infrastructure and distribution systems is a constraint faced by many SIDS. As a consequence, affordable access to water for all and protecting water quality remain important challenges. In the light of increasing public-private sector partnerships in the water sector, there is a need to strengthen regulations and monitoring frameworks to facilitate privatization for water resources and for integrating water resources management with energy services. Sanitation and waste management was highlighted as a particular area where an integrated approach could enhance efficiency.

f) Land Resources

19. A serious concern was raised with respect to the loss of agricultural land in Caribbean SIDS as well as the related issues of land tenure, land suitability and land use conflict, and the need for strengthening enforcement capabilities in relation to zoning. It was recommended that:

- a) programmes be established to make land more affordable and accessible for local populations in Caribbean SIDS, especially for low-income groups;
- b) mechanisms for the establishment of proper administration for land management in order to mitigate against land degradation soil erosion and desertification;
- c) technical resources be strengthened to develop and implement projects (including GEF projects) to address land degradation, while at the same time, calling for additional resources to enable Caribbean SIDS to complete their National Action Programmes (NAP) and

- d) additional and relevant research and post-graduate programmes be introduced in the region's tertiary level institutions in geographic information systems (GIS), natural resource management and forestry science. It was also noted, that there has been a lack of presentation of proposals for funding under the relevant international instruments (i.e Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the GEF) by some Caribbean SIDS.

g) Energy Resources

20. Dependence on imported energy remains a principal challenge to sustainable economic development of Caribbean SIDS and a major impediment to their sustainable development and economic growth. For the majority of Caribbean SIDS, imported fossil fuels consume a significant percentage of their foreign exchange. In addition, the use of fossil fuels also contributes to pollution and increased emissions and is a significant factor for the economic and environmental vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS. In this context, energy efficiency is identified as a priority issue for Caribbean SIDS. The region's vast renewable energy resources (i.e. biomass, hydro, ocean, solar and wind, geothermal etc.) potential was also recognized and its further development highlighted as a priority issues for most Caribbean SIDS. It was also recommended that there is the need for:

- a) increased regional cooperation for research and development for SIDS-appropriate applications of renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- b) the establishment of national energy advisory committees;
- c) a study to review the impacts of privatisation on the character of electricity generation and distribution;
- d) the accelerated implementation of energy efficiency initiatives and development of projects to utilize the abundant renewable energy resources and geothermal sources as options to address the major impediment of energy costs;
- e) to explore the feasibility of using regional development banks as facilitators for energy transfer;
- f) consideration to be given to the establishment of an international SIDS investment fund to finance investments in programmes towards energy efficiency, renewable energy and capacity for the development of energy services; and
- g) to facilitate broad based targeted public awareness programmes aimed at promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

h) Biodiversity resources

21. The meeting concluded that the designation of protected areas in Caribbean SIDS has largely been a success, but management of these areas has been hindered by the lack of an adequate institutional policy and legal frameworks. The loss of habitat was however, identified as a continuing concern. Recognizing that coral reef and forest ecosystems are the source of the majority of SIDS' biodiversity, recommendations were made:

- a) to extend the research on coral reef protection including causes of coral diseases and bleaching and sustainable forestry as well as the use of existing natural resources for traditional and alternative use;

- b) for the better management of mangrove and associated ecosystems, (i.e. sea grass beds) in ways to preserve their integrity;
- c) for the promotion and establishment of trans-border or multi-national biodiversity and land and marine conservation areas;
- d) for the development of measures to control and to the extent possible eradicate alien or modified organisms that may have adverse effects on biodiversity;
- e) for inventorying, documenting and assessing local biodiversity, as well as promoting regional cooperation;
- f) for international support and SIDS-SIDS cooperation to develop the economic potential of local medicinal plants while ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights;
- g) the recognition of the true value of biodiversity for tourism, watershed management, agriculture, access to and benefit sharing and general sustainability of SIDS; and
- h) for continued work to harmonise the reporting requirements of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

i) Tourism Resources

22. Tourism remains an important sector for the region as a major foreign exchange earner and employer. Caribbean SIDS recognizes the challenge of increasing the benefits which accrue from the cruise ships industry, especially by continued and strengthened cooperation among Caribbean cruise ship destinations. Recognition of the need for the implementation of harmonized legislation against waste and pollution as well as to determine carrying capacity and limits to acceptable change to assist in promoting the sustainable development of the tourism industry was highlighted. The needs for capacity development to monitor the actions of ships, for enforcing regulations and to develop appropriate management structures were also stressed.

j) Transport and Communication

23. The need for rationalization of air services in the region as well as the improved land transport policies Caribbean SIDS was highlighted. In view of the rapidly growing importance of information and communications technologies (ICT) and their application in sustainable development, the need to examine the overall role played by information management and knowledge building in furthering the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS was stressed. The liberalization of telecommunications in Caribbean SIDS was also noted, and some concerns remain, some SIDS are benefiting from this liberalization.

B. Economic Vulnerabilities

a) International economic, financial and trading system

24. The urgent need for greater transparency and inclusiveness in the international economic, financial and trading system as well as for a democratic and participatory approach in the process of setting international rules, codes, common norms and standards was highlighted. Such an approach should ensure that the interests and concerns of all countries, irrespective of size and constitutional status, are fairly and equally served. Concern was also expressed at the increased marginalization of SIDS and small economies in the global economic, financial and trading system with the

emergence of a globalized economy and the formation of regional and global trading blocs. In this regard, a call was made for SIDS representation in the various trade negotiating fora to continue to make the case for special, differential treatment, given the openness of the economies of Caribbean SIDS and their inherent vulnerabilities, as well as the particular costs of adapting to climate change and sea level rise.

25. There was general agreement that trade impacts on all aspects of the sustainable development of SIDS. The meeting underscored:

- a) the need for clarity of trade policy objectives by international organizations in their treatment of SIDS and the Barbados Programme of Action;
- b) the importance of enhancing the active involvement and participation of SIDS in all issues relating to trade and recommend a collective approach to trade negotiations;
- c) trade and trade-related policy issues impact on SIDS significantly and effective action must taken to strengthen their systems of governance particularly the public sector; and
- d) the need for coherence and synergies among international support mechanisms and the major initiatives such as Agenda 21, BPOA, the JPOI and the MDGs, as well as the outcomes of the Mauritius Islands International Meeting.

26. It was observed that the decline in Caribbean market share of trade in goods and services has been directly linked to the timeframe for the removal of preferential arrangements. As a consequence, the need for greater flexibility and a longer timeframe for the implementation of the WTO arrangements were highlighted. Issues such as dumping, non-competitive practices and subsidies undermine the long-term prospects of SIDS to provide employment and generate income. The international community should desist from such practices. The meeting recommended attention be directed to building capacity in SIDS on a sub-regional or regional basis to deal effectively with issues such as dumping, non-competitive practices and subsidies do as to ensure that these do not undermine their competitiveness and employment opportunities. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should be requested to provide assistance in this area. In addition, attention should be given to the need for Caribbean SIDS to strengthen resilience mechanisms to counteract marginalizing elements.

27. As a means of strengthening the resilience to economic vulnerability as well as mitigating the constraints of small size and limited resource endowment of individual states, the meeting recognised the determination of the CARICOM states to complete the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) by 2005. In this regard they also took note of the Rose Hall Declaration on Regional Governance and Integrated Development adopted by the CARICOM Heads of Government in July 2003. The meeting called on the international community to fully support Caribbean member states in their efforts to establish the CSME by the 2005 deadline.

b) Trade and Environment

28. Attention should be given to the environmental dimensions of trade as it relates to the defined in the Doha Ministerial Meeting, such as market access among other issues. The trade implications of MEAs such as the CBD Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Kyoto Protocol to the FCCC, the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants and of other MEAs and the implications for the Cotonou Agreement.

29. The meeting recommended that there:

- a) is an urgent need for confidence building on trade and environment, particularly on the relationship between developed and developing countries on these issues to make progress;
- b) is a need to increase the participation of SIDS representatives from both the trade and environment ministries in meetings such as those of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment;
- c) is a need for more supportive measures in MEAs such as capacity building and technology transfer, financial resources and other incentives to achieve sustainable development in SIDS;
- d) the establishment of a regional TRIPS/Patent office in the Caribbean;
- e) the need for greater synergies between the MEAs.

C. Social Vulnerabilities

a) Security

30. The meeting affirmed that security must be viewed in a multi-dimensional fashion, to take into consideration diverse non-traditional threats such as narco-trafficking, crime, HIV/AIDS, poverty and environmental matters, rather than only from the military dimension. Given SIDS obligations to implement the new international Maritime Security Regime, which comes into effect July 1, 2004, and the difficulties being encountered by Caribbean SIDS, in putting appropriate systems in place, a request is being made to the international community for assistance in helping these countries meeting their maritime security obligations.

b) Health Challenges

31. Caribbean SIDS faces significant challenges to the health of its people, and that this in turn challenges the sustainable development capacity of the countries of the region. There is concern of the lack of emphasis in national health strategies on prevention and education. Increase in communicable and lifestyle diseases is a major concern. In this context, reference was made to the decision of the CARICOM the Heads of Government for the creation of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development. It was recommended that:

- a) the control and treatment of HIV/AIDS is an immediate priority deserving greater attention, hence the urgency to negotiate arrangements with pharmaceutical companies for getting lower rate generic drugs as well as for the consideration of the procurement of drugs on a regional basis;
- b) there is a need to simplify access to the Global AIDS Fund, given the difficult Caribbean SIDS have experienced in sourcing these resources;
- c) provision be made for a comprehensive health and peer sex education programme in all schools, including HIV/AIDS education;
- d) the implementation of programmes that encourage work-place policies to sensitize all employees to the HIV/AIDS issues, including measures to eliminate discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS;
- e) establishment of a comprehensive education and public awareness programmes to deal with other health issues; and
- f) the conduct of studies addressing food and nutrition in the Caribbean. In addressing the region's health challenges it was recommended that carefully

examination should be made of the Cuban health system as a model for the region. The need for a people centred strategy addressed in the wider context of affordability and accessibility was also highlighted.

c) Housing

32. Population growth and limited investment in housing is creating a deficit in available housing and there is growing need to find affordable solutions. It was therefore recommended that governments explore more innovative approaches such as public-private partnerships, self-help policies and other stakeholder partnerships in order to address this growing social problem. In addition access to affordable land and finance are critical, as is the use of minimum acceptable standards with a policy of integrated development in accordance with approved plans.

d) Culture

33. The importance of culture in the development of the Caribbean region was highlighted, as it represents the unique cultural expression and identity of the people; is the foundation of the richness of our cultural diversity, traditions and customs; and the basis for region's spiritual and moral values. The need to develop the region's creative cultural industries in areas such as music, art, craft, the literary and culinary arts, fashion, festivals, theatre and film, which present significant economic opportunities for regional development; the role culture can play in the diversification of Caribbean economies, the enhancement of the tourism product, poverty reduction and job creation and the central role of culture in the development of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy were also highlighted.

e) Poverty

34. Poverty remains a major obstacle to the sustainable development of the Caribbean region. To address this problem it was agreed that:

- a) a regional approach to poverty surveys and the development of participatory mechanisms that offer more effective guidance in addressing poverty be established;
- b) policies and frameworks to foster innovative partnerships for micro, small and medium enterprises be established, including the need to revitalize regional productive capacity and stimulate employment opportunities;
- c) regional and national studies on the impact and relationship of policies at the national, regional and international level, and their impact on absolute and relative poverty be undertaken;
- d) analysis of best practices in getting information and communicating technologies to vulnerable groups and the poor as a means of enhancing their earning capacities and empowerment; and
- e) other mechanisms such as rural development, water and sanitation programmes which can act as important resilience building measures for addressing poverty, thereby ensuring a holistic approaches to poverty reduction.

f) Alienation of Young male and Gender equality

35. Concern was expressed at the alienation of young males from the education system and the need for special measures to address this problem. In addition, the commitment made to gender equity and the recognition of the role and contribution of women to sustainable development as proclaimed in the section 3 of the Barbados

Declaration, the BPOA and the JPOI was reaffirmed. In this regard, the meeting commits itself to the CARICOM gender mainstreaming plan of action which focuses on education, HIV/AIDS and labour in the context of sustainable development.

D. Cross-Cutting Issues

a) Science and Technology

36. Science and technology research as a basic tool for sustainable development in Caribbean SIDS. To further build on the successes (i.e. new advances in pure and applied sciences etc.) the need for international support for the establishment of a regional research funding agency was highlighted. In addition, the meeting recommended:

- a) the establishment of systems to protect against bio-piracy;
- b) support for efforts to ensure that research, especially that extracted from local communities, benefits those communities, and involve their participation;
- c) the development and enforcement of legislation at the national level to protect indigenous research;
- d) the establishment or improvement of policies and regulations to ensure that foreign researchers and institutions provide to appropriate local agencies, national government and institutions raw data gathered prior to the publication of their research;
- e) the establishment of centres to promote and disseminate research and exploration of funding for research from alternative funding sources such as foundations.

b) Human Resources Development

37. The need for capacity building within the region was underscored, including institutional capacity building, both within the State machinery as well as within the non-state sector. Emphasis was also placed on NGO/State collaboration, nationally and regionally. The SIDS/TAP was identified as a possible mechanism for addressing the capacity building issues in the region and its operationalization urged, in a way to achieve this objective. The need for governments in the region to embark upon widespread youth development was also recognized. Youth are a very important and often ignored resource. Measures should be taken to actively involve, support and facilitate youth involvement in sustainable development initiatives. The meeting also highlighted the persistence of the practice within the region of hiring external 'experts' who were unfamiliar with the region and who did not build or use local capacity. The continued practices of inappropriate technology transfer and tied aid were also highlighted. The meeting acknowledged the need for a data bank of national and regional institutions and experts to facilitate capacity development. A number of specific recommendations were made in this regard (see paragraph 37 of the Report). It was also recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a regional science and technology advisory panel as envisaged in the BPOA.

c) National and Regional Institutions, Administrative Capacity and Technical Cooperation

38. The need to establish specific coordinating mechanisms where they do not exist and enhance their effectiveness where they do exist for the implementation of the BPOA at the national level was acknowledged. The establishment of linkages to other

relevant committees and entities and the assignation of responsibility for implementation of the BPOA to all ministries and stakeholders was considered as necessary to ensure integrated planning for sustainable development. It was also recommended:

- a) that formal sustainable development public education programmes be established;
- b) the introduction of sustainable development modules in the curricula of educational institutions at all levels;
- c) facilitation of stakeholder involvement in national sustainable development institutions;
- d) institutionalization of public participation through broad-based consultation, representation on relevant national bodies, legislation and other processes and the sharing of best practices.

39. A well-established, well-defined regional co-ordinated mechanism was considered necessary for the further implementation of the BPOA at the regional level, taking into consideration the special circumstances of the Associate Members of ECLAC. In that regard, a review should be undertaken of the structures that had been developed in the region for the implementation of the BPOA. In this context, the establishment of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the policy decision to expand that centre into a sustainable development centre was noted. It was therefore recommended that a group of experts be tasked with identifying within a given timeframe an appropriate and effective regional mechanism. The guidelines for the task force were outlined as:

- a) undertake an audit of all Caribbean regional agencies in order to determine their individual effectiveness in the delivery of sustainable development initiatives;
- b) the regional co-ordinating mechanism should be founded on existing institutions/arrangements;
- c) the mechanism, in addition to co-ordinating activities in the Region in implementing the BPOA, would also serve to reduce duplication among regional agencies for scarce regional resources; enhance and encourage information-sharing and exchange of technical expertise among countries; identify synergies and close gaps.

d) Civil Society Participation and Governance

40. The meeting endorsed the view that people should be at the centre of the implementation of the BPOA. It was agreed that civil society should be effectively be integrated into decision-making process, thereby improving and increasing the status and level of participation of grassroots organizations, Indigenous Peoples and youth in the process. These are consistent with the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society, the Civil Society Encounter process.

41. The meeting also recognized the need for governance reform particularly with respect to transparency and accountability, the institutionalization of the participation process, public sector reform, the greening government and E-government are critical issues which should also be addressed.

E. Strategic Directions for the Implementation of the BPOA

a) Partnership Initiatives

42. The meeting emphasized that while the primary responsibility for sustainable development rests with national authorities of SIDS, the BPOA stresses the need for international partnership and support. The successful implementation of the BPOA and of the present initiatives requires much greater support from the international community. In light of the limited capacity of SIDS, the meeting considered the coordination of donor activities is critical.

43. The Caribbean SIDS therefore called for renewed effort in pursuit of partnerships to take account of the following imperatives:

- a) public education and awareness programmes on sustainable development;
- b) integration of sustainable development principles in all aspects of national development strategies, policies, legislation and regulation, programmes and projects;
- c) integrated planning and decision making for sustainable development;
- d) development and improvement of data collection systems to monitor progress in sustainable development, and indicators for sustainable development that are relevant to the scale and situation of SIDS, e.mobilization of resources.

44. It was agreed that sustainable development in the region and with other regions should be driven by partnerships amongst stakeholders, particularly the private sector, NGOs, trade unions and the public sector. The private sector should be encouraged through education and awareness programs to embrace sustainable development, and public/private sector partnerships should be sought in strategic areas. In this regard the meeting recommended that early attention be given to the preparation of partnership proposals. An indicative list of possible partnerships was highlighted in the report. For example in the area of climate change the following partnership initiatives were suggested:

- a) Partnership on climate change data collection, analysis, information sharing, dissemination and design of regional models (CCCCC; NOAA; Hadley Center, UK; UWI; UNEP; etc);
- b) Health impacts of climate change (WHO, PAHO, CCCCC, UWI, CAREC, UNEP); and
- c) Partnerships on the impacts of climate change on agriculture (FAO, CCCCC, CARDI, IICA, WMO, UNEP).

b) Resource Mobilization and Financing

45. The need to mobilize financial resources was considered as a *sine qua non* for the successful implementation of the BPOA. In order to implement effective partnership there is the need to actively pursue the mobilization of resources at the national, regional and international levels. In this regard, the meeting agreed to the establishment of a regional sustainability fund in order to provide multiple funding options for the implementation on the BPOA. In addition, it was agreed that Caribbean SIDS should use economic and fiscal incentives to effect changes in behaviour (e.g. the Barbados solar water heaters initiative); review existing modalities for the raising of funds at the national level (e.g. Trinidad and Tobago Green Fund, Guyana Green Fund, Protected Areas Conservation Trust in Belize etc; the Polluter Pays Principle should be endorsed and made policy; promote Environmental entrepreneurships and Debt for Nature Swap arrangements.

46. The meeting also recognized that in the prevailing international security environment, the increasing focus being placed on the military dimension of security is causing the divergence of resources away from the development agenda and thereby increasing the region's social and economic vulnerability.

IV. Options for action in the Preparatory Process for Mauritius Islands 2004

47. The following were agreed:

- a) that CARICOM, in cooperation with the UWICED, would coordinate the development of a draft Caribbean regional position on the basis of those National Assessment Reports;
- b) the draft Caribbean regional position will be a crucial element for the Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting in the Bahamas in January 2004, as it will be central to the formulation of an AOSIS negotiating position;
- c) a regional task force, including civil society, be established to further develop, coordinate and facilitate the short and medium term action-oriented recommendations arising out of this preparatory meeting. It is recommended that national governments and regional institutions facilitate the work of the task force;
- d) there is a need to be improve cooperation and coordination between regional bodies, UN representation, international and regional institutions and meetings; and
- e) the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, as Chair of the meeting, ensure that this report be circulated to all Caribbean Heads of Government, and is given wide dissemination to relevant international meetings and institutions. In addition the report was also requested circulated as an official UN document under the preparatory process for the International Meeting.

48. The meeting was informed of the formation of a regional civil society structure for coordination and implementation of the BPOA. The meeting underscored the importance of civil society participation in the International Meeting, including in the preparatory process, through such processes as the inclusion of civil society in government delegations. The need to mobilize additional financial support for the international preparations was also highlighted. All avenues available should be utilized for the mobilization of international opinion in support of the sustainable development of SIDS, and to ensure the widest possible participation in the International Meeting.

Annex I

Annex I. Report of the Caribbean Civil Society Consultation

(Trinidad and Tobago – October 3-5, 2003)

1. Introduction

1. The Caribbean Civil Society Consultation for the Comprehensive Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) in collaboration with the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD), the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) and the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC). The Consultation was convened at the Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, Trinidad and Tobago from October 3-5, 2003, immediately before the Caribbean Regional Technical Preparatory Meeting for the Comprehensive Review of the BPOA

a) Objective

2. The objectives of the Caribbean Civil Society Consultation were to:

- a) Provide an opportunity for a coordinated Caribbean civil society input into the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of SIDS.
- b) Review the implementation of the BPOA by Caribbean civil society taking into consideration the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Action.
- c) Identify a number of specific actions, which could contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS.
- d) Prepare draft recommendations which could be used as the basis for the Caribbean civil society input to the Caribbean preparatory meeting convened from October 6 to 10, 2003.

b) Participants

3. The Consultation was attended by (38) representatives from Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations (CBOs) from thirteen Caribbean countries as well as representatives from the CARICOM Secretariat, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the University of the West Indies and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

c) Methodology

4. The methodology applied in the conduct of the consultation embraced the following:

- a) Plenary Sessions
- b) Roundtable Discussions

d) Working groups

5. The plenary sessions comprised presentations on issues relevant to the review of the implementation of the BPOA, made by representatives of the government of Trinidad and Tobago, the University of the West Indies, Regional Inter-Governmental Institutions, The Trade Union Movement, the Medical Fraternity and the NGO Sector. The presentations formed the basis of the discussions, which followed in the Roundtable and Working Group Sessions.

e) Official Opening Ceremony

6. The Consultation was officially opened by The Senator, The Honourable Rennie Dumas, Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment of Trinidad and Tobago. Other speakers who participated in the opening ceremony were Dr. Lloyd Rankine, Director of the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD), who welcomed the participants to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Byron Blake, Assistant Secretary General, CARICOM Secretariat, Ms. Judy Williams General Secretary, Grenada Community Development Agency, who spoke on behalf of Caribbean NGOs and Dr. Mark D. Griffith who spoke on behalf of UNEP. The issues raised during the opening session by the presenters, provided the context for the ensuing discussions of the consultation.

7. The convening of the Caribbean Civil Society Consultation was viewed as a reaffirmation of UNEP's commitment to the Caribbean Region and in particular the activities of civil society and was seen in the context of implementation of the *"UNEP Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean"* which identified a number of priority issues for Caribbean SIDS including:

- a) Promoting of the development and use of renewable energies.
- b) Mitigation of the impacts of climate change and addressing the vulnerabilities of populations.
- c) Water scarcity and integrated watershed and water resources management.
- d) Institutional strengthening and development of legislation including support to the Caribbean Climate Change Centre.
- e) Strengthening of partnerships with Civil Society and regional and sub-regional institutions, such as the CARICOM Secretariat.

8. It was also noted, that notwithstanding the adoption of the SIDS/POA ten years ago, when one examines the situation in Caribbean SIDS a disturbing picture still emerges as indicated by:

- a) Unplanned and ill planned development, which has continued resulting in biodiversity loss and the exploitation of natural resources to maximize economic returns.
- b) Natural and environment disasters which continue to plague the region.

- c) Oil spills and the movement of hazardous wastes, which still pose threats to the health and safety of the region.
- d) Inadequate transfer of technology and skills.
- e) Socio-economic problems such as poverty, unemployment, crime and poor health services.
- f) The spread of the HIV/AIDS virus, which seriously threatens the region's human resources.

9. The consultation was considered as a positive step, first by bringing together a coalition of actors, from throughout the region, who acting together, should become agents of change, towards putting people at the center of development. In this context, emphasis was placed on the need for the civil society to examine the BPOA and evaluate the progress made with respect to its implementation, the achievements made and the contribution of civil society to those achievements.

10. The consultation was therefore seen as providing civil society with the opportunity to build on what had been achieved taking into account the need to identify practical, implementable programmes, which when implemented could make a difference in the lives of the people in Caribbean SIDS. Taking into consideration the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Action arising out of the Earth Summit on Sustainable Development, a number of initiatives, which if successfully pursued will result in direct benefits to SIDS. In this context a number of issues were identified as being relevant to the review process, namely, human resources development and making people central to sustainable development, gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, the meaningful engagement of Caribbean people through participation and awareness raising, thematic issues such as climate change, re-forestation, land resources, and land management and planning, watershed and water resources (both quality and quantity) management, waste management (both solid and liquid waste), and marine, coastal and ocean management. Other issues which were highlighted included financial resource mobilization and management, poverty reduction and Food security.

11. A call was made for a broadening of the debate, in the review process, to include a greater focus on issues such as:

- a) Trade and finance with a particular focus on debt. To illustrate the importance of this issue to Caribbean SIDS, it was noted that an examination of the current data suggest that with respect to exports in Caribbean SIDS, 5 of the region's 11 main exports have decreased by 25% as compared with 1995.
- b) Human resource development noting the linkages between health and employment and trade and employment.
- c) Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

12. While acknowledging UNEP's role in facilitating the consultation a call was made for UNEP to extend its work in the Caribbean not only by strengthening its partnership with the governments of the region, but also in building sustained partnerships with civil society throughout the Region. The critical importance of improving both the financial and technical capacities of NGOs in the Region was highlighted.

13. In addition, the role civil society has played and continues to play in providing unwritten checks and balances to the governments and private sectors of the global society were recognized. From this experience, lessons learnt could be extracted on

partnerships, stakeholder participation, co-management of natural resources and advocacy.

14. The significance of the establishment of the AOSIS was highlighted and the contribution made by Mr. Lincoln Meyers, the former Minister of the Environment in the conceptualization and launching of the AOSIS was acknowledged. The contribution of Ms. Angela Cropper to the process was also noted and the need to utilise the mechanism of the AOSIS was also shared.

15. Civil Society Organizations were encouraged to focus the discussions on the identification of priority issues for the region and practical, implementable initiatives and modalities, which can empower SIDS to implement the BPOA beyond Mauritius.

2. Overview of the BPOA

a) Introduction

16. The meeting considered the status of the implementation of the BPOA in Caribbean SIDS from both a CARICOM perspective and a Civil Society point of view. Critical issues that the meeting agreed should be addressed by SIDS in the full and comprehensive review of the BPOA are: -

- a) How can small, open and vulnerable island economies survive and prosper in an increasingly vicious world economy?
- b) How can SIDS effectively implement sustainable development policies, given its multi-dimensional nature?
- c) How has Civil Society participated in the formulation and implementation of the BPOA and what benefits have been derived, if any?

b) Analysis of Implementation of BPOA

17. It was from this perspective that the meeting considered the status of the implementation of the BPOA. There was general consensus: -

- a) That there has been limited implementation of the BPOA in Caribbean SIDS.
- b) That where elements of the BPOA have been implemented in the region, it has been done in a fragmented manner and the lack of integration and synchronization has inhibited the assessment of progress.
- c) That the lack of implementation of the BPOA by civil society was constrained by the absence of coordinating mechanisms at both the national and regional levels; the lack of public and community awareness programmes on and about the BPOA; the fact that the large majority of Caribbean people remain unaware of the content of the BPOA and its implication for them and the availability of adequate financial resources to facilitate its implementation.
- d) That the BPOA has not been integrated into the national development planning process of Caribbean SIDS.

18. Notwithstanding the above, the following were recognized as achievements under the BPOA:

- a) The successful implementation of the GEF financed project: Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) and the formulation of a GEF financed follow-up project Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean (MACCC). The endorsement of CARICOM for the

establishment of the Caribbean Climate Change Centre was also seen as an achievement.

- b) The strengthening and widening of the mandate of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) in the area of disaster management.
- c) The adoption of two UN Resolutions addressing the integrated management of the Caribbean Sea.
- d) The development of a GEF financed project on renewable energy resources: Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDEP).

c) Millennium Development Goals And The Johannesburg Plan Of Action

19. The meeting also reviewed the Millennium Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Action and examined their implications for the implementation of BPOA. It was noted that countries including Caribbean SIDS pledged to achieve the following MDGS by 2015, namely.

- a) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- b) Achieve universal primary education
- c) Promote gender equality and empower women
- d) Reduce child mortality.
- e) Improve maternal health
- f) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease.
- g) Ensure environmental sustainability.
- h) Develop a global partnership for development.

20. The Key Actions of the Johannesburg Plan of Action with respect to SIDS were also identified as follows:

- a) Accelerate implementation of the BPOA.
- b) Implementation of sustainable fisheries management.
- c) Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Land-based activities in SIDS.
- d) Development of community based initiatives in tourism by 2004.
- e) Development of vulnerability indices and indicators.
- f) Mobilization for adaptation to climate change.
- g) Undertake full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the BPOA.

21. To guide the civil society in the preparation of the full and comprehensive review of the BPOA, the meeting reviewed the experiences and lessons learnt thus far from the implementation of AGENDA 21 and the preparatory process of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Following is a summary of the main lessons which have been drawn from the experiences of civil society in those processes:

- a) Participation in the preparatory process is extremely critical and important, since non-participation led to:
 - i. lack of awareness of status of negotiations in all the key areas;

- ii. lack of ability to develop a lobbying/advocacy strategy with the government(s) based on sound information
- iii. lack of opportunity to build alliances and plan strategically with other civil society organizations globally
- iv. An informed national civil society position is the cornerstone to credible representation by any civil society group within the national, regional and international environment. In addition, lack of civil society governance structure weakens effectiveness and impacts the credibility of the participating groups, and opens the door for government exploitation of the civil society position as not being fully "reflective" in response to challenges.
- v. coordinated planning, preparation, and participation leads to prioritization of issues based on people's meaningful participation and decision-making; more effective use of time, knowledge, ability and skills at conference and more successful lobbying and influencing the outcomes of the process.

d) Recommendations

22. The following recommendations were made with respect to the Way Forward:

- a) The BPOA should be integrated into the national development planning process in Caribbean SIDS. In this regard a call was made for a regional SWOT Analysis and the institutionalization of integrated development in SIDS. The Dominican model was highlighted as a possible approach, which could be implemented in the first instance on a pilot basis.
- b) The integration of the BPOA into the development-planning framework should be accompanied by the effective involvement of stakeholders in the process of determining policy – all stages – design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This would involve a major reform in governance with an emphasis on the institutionalization of the participatory approach.
- c) Multi-party and multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives should be utilized in the future implementation of the BPOA. In this regard, civil society should commence the process of the identification of opportunities for partnerships.
- d) A regional civil society coordinating mechanism should be identified to facilitate a coordinated input of civil society into the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the BPOA and its implementation beyond 2004. In this regard, CNIRD was selected as the BPOA focal point for Caribbean Civil Society.
- e) A regional task force, including civil society should be established to further develop, coordinate and facilitate the short and medium term action-oriented recommendations arising out of the BPOA for implementation, including the mobilization of financial resources.
- f) A Regional BPOA Civil Society Implementation Fund to be established with the short term objective of mobilizing resources to facilitate the active participation of civil society in the preparatory process for the Comprehensive Review of the BPOA and the longer term objective of the implementation of key elements of the BPOA. The CNIRD as the Civil Society Focal Point was requested to undertake the responsibility of launching the Fund. To facilitate the launching of the fund all NGO and CBO members throughout the region will be requested to contribute of

E.C.\$. 50.00 – E.C.\$. 100.00 per month for the next twelve months. UNEP/ROLAC was requested to assist CNIRD in launching the fund.

3. Thematic Issues

a) Introduction

23. Using the discussion on the implementation of the BPOA as a context, the meeting examined a number of thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, placing particular emphasis on emerging issues. In each of the thematic areas considered, regional experts were invited to lead the discussion. The University of the West Indies along with other regional and international institutions played a very important role in this segment of the meeting

b) Overview of Thematic Areas

A. Climate Change

24. As indicated in the SIDS BPOA, Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise. The populations, agricultural lands and infrastructure of SIDS tend to be concentrated in the coastal zones. As a consequence, any rise in sea level will have profound effect on the economies and livelihoods of the people of these small states. Global climate change may also result in the damage of coral reefs and also to precipitate saline intrusion, which will impact negatively on vegetation and fresh water resources in SIDS. SIDS require all available information concerning the aspects of climate change to enable appropriate response strategies to be developed and implemented.

1. Assessment of Progress

25. The meeting was informed about the successful implementation of the GEF financed project Caribbean: Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) and the formulation of a follow-up GEF financed project on Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean (MACCC). Even though some progress had been made in creating awareness about the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on Caribbean, the general consensus which emerged was that there is a lot of work still to be done in this respect. It was also noted that the impacts of climate change will exacerbate all the present vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS and that a major focus of the region should be adaptation. Reference was also made to the recently established Caribbean Climate Change Centre in Belize.

2. Recommendations

26. The following recommendations were made with respect to climate change:

- a) There is a need to improve data collection in order to fill existing data gaps, analysis and dissemination of information, particularly to policy makers as well as to develop regional models for the Caribbean.
- b) There is a need for the region to increase its focus on public education and awareness at all levels in Caribbean SIDS on the impact of climate change, mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- c) Given the multi-dimensional nature of sustainable development challenges for Caribbean SIDS, there is a need to expand the proposed Caribbean Climate Change Centre into a Regional Centre for Sustainable Development as a

means of coordination activities, energizing institutions and assisting Caribbean SIDS in meeting their obligations under the numerous Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) as well as coordinating the regions' preparation for negotiations within the context of these instruments.

B. Coastal and Marine Resources

1. Introduction

27. Caribbean SIDS are essentially coastal entities and the heavy dependence on coastal and marine resources, emphasizes the need for appropriate and effective management. The development and management of programmes designed to achieve the ecologically and economically sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources are major challenges for SIDS. The lack of an integrated approach to coastal and marine area management has limited the effectiveness of past and present strategies and is increasingly resulting in the degradation of coastal habitats through pollution, over exploitation and growing conflicts among competing resource users. Development patterns have also had an impact on traditional management systems, which has led to the exacerbation of the effects of natural hazards and extreme events such as hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, storm surges and abnormally high tides.

2. Assessment of Progress

28. The meeting concluded that even though some progress have been made in Caribbean SIDS with respect to the management of coastal and marine resources, there is much that is left to be done. In this regard, a number of critical issues were highlighted which Caribbean SIDS should address, sooner rather than later, given the importance of coastal and marine resource economies of the countries. The issues highlighted include land use and resource conflicts in the coastal zones, degradation of coastal systems, depletion of commercial fisheries stocks, inadequate waste management systems, declining coastal water quality from land based sources of pollution, increased coastal erosion, flooding and shoreline instability, impoverishment of coastal communities, high susceptibility to sea-level rise and limited supply of fresh water

3. Recommendations

- a) Compliance with and enforcement of existing laws for the protection and use for the regions coastal and marine resources are still inadequate. As a consequence, there is a need for improved land use planning and regulations as well as for improved implementation and enforcement of existing laws.
- b) There is a need for Caribbean SIDS to implement integrated waste management strategies in order to reduce the impact of pollution on the coastal and marine resources of the region.
- c) Where possible, attempts should be made to harmonize regional policies on the management and use of coastal and marine resources.
- d) Create awareness and sensitize resource users, the general public, decision makers and key interest groups on the importance of coastal and marine resources and strategies for their protection and sustainable utilization for the benefit of the peoples of the region.
- e) There is a need to put in place participatory mechanisms for conflict management and resolution of coastal and marine resources.

C. Natural and Environmental Disaster

1. Introduction

29. SIDS are prone to extremely damaging natural disasters, primarily in the form of hurricanes, tropical storms, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, storm surges, landslides, extensive floods and extensive droughts. The economic, social and environmental consequences of these disasters are long-lasting and the cost of rehabilitation is high. Oil spills and other environmental disasters, caused as a result of human activity, can also be severe.

2. Assessment of Progress

30. The areas highlighted in the BPOA, namely the strengthening of disaster management institutions and policies, communication, the establishment of national disaster funds, the integration of disaster policies into development planning and the promotion of traditional systems to improve community resilience, provided the context for the assessment of the region's progress in the implementation of the BPOA. The meeting was informed that considerable progress had been made in formulation of guidelines for disaster management namely, in areas such as the preparation of guidelines for national relief policy, emergency operation centers, donor group response and events evaluation; the formulation of manuals in telecommunications, regional response plans as well as policies instruments in emergency housing and shelter, national hazard mitigation and disaster information kits.

31. A number of gaps were identified as well as emerging issues which ought to be addressed within the context of the comprehensive review of the BPOA. The gaps included the need for building codes as well as the regulatory and enforcement systems, policy frameworks which place emphasis on the integrated approach to hazard mitigation, early warning systems and the integration of hazard information in development planning. The emerging issues highlighted included climate variability and change and other non-traditional threats, such as technological hazards, pose more diverse challenges and require innovative approaches.

3. Recommendations

- a) At the national level, there is a need for Caribbean SIDS to establish and or strengthen their legislative framework for hazard and disaster management, enact and to more effectively enforce building codes, formulate and implement hazard mitigation policies, integrate risk assessment into development planning and increase public education of hazards and vulnerability of the population. In addition, Caribbean SIDS should improve the allocation and effective utilization of funding for mitigation activities within line ministries.
- b) At the regional level, there is a need to continue to strengthen institutions to carry out disaster management functions, facilitate research on disaster and hazard management, establish and/ or strengthen response mechanisms to address non-traditional threats and the formulation of regional disaster partnership initiatives.
- c) At the international level, the need for the mobilization of additional resources to support the enhancement of capacity to address traditional and non-traditional threats as well as to support the further improvement of access to technology and training related to risk assessment and early warning systems was emphasized.

D. Energy Resources

1. Introduction

32. Caribbean SIDS are heavily dependent on imported petroleum products mainly for transport and electricity generation, which accounts for more than 12% of imports. There is also a heavy dependence on indigenous biomass fuels for cooking and crop drying. There is however need for increased efficiency through appropriate technology, energy policies and management measures.

2. Assessment of Progress

33. The general consensus is that not enough progress has been made in this area. An area which is of extreme importance to Caribbean SIDS, since it to a large extent, it drives the economy. Emphasis was therefore placed on exploring alternative forms of energy that could be utilized by Caribbean SIDS. In that assessment it was concluded the renewable energy resources of Caribbean SIDS vary greatly. For example, hydroelectric and geothermal energy is possible for some islands; wind potential is highly variable within and among countries and biomass endowment is common but unequal. In addition, they all have substantial solar resources which have not been developed to its full potential. Several constraints to the large-scale commercial use of renewable energy resources in Caribbean SIDS were highlighted. These included technology development, investment costs and the availability of indigenous skills and management capabilities. In this context, reference was made to the UNDP/GEF funded project, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Project (CREDP), which aims to remove barriers to renewable energy use in the Caribbean.

3. Recommendations

- a) The establishment of a framework and/or a mechanism to facilitate regional cooperation for research and development of the application of renewable energy and energy efficient schemes in Caribbean SIDS.
- b) The establishment of mechanisms to facilitate the transfer of relevant energy technologies and know how to Caribbean SIDS.

E. Biodiversity Resources

1. Introduction

34. The biodiversity of SIDS is among the most threatened in the world due to the small size, isolation and fragility of island ecosystems. The BPOA includes the introduction of certain indigenous species among the most significant causes of the loss of biodiversity in SIDS. The focus on the discussions at the meeting was on the issues of biosafety and biotechnology, including genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

2. Assessment of Progress

35. Bio- safety and bio-technology were identified as emerging issues which have not been dealt with adequately in the BPOA, buy were nevertheless of great importance to Caribbean SIDS. In this context, the meeting examined the controversy concerning GMOs including benefits and concerns. Arguments which are pro-GMO which were highlighted included the revolutionary technology capable of solving human/environmental problems, the notion that regulatory agencies are capable of harnessing the goods, without the ills; GM products are used in medicine, food processing without ills, science is lagging behind the technology of

bioengineering and scientific uncertainty should not be used as an excuse to deter precautionary decisions. The benefits to be derived from the technology includes improved agricultural productivity, reduced losses and risk, reduced cost, prices, improved nutrition, medicines and vaccines as well as environmental benefit. There were however, a number of concerns which should be taken into consideration. These were classified under a number of headings namely:

- a) health including toxins, allergens, nutritional value, accidental diseases;
- b) environmental including loss of biodiversity, gene pollution, non-target effects, horizontal transfer of antibiotic resistance;
- c) Social imbalance;
- d) ethical considerations; and
- e) unforeseen events.

36. Consideration was also given to the Biosafety System with particular reference to the differences between the European and USA Systems as well as to the issues surrounding risk management and labeling.

3. Recommendations

- a) Caribbean SIDS should develop a similar regional strategy towards a bio-safety framework and risk assessment/management systems, which will allow joint capacity building and sharing of information across the Caribbean.
- b) Caribbean SIDS which have not done so as yet should become signatories to the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol and other International Agreements.
- c) Considering that some 80% to 90% of trade of Caribbean SIDS is with the United States of America, the largest producer of GMOs, (US products containing GMOs are not required to be labeled as such), there is urgent need for Caribbean countries to take on the responsibility of testing. In this context, there is a need for the establishment of a regional testing facility.
- d) There is need for Caribbean SIDS to address the issue of "*termination genes*" which can lead to the impoverishment of farmers. Caribbean SIDS should revisit traditional knowledge and maximize opportunities to produce organic food for export and promote intra-regional trade.

4. Cross-Sectoral Issues

A. Introduction

37. The meeting also considered a number of cross-cutting issues which are highlighted in the BPOA and/or considered key emerging issues of relevance to the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS. These issues included the vulnerability index, trade, food security, human resources development and institutional and administrative capacity.

A. Vulnerability Index

1. Introduction

38. The Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), calls for the development of indicators that reflect the status of SIDS and integrate ecological fragility and

economic vulnerability. The meeting reviewed the progress made on the proposed global Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI).

2. Assessment of Progress

39. The meeting was informed that considerable progress has been made in operationalizing the environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI). The index focuses on the vulnerability of the environment to natural risks and to humans and is based on the premise that the vulnerability of the environment to events in the near future can be determined from the calculated probability of their actual occurrence in the recent past. A number of strengths of the EVI were highlighted, namely that It provides simplified summary information, detailed data required to highlight specific areas of concerns for environmental managers, scientists and the general public. It is an impartial measure, which differentiates among countries, It allows comparisons and determination of which countries environments are the most vulnerable on the world scale and it helps identify mechanisms that tend to degrade the environment and compromise the provision of environmental issues.

40. The calculation of the EVI consists of 48 indicators of environmental vulnerability, divided into 5 categories of environmental vulnerability, namely, meteorological events (6 indicators), geological events (3 indicators), country characteristics (7 indicators), biological factors (8 indicators), and anthropogenic factors (24 indicators). Many of the indicators are standardized per sq. kilometer 100 sq.km of land area rather than absolute numbers because it is risk density or proportion of area degraded that is of interest from an environmental perspective. The indicators are scored on a global vulnerability scale of 1-7, where 4 is average and scores 1-3 indicate below average vulnerability, scores 5-7 indicate above average vulnerability. Preliminary results from the application of the EVI for Trinidad and Tobago were presented in order to give the participants an indication of its utility.

3. Recommendations

- a) It was suggested that as work continues on the further development and application of the EVI, attention and resources should be directed to mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to vulnerabilities highlighted by the EVI.
- b) That the necessary resources be identified to facilitate the collection of the data necessary to apply the EVI in Caribbean SIDS:

B. Trade

1. Introduction

41. Despite a section in the BPOA and the call for a study to be undertaken on the effects of trade liberalization and globalization on the sustainable development of SIDS including relevant recommendation, the meeting nevertheless concluded that greater emphasis should be placed on it in the BPOA.

2. Assessment of Progress

42. To provide the context for the discussion, the concept theme of free trade was outlined. Simply put, the theory of the concept of free trade implies the removal of distortions and obstacles to trade, which in turn would result in trade expansion (via more efficient use of resources- comparative advantage concept), with the result of the mutual benefit to all participating countries and by extension, lead to improved livelihood and socio-economic conditions. There was general consensus that the

basis of free trade should be improved livelihood. It was however concluded that the main problem lies with the trading system. It was noted too that there were major contradictions between sustainable development and globalization.

43. The World Trade Organization (WTO) model was described as a trading system, which was governed not by rules aimed at leveling the playing field but one which sanctions the maintenance of highly distortionary policies such as high subsidies in various forms, export subsidy and food aid, highly effective non-tariff barriers to keep out imports and tariff escalation by developed countries: a bias for the export of raw material imports but a deterrent against manufacturing processed goods. A number of structural and environmental factors were identified to support the need for Special and Differential Treatment of SIDS. These included fragmental production units, hilly terrain, dominance of small farms, limited scope for irrigation and mechanization, ecological inter-dependence and vulnerability to extreme weather events and global climate changes. In addition, the Doha Ministerial Declaration has made Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries an integral part of the negotiations, stressing that the provision should enable developing countries to meet their needs, particularly with respect to food security and rural development. Non-trade concerns were also recognized as relevant issues for consideration.

44. It was concluded that given the structural, ecological environmental and economic factors that severely constrain the competitiveness of SIDS against the developed countries and their large Trans National Corporations (TNCs), that SIDS are in no position to distort world trade due to their miniscule markets and insignificant volume of exports. Furthermore it was argued that the use of GDP as a measure of development is much too crude. It fails to detect incidence of poverty and or poor rural livelihood conditions. As such, many SIDS that are not classified as LDC do have LDC characteristics in terms of the human dimensions, particularly in the rural sector.

3. Recommendations

- a) The negotiating position of Caribbean SIDS on trade is that SIDS are in no position to distort world trade due to their miniscule markets and insignificant volume of exports, and as a consequence should be exempt from the existing trading rules of WTO and other trade agreements.
- b) The World Bank should not only provide concessional finance to SIDS but more grant fund and technical support.

C. Food Security

1. Introduction

45. Food Security is considered critical to the sustainable development of Small Island Development States (SIDS). Neither agriculture nor food security has been identified explicitly in the BPOA as a major issue for SIDS. It was noted that in Caribbean SIDS, the regions capacity to feed itself continues to decline whereas its food import bill continues steadily increase, there was general consensus that there has been the lack of direct involvement of the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the implementation or evaluation of the SIDS/POA and that this is further evident of the disconnect and lack of appropriate collaboration among state institutions.

2. Assessment of Progress

46. It was noted that agriculture is in a state of decline in Caribbean SIDS; there is a secular decline of investment in the agricultural sector as evident in the decreasing

percentage of national budgets allocated to agriculture and also contributions from development partners. There is reduced institutional capacity to deliver agricultural services at a time when the challenges are greatest, the loss of preference in trade can reduce each country's capacity to continue to purchase food and that there remains a disconnect between the policy statements of governments and the allocation of resources.

3. Recommendations

- a) That self-sufficiency or food sovereignty must become a major component of any food policy of the region and therefore should be an integral part of the BPOA.
- b) Concerns for food security and poverty eradication must be reflected in the fiscal measures and actions of the governments of the region.
- c) The development of an intra-regional trade mechanism to ensure food security of Caribbean SIDS.

D. Human Resource Development

1. Introduction

47. Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and significant attention must be given to the enhancement of the quality of human life in SIDS. Action must be taken not only to ensure the contribution that individuals, groups and communities can make towards sustainable development but more importantly how such action affects the well-being and livelihood of those who live in SIDS. The BPOA also highlights the close dependency of human health on a healthy environment as articulated in Chapter 6 of Agenda 21.

2. Assessment of Progress

48. There was general consensus that Caribbean SIDS still demonstrates an urgent need for attention to human resource development as evident by the poor health and social services, poor nutrition and housing, low levels of female participation in development, drug abuse, increased unemployment and increased levels of crime. There was therefore an urgent need to strengthen national educational and training mechanisms in order to facilitate the flow of information on sustainable development issues, enhance public awareness and encourage participation in the implementation of effective strategies. It was recognized however, that all reference to education and training in the BPOA are environment specific.

3. Recommendations

- a) There must be a holistic approach to human resource development and as such public education, training and capacity-building should include fundamental issues such as the power to think critically, the awareness of self and of the diversities of ethnicities, culture, spiritual values and practices within Caribbean SIDS.
- b) All efforts must be made to ensure decent work for all and equity in the distribution of resources.
- c) Governments must build their capacity to deliver social services. In this regard, consideration should be given to the decentralization of health services (i.e. community boards should be established to monitor delivery of health services in communities).

- d) Drugs, in particular those, which can prevent chronic diseases and fight against HIV/AIDS must be made available at affordable prices.

E. National Institutions and Administrative Capacity

1. Introduction

49. According to the BPOA, "the integration of environmental considerations into the national decision-making processes is considered to be the single most important step to be taken by SIDS to ensure that those problems are addressed and the principles of sustainability guide all future development." The BPOA also recommends, that "economic imperatives must be evaluated from the perspective of socio-environmental considerations if the natural resource basis is to be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations and social and cultural values safeguarded."

2. Assessment of Progress

50. The meeting concluded that it was essential that "*people be placed at the centre of development,*" and that the development process must be geared to ensuring an improved quality of life and sustainable livelihoods of all the people of Caribbean SIDS. To this end, it was recognized that there was an urgent need for a review of the approach to governance in Caribbean SIDS.

3. Recommendations

- a) There is an urgent need for "institutionalization" of participatory processes in recognition of participation as a right of all sectors of the society.
- b) There is a need for the development of a culture of sustainability through effective public education, training and capacity building strategies at all levels as well as the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate the timely and effective dissemination of information.
- c) The development and implementation of Integrated Development Planning Processes and Strategies should be an integral part of the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS, including the efficient use of human and financial resources.
- d) Mechanisms should be established for monitoring and evaluation to ensure transparency and accountability of state institutions. A starting point should be an audit of existing national and regional institutions.
- e) The establishment of appropriate partnerships with civil society organizations to facilitate effective implementation of programmes and action plans.

F. Conclusion

51. Having given consideration to a number of thematic and cross-cutting issues the meeting agreed on a number of general agreed conclusions which could form the basis of regional priorities for Caribbean SIDS:

- a) There is a need for greater participation of civil society in the development process of Caribbean SIDS. Various frameworks have already been adopted by the Governments of Caribbean SIDS on the participation of civil society. These framework include the Commonwealth Foundation's 1995 document - "Good Governance" and the CARICOM and OAS charter on Civil Society Organizations. In this regard emphasis should be placed on putting people at the centre of the implementation of the BPOA

- b) While recognizing the need for civil society, particularly at the community level, to play a greater role in decision making processes at the national and regional levels, it was acknowledged that there are limited opportunities for real interaction between civil society and the Governments in Caribbean SIDS
- c) Regional executing institutions must include civil society focal points. In this regard, the Caribbean Climate Change Centre must include civil society focal points or desk.
- d) There is a need for the region to undertake an audit of barriers to participation and implementation. Such an audit should address issues such as governance, transparency and accountability, the implementation of the BPOA and other multilateral agreements and how we build internal resistance –vulnerabilities – benchmarks.
- e) Given the multi-dimensional nature of sustainable development, it was recognized that there is a renewed need for civil society to organize structures at both the national and regional levels to facilitate more effective networking between them. In this regard, the need to strengthen and build the capacity of civil society to network for the implementation of the BPOA was highlighted.
- f) The formulation of a Regional Public Awareness Strategy on the BPOA and linkages to other programmes (e.g. WSSD, MDGs, RNH) is necessary and with a focus on specific target groups (i.e. youth and unemployed). An integral component of such a programme should be building capacity in use of and access to information technology for information sharing and strategies for implementation (e.g. use of community radio, partnership with CMC). Underpinning the formulation of such a strategy is the recognition that education and awareness building are integral to the enhancement process of civil society participation in the implementation of the BPOA.
- g) Financial and other resources to be dedicated to C.S.Os, delivering national development objectives to assist in the execution of these roles
- h) Establishment/strengthening of mechanism to ensure inclusion of indigenous people wherever they are situated.
- i) In the area of poverty eradication increasing emphasis must be placed on sustainable livelihoods, decent work as well as entrepreneurship training and development, education and training, access to safe water and adequate sanitation and the provision of social safety nets.
- j) In the social sphere emphasis must be placed on valuing cultural icons towards building cultural resilience, consumption patterns, the commercial aspects of Caribbean culture (reggae, steel band, etc) as an integral part of the regions overall sustainable development strategy, the protection of cultural and traditional knowledge (i.e. intellectual property rights) and the capacity to examine violation of historic cultural practice, items e.g. steel pan etc. In addition, increasing attention need to be paid to HIV/AIDS, chronic illnesses (i.e. diabetes, hypertension etc.), mental health and crime and violence.

52. In addition the meeting agreed to a number of specific decisions to be implemented immediately. These are summarized as follows:

- a) The Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development will be the Regional Civil Society Focal Point for the SIDS/POA.

- b) CNIRD will take action to establish a Regional Civil Society Implementation Fund to facilitate the participation of civil society in the preparatory process leading up to SIDS +10 and the role of civil society in the implementation of the SIDS/POA.
- c) Three Civil Society Organizations including CNIRD will participate in the Civil Society Consultation, prior to the XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and Caribbean to be convened in Panama in November 2003.
- d) A special issue of SEDU News should be published on the preparatory process in time for distribution at the Intra-regional meeting to be convened in the Bahamas in January 2004.

5. Enhancing Civil Society Participation in the Implementation of the Bpoa

Introduction

53. The meeting used the context of the results of the Regional Survey of NGOs/CBOs conducted by the Caribbean Sustainable Economic Development Network (CSEDNet) as a basis for designing a strategy for civil society future participation in the implementation of the BPOA. The overall objective of the CSEDNet project was *"to facilitate, support and enhance the sustainability of Caribbean initiatives for Sustainable development through broad-based participation by developing a detailed database of the operations, effectiveness, experience, constraints and needs for capacity-building among NGOs/CBOs in the region."*

A. The Results

54. A major finding of the survey is the lack of effective participation of civil society in the preparatory process for WSSD. Only 22 or 9% of the 238 respondents across the region indicated any form of involvement in the preparatory process for WSSD. The survey also indicated the following major constraints and limitations of NGOs/CBOs in the region.

- a) Lack of financial resources (71%)
- b) Lack of human resources (50%)
- c) Inadequate accommodation and infrastructure.
- d) Lack of communication with public agencies.
- e) Lack of public awareness and public education.
- f) Inner city stigma of violence particularly in Jamaica.
- g) Political Interference.
- h) Government bureaucracy.

55. The following lessons were noted, namely:

- a) Need for governmental commitment to the establishment of effective mechanisms for pro-active civil society participation in all sustainable development plans and policy decision-making.
- b) Need to aggressively address the constraints and limitations that militate against the enhancement of the capacity within civil society to take full advantage of the participatory mechanisms established.

B. The SIDS BPOA Preparatory Process

56. In light of the survey results, the meeting agreed that the following need to be done in preparation for full and comprehensive review and implementation of the BPOA:

- a) early access to information on the proposed conference goals, process for participation by civil society in general;
- b) early identification of government focal points and process for interaction with civil society;
- c) early identification of civil society focal points;
- d) identification of the roles and responsibilities of civil society and government in the whole process;
- e) allocation of and access to resources for civil society's full participation in process;
- f) capacity building for civil society groups to participate if needed;
- g) public education and mechanisms for communication on the BPOA and issues to foster public dialogue;
- h) participation mechanism for broad spectrum of civil society input/ construction of government's position/agenda for the SIDS +10, including an autonomous civil society position paper.
- i) In addition a number of strategies were highlighted which will facilitate a more focused and effective participation of civil society in the preparatory process for the full and comprehensive review of the BPOA and its future implementation. These are summarized in the following table.

Table 1: Strategies for the Future

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Mechanism for inter-agency information exchange	Review/activate inter-agency collaborating group to package information e.g. SEDU Paper) SEDU – SIV.	CSD/GEF, UNECLAC, CARICOM, CPDC, CCA, CNIRD
2. Coordination of action related to implementation of SIDS/POA (note regional programmes)	Activate, create, regulate national council, coordinate networks/processes NGO/CBO	SEDU, SIV
3. Monitor/evaluate reporting on implementation of SIDS POA.	Rationalize CSO representation at national/regional/international levels.	CSO
4. Measures for building technical/organization/planning/negotiations, capacity in support of SIDS/POA.	Money for research/training; Community/tertiary levels; Resource mobilization	Regional/national tertiary organizations; CBOs-NGOs, regional networks
5. Measures to get information on sustainable development on SIDS/POA into the public domain	Provide information/access to media personnel, (regional / international partners). Define role of NGOs, SIDSNet Node.	Media workers; CCA; International organizations; UNEP/ROLAC
6. To build/establish capacity to innovatively mobilize resources for capacity building and public education as per SIDS/POA	Track and share information on available money for projects under SIDS/POA; Train/persons at community and NGO levels to access money; Monitor the performance and impact of the action to mobilize awareness; ID/establish civil, social agency to coordinate and administer at regional/national levels; Reactivate SIDS/TAP	CPDC/CNIRD/CCA; SCHS; CNIRD/CPDC/CCA; SCHS; Regional NGO / CBO Structure; CSO Network

Appendix 1. Time line for civil society participation in the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the BPOA

ACTION	TIMING	OUTPUTS
Select representatives for Trinidad SIDSPOA meeting	Oct 5, 2003	<i>Development and delivery of consensus statement by representative group</i>
Develop civil society consensus civil society statement	Oct 5, 2003	
Participation in Trinidad sub-regional meeting	Oct 6-10, 2003	
Dissemination of synthesized civil society report	By Oct. 24, 2003	<i>CNIRD to distribute to civil society groups</i>
Prepare revised civil society report	By November 7, 2003	
Select representation for Panama Environmental Meetings from Trinidad civil society representative group	From Oct.6-10, 2003 meeting	
Presentation of civil society statement	November, 2003 Environment Ministers Meeting	<i>Representatives from Panama meeting develop and give report -SEDU, CNIRD</i>
Commence Planning for the publication of a special issues of The CSEDNet Brief for distribution at Intra-regional meeting in the Bahamas	November, 2003	
Disseminate report on Panama meeting to civil society	December 5, 2003	
Commence Mobilization of resources for convening SIDS Intra-regional meeting in Bahamas	November, 2003	<i>CNIRD to take the lead as civil society focal point for BPOA</i>
Regional civil society Prepcom for Bahamas meeting	December, 2003	
Printing of The CSEDNet Brief for distribution at Intra-regional meeting in The Bahamas	January, 2004	
Participation in the Civil Society Intra-regional Consultation in The Bahamas	January, 2004	
Participation in CSD 11	April, 2004	
Participation in International Comprehensive Review of BPOA – Mauritius Islands	Aug-September 2004	

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