

LIMITED
LC/CAR/L.100
23 October 2006
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**CARIBBEAN PRIORITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
PROGRAMME OF ACTION (SIDS/POA)**

This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

ABSTRACT

The Small Island Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS/POA) had its genesis in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ([UNCED](#), 1992) where it was recognised that SIDS share unique characteristics that make them economically, environmentally and socially vulnerable to shocks over which they exercise little or no control, placing them at a distinct disadvantage in comparison with larger countries. Such an effort to give concrete international expression to that specificity was the adoption of the SIDS/POA in Barbados in 1994 ([BPOA](#)), which defined various challenges that SIDS face in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. At that time, SIDS were charged with implementation of a Programme of Action based on their articulated needs that, to many, proved reprehensible as evidenced by the five-year review of the BPOA. In preparation for the ten-year review of the SIDS/POA Caribbean SIDS discussed their specific priorities to advance the sustainable human development agenda and these were articulated in the Caribbean Position Paper. However, many of the priorities of Caribbean SIDS were not reflected in the Mauritius Declaration. This paper details that Caribbean SIDS require support from the international donor community in development and implementation of activities in the areas of adaptation to climate change as this increases the vulnerability of these island to the impacts of natural disasters. The use of environmentally-sound technologies for waste management, food security, water and sanitation needs and energy requirements were clearly outlined. Clear delimitation of national boundaries in management of coastal and marine resources and given the dependence of the Region on tourism as a source of income the conduct of a study for determination of the carrying capacity of the environment is desirable. Recommendations for studies to address these priorities include the determination of the impacts of climate change on health and agriculture, capacity building for tourism and renewable energy in particular, development of indicators for waste management and the conduct of vulnerability assessments. Caribbean SIDS, in general view the development of cross-sectoral policies as critical to implementation of the SIDS/POA and a regional approach to management of resources. In this regard, the need for establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism that would provide oversight for resource management in the Region has been expressed.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Areas of focus of the SIDS/POA	2
2. CARIBBEAN POSITION.....	3
2.1 Priorities of Caribbean SIDS.....	3
Climate Change and Sea Level Rise	3
Natural and Environmental Disasters.....	4
Management of Waste.....	4
Coastal and Marine Resources	4
Freshwater Resources.....	4
Land Resources.....	5
Tourism Resources.....	5
Biodiversity Resources	5
Communication and Transport	6
Science and Technology	6
National Institutions and Administrative Capacity.....	6
Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation	6
Capacity Building.....	7
Security	7
Trade	7
Health	8
Culture	8
Poverty.....	8
Cross-sectoral Issues	8
2.2 Recommendations.....	9
Climate Change and Sea Level Rise	9
Natural and Environmental Disasters.....	9
Waste Management.....	9
Coastal and Marine Resources	9
Freshwater Resources	10
Land Resources.....	10
Energy Resources.....	10
Tourism Resources	11
Biodiversity Resources.....	11
Communication and Transport	11
Science and Technology	11
National Institutions and Administrative Capacity.....	12
Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation	12
Capacity Building.....	12
Security	12
Trade	13
Health	13
Culture	13
Poverty.....	13

1. INTRODUCTION

The Small Island Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS/POA) had its genesis in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ([UNCED](#), 1992) or the Rio or Earth Summit as the meeting was referred to, when the international community recognized in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 that small islands are a special case and an important part of the diversity of nations. They share characteristics that make them economically, environmentally and socially vulnerable to shocks over which they exercise little or no control, placing them at a distinct disadvantage in comparison with larger countries. A decision was therefore taken to convene a meeting focused entirely on the issues surrounding these island States.

Such an effort to give concrete international expression to that specificity was the adoption of the SIDS/POA in Barbados in 1994 ([BPOA](#)), which defined various challenges that SIDS face in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. At that time, SIDS were charged with implementation of a Programme of Action based on their articulated needs that, to many, proved reprehensible as evidenced by the five-year review of the BPOA.

In 2003, in preparation for the 10-year review of the SIDS/POA, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations convened a Regional Preparatory Meeting in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad at which each national entity presented an assessment report that addressed the progress that had been made over the previous five years in implementing the SIDS/POA. These reports also reflected the challenges that the countries had encountered and anticipated that they would encounter in implementing the SIDS/POA. Additionally, at this meeting, Caribbean SIDS discussed their specific priorities to advance the sustainable human development agenda and these were articulated in the Caribbean Position Paper that was presented at the 10-year review of the SIDS/POA in Mauritius in 2004.

The Mauritius Meeting sought to review the status of implementation of the SIDS/POA and reinforced the requirements for meeting the sustainable development targets and resulted in the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the SIDS/POA ([MSI](#)). As governments reflect on their progress in implementing the SIDS/POA 10 years later, and identify new challenges to be incorporated in their ongoing efforts towards sustainability, it is worth reflecting on the larger context of trends and processes at work in human society in an effort to help islands find their own special place in an integrating world.

This paper focuses firstly on the thematic areas that comprise the SIDS/POA and the new areas that have been added in consideration of sustainable human development; secondly it describes Caribbean sustainable development priorities as expressed by regional stakeholders that have not been articulated in the MSI and; finally makes recommendations thematically as to mechanisms, strategies and research that may be considered in pursuance of Caribbean priorities.

1.1 Areas of focus of the SIDS/POA

The BPOA (1994) sets forth specific actions and measures at the national, regional, and international levels in support of the sustainable development of SIDS. The following areas addressed were largely environmental in nature:

- Climate Change and Sea Level Rise;
- Natural and Environmental Disasters;
- Management of Wastes;
- Coastal and Marine Resources;
- Freshwater Resources;
- Land Resources;
- Energy Resources;
- Tourism Resources;
- Biodiversity Resources;
- National Institutions and Administrative Capacity;
- Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation;
- Transport and Communication;
- Science and Technology;
- Human Resource Development.

Given the island nature of most SIDS, the SIDS/POA explicitly identifies coastal and marine resources as an area requiring urgent action and calls for the establishment and/or strengthening of programmes within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Programme of Action (GPA) and the regional seas programmes, to assess the impact of planning and development on the coastal environment, including coastal communities, wetlands, coral reefs habitats and the areas under the national jurisdiction of SIDS, and to implement the POA. The marine and coastal environments of SIDS represent a vital resource for socio-economic development and encompass diverse ecosystems and habitats, which perform a number of functions and services.

Recognising the interaction of the three pillars of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental and the importance of trade to these islands in an era of liberalization and globalization under the World Trade Organization (WTO), the review of the SIDS/POA in Mauritius resulted in new areas of focus and new challenges for implementation. These include:

- Trade – globalization and trade liberalization;
- Sustainable Capacity Development and Education for Sustainable Development;
- Sustainable Production and Consumption;
- National and Regional Enabling Environments;
- Health;
- Knowledge Management and Information for Decision-making;
- Culture.

2. CARIBBEAN POSITION

The Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting to Review the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, during the period 6 – 10 October 2003. The following Caribbean SIDS were represented: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands. The Dominican Republic and Montserrat were unable to attend. Each country had submitted a National Assessment Report to the SIDS Secretariat and a synthesis document reflecting key areas was prepared. This document clearly identified Caribbean priorities and concerns and the meeting filtered these into the regional report that was submitted to the Mauritius Meeting in 2004.

2.1 Priorities of Caribbean SIDS

In general, Caribbean SIDS identified Coastal and Marine Resources and Natural and Environmental Disasters as the two areas that required the most urgent attention although there was great concern about Climate Change and Sea Level Rise as well as Management of Wastes. Caribbean SIDS appear to be least concerned about issues surrounding energy resources. Each area of focus will be examined within the context of specific Caribbean SIDS priorities that are not articulated in the MSI.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Caribbean SIDS indicate that support from the international community is needed in the development of climate change models at scales appropriate to SIDS, so as to afford them support in planning for adaptation to climate change, current models having been deemed inappropriate. They also see the need to improve access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technology related to climate change by, inter alia, assessment of its 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. Although the MSI does address the increased use of sources of renewable energy and ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, it does not directly identify the Clean Development Mechanism as an important flexibility mechanism that could benefit both developed and developing countries in addressing climate change. These islands have indicated the need to maximise the region's access to, and use of, the Clean Development Mechanism in order to promote the increased use of sources of renewable energy and achieve substantial technology transfer to the region. The Caribbean also views the conduct of studies of the impacts of climate change on the health and agriculture sectors as areas of priority.

Natural and Environmental Disasters

The need for more detailed research on the complex nature of vulnerability has been expressed by Caribbean SIDS. As such, integrated development planning, completion of the work on vulnerability indices (started by the University of the West Indies (UWI)), capacity development and resources are all urgent requirements. Although there has been some progress in these areas, it is necessary to enhance existing programmes to address vulnerability mapping for integration into sustainable development plans, building codes and legislation. The need for international support in this regard is of importance.

Management of Waste

With respect to management of wastes, Caribbean SIDS are focused on the sharing of best practices such as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) solid waste management strategy so as to enhance national capacity. They also expressed a need for the establishment of indicators for waste assessment, and implementation of a system of monitoring at the national level. Evaluation of existing waste management systems in order to identify more SIDS-appropriate systems and models has been articulated as a priority by Caribbean SIDS. They are also desirous of obtaining, where necessary, international assistance to develop SIDS-appropriate systems (that include community involvement) for recycling, waste minimisation and treatment, reuse and management.

Coastal and Marine Resources

The MSI addresses the delimitation of maritime boundaries but does not specify the mechanism to be employed in realising this goal. Caribbean SIDS have indicated the importance of completing the work on the mapping of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and deposition of the charts with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Secretariat. In addition, the need for identification of coastal and marine resources through data collection and mapping specifically for the purpose of obtaining information towards the restoration and rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems is a priority of Caribbean SIDS.

These islands are also concerned with the integration of policies on coastal zones with other policies, such as watershed management (see [ridge to reef](#) project in Jamaica) for the benefit of all the communities and the development of capacity for the sustainable development and management of the oceans, in particular the production of energy, such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). Moreover, Caribbean SIDS see the need to involve local coastal communities in the development and implementation of coastal zone policies, particularly in the establishment and sustainable management of marine protected areas with a view to improving their livelihoods.

Freshwater Resources

The promotion of public-private partnerships in addressing the supply of potable water is being addressed increasingly by Caribbean SIDS. They have reiterated that there is a need to strengthen regulation and monitoring of water supply to facilitate privatisation and to foster public awareness. The pursuit of an integrated approach to water resources management with energy

services is a priority for these islands, as well improving levels of sanitation and waste management in order to enhance efficiency.

Land Resources

The need for further development and enhancement of geographic information systems to facilitate land use planning is a priority for Caribbean SIDS. A concern was also expressed that it is necessary to develop strategies to make land more affordable and accessible for local populations, especially for low-income groups.

In order to provide much needed expertise in sustainable land management, additional and relevant research and post-graduate programs in geographic information systems (GIS), natural resource management and forestry science should be introduced at the regional tertiary level institutions. Some Caribbean SIDS also require technical support in the preparation of proposals for consideration of funding under the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since, to date, there have been no submissions to these mechanisms.

Energy Resources

Caribbean SIDS underscore the need for regional cooperation in research and development for SIDS-appropriate applications of renewable energy and energy efficiency such as the [Bagasse project in Cuba and Belize](#). These islands have expressed the desire to accomplish the following:

- The conduct of a study to review the impact of privatisation on electricity generation and distribution in SIDS;
- Exploration of the possible use of regional development banks as facilitators for energy transfer;
- Consideration of 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.

Tourism Resources

The islands have expressed the need for continued support for ecotourism and other sustainable community-based efforts, also heritage, nature-based and cultural tourism. This has implications for the designation and establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Biodiversity Resources

Improved management of mangrove and associated ecosystems, including sea grass beds so as to preserve their integrity, are priorities for the Caribbean region. In this regard, the establishment of transborder or multinational biodiversity and land and marine conservation areas in the region is proposed. The SIDS also require support in harmonising the reporting requirements for the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Additionally, the sensitisation of the region to the usefulness of debt for nature swaps is regarded as important.

Communication and Transport

Caribbean SIDS expressed the need for rationalisation of air services in the region in order to promote integration and communication which are important to regionalisation. The need for consideration of improved land transport policies was also emphasized.

Science and Technology

Caribbean SIDS have indicated that a stronger emphasis should be placed on science and technology programmes in the curricula of both secondary and tertiary institutions in the region. They also wish to promote greater synergy between academia and industry, to ensure and enhance the impact of science and technological development on industry initiatives. The establishment of centres to promote and disseminate information on resources available for research from alternative funding sources, such as foundations, is also a focus, as well as obtaining support for the establishment of a biodiversity centre at UWI, which would collaborate and share information with similar institutions in the region. Greater focus on energy in regional research projects and greater utilisation of SIDS-appropriate technology has been proposed.

Of tremendous importance to Caribbean SIDS is the need for increased public awareness on the presence and prevalence of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the region and their implications for food security as well as human health and safety.

National Institutions and Administrative Capacity

Caribbean SIDS view the establishment of formal sustainable development public education programmes as important to implementing the MSI. As such, they are focused on the introduction of sustainable development modules in the curricula of educational institutions at all levels. Stakeholder involvement in national sustainable development institutions and the institutionalisation of public participation through broad-based consultation, representation on relevant national bodies, legislation and other processes are also goals of these islands. They are also advocating that the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) should assist in information dissemination. Indeed, establishing formal contacts with Caribbean governments towards civil society's involvement in a regional technical task force would enhance information flow and sharing of best practices.

Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation

A well-established, well-defined Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) is needed for the further implementation of the BPOA and the MSI in the region, taking into consideration the special circumstances of the associate members¹ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In this regard, there is need for careful review of the existing arrangements in the region for the implementation of the MSI, with a view to making improvements. Caribbean SIDS therefore suggest that a group of experts be tasked with identifying, within a given time frame, an appropriate and effective regional mechanism in order to assess the capacity of Caribbean regional agencies in the delivery of sustainable development initiatives. A

¹ Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands

regional coordinating mechanism founded on existing institutions/arrangements and consideration of a mechanism which, in addition to coordinating activities in the region in implementing the BPOA and the MSI, 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 should be considered.

Capacity Building

Caribbean SIDS emphasized the need for capacity building within the region, including institutional capacity building, both within the State machinery as well as within civil society. They are focused on the conduct of an analysis of capacity-building needs in the region, by the appropriate regional tertiary institutions, with the UWI as the lead institution. They are also encouraging greater collaboration among universities and tertiary institutions in the region, in particular, across language zones (English, Spanish, French, Dutch), so as to ensure harmonization of efforts in the different language bands. The development, by all tertiary institutions, of more modular courses on specific issues in order to accommodate persons with time constraints is to be encouraged.

Caribbean SIDS are promoting the establishment of post-training database(s) to track expertise in the region by maintaining contact with persons who receive training; e.g. utilizing the resources available at the UWI and/or utilizing software that allows for online registration by experts. They also wish to promote greater use of distance learning, including the extensive distance learning resources of the UWI. Governments and prospective sponsors of trainees need to be more aggressive in approaching the University and other universities and tertiary institutes in the region to tailor programmes to specific needs. They also recommend that consideration be given to the establishment of a regional science and technology advisory panel as envisaged in the BPOA.

Security

The islands support a multidimensional approach taking into consideration all possible threats, including narco-trafficking, illegal trade in small arms and the related effects on crime and violence in local communities. In this regard, the importance of support from the international community to assist SIDS in meeting their obligations as regards implementation of the new international Maritime Security Regime, which came into effect 1 July 2004, is necessary. They also stated that security issues should embrace matters related to human security, such as HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Trade

The islands have expressed concern at the increased marginalisation 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. They highlighted the need for more effective SIDS representation in the various trade negotiating forums to continue to make the case for special and differential treatment, given the openness of their economies and their inherent vulnerabilities, as well as the particular costs of adapting to climate change and sea level rise.

Health

The mandate of CARICOM Heads of Government regarding the creation of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development “to advocate, review and help propel health to the centre of the development process and to draw on the body of research and development that provides for evidenced based decisions at all levels” needs to be pursued. With respect to HIV/AIDS, Caribbean SIDS wish to promote regional cooperation in the procurement of drugs, which could result in significant reductions in their price. They also wish to advocate for increased promotion and dissemination of information on the availability of grants such as that available to the Caribbean from Japan, to support HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and other health-related issues. Very importantly, they wish to conduct closer examination of the Cuban health system as a model to be emulated.

Culture

The islands request that resources be made available to ensure the long-term sustainability of a cultural development fund for the region. The support of the international community in this effort was requested.

Poverty

Caribbean SIDS are desirous of promoting a regional approach to poverty surveys and the development of participatory mechanisms that offer more effective guidance in addressing poverty. The conduct of regional and national studies on the impact and relationship of policies at the national, regional and international level on absolute and relative poverty is requested. The islands also wish to have an analysis of best practices in obtaining information and communicating technologies to vulnerable groups and the poor as a means of enhancing their earning capacities and empowerment. These islands wish to realise the increased involvement of the private sector in implementation of the MSI especially in the formation of public-private partnerships in strategic areas.

Cross-sectoral Issues

Caribbean SIDS did identify some cross-sectoral issues that are not clearly expressed in the MSI, among these were involvement of marginal groups which, although included in the MSI, are not highlighted in a mainstreamed manner across all sectors.

They reiterated that the enhancement of the quality of life of peoples, including their health, well-being and safety, as called for in the BPOA and the MSI, must remain at the heart of the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS. Taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, it was agreed that implementation of the BPOA, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), the Monterrey Consensus, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the MSI and the other internationally agreed development goals require enhanced support and the mobilization of resources from the international community, as well as renewed action, through common and innovative strategies, by SIDS themselves, at the national and regional levels.

2.2 Recommendations

Arising out of the Caribbean's position paper are several strategic areas that are neither reflected nor articulated in the MSI. In this regard, it would be desirable and expedient to make recommendations as to the strategies that may be adopted in fulfilment of the Caribbean agenda. The strategies may include the conduct of studies, assessments, institutional strengthening and policy actions. These recommendations are presented thematically.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

1. Development of climate change models at scales appropriate to SIDS so as to afford them support in planning for adaptation to climate change, current models having been deemed inappropriate;
2. Promotion of environmentally sound technologies through assessments 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;
3. Determination of the possible health impacts of climate change;
4. Determination of the impacts of climate change on agriculture.

Natural and Environmental Disasters

5. Completion of the work on environmental vulnerability indices started at UWI;
6. Enhancement of studies on vulnerability mapping.

Waste Management

7. Designing a strategy for the sharing of best practices such as the OECS solid waste management strategy to enhance national capacity;
8. Development of indicators for waste assessment;
9. Designing and implementation of a system of monitoring of waste at the national level;
10. Evaluation of existing waste management systems in order to identify more SIDS-appropriate systems and models (that include community involvement) for recycling, waste minimisation and treatment, reuse and management.

Coastal and Marine Resources

11. Completion of the work on the mapping of Exclusive Economic Zones and depositing the charts with the United National Convention on the Law of the Sea Secretariat;

12. Conduct of a study for identification of coastal and marine resources through data collection and mapping specifically for the purpose of obtaining information towards the restoration and rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems;
13. Integration of policies on coastal zone management with other policies, such as watershed management for the benefit of all the communities;
14. Development of capacity for the sustainable development and management of the oceans, in particular the production of energy, such as OTEC;
15. Increasing the involvement of local coastal communities in the development and implementation of coastal zone policies, particularly in the development and sustainable management of marine protected areas with a view to improving their livelihoods.

Freshwater Resources

16. Development of strategies to strengthen regulation and monitoring of water use to facilitate privatisation and to foster public awareness of the importance of water conservation;
17. Promotion of an integrated approach to water resources management with energy services comparable to the approach to sanitation and waste management in order to enhance efficiency.

Land Resources

18. Investment in development and enhancement of geographic information systems to facilitate land use planning;
19. Designing and implementation of programmes to make land more affordable and accessible for local populations, especially for low-income groups;
20. Designing of a research programme at the post-graduate level in GIS, natural resource management and forestry science at regional tertiary level institutions;
21. Provision of technical support in preparation of proposals for funding consideration under the UNCCD and the CBD since, to date, Caribbean SIDS have made no submissions to these Mechanisms.

Energy Resources

22. The conduct of a study to review the impact of privatisation on electricity generation and distribution in SIDS;
23. Exploration of the possible use of regional development banks as facilitators for energy transfer;
24. Consideration for 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.

Tourism Resources

25. Conduct of additional studies on the potential for ecotourism where they have not yet been conducted especially in promotion of sustainable community-based efforts;
26. Support for the promotion of heritage, nature based and cultural tourism. This may build on the EU-funded project on development of heritage tourism that is currently being implemented by the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA).

Biodiversity Resources

27. Adaptation of management plans for mangrove and associated ecosystems, including sea grass beds so as to preserve their integrity;
28. Development of strategies to promote transborder or multinational biodiversity and land and marine conservation areas in the region as, for example, in the establishment of MPAs;
29. Support in harmonising reporting requirements of MEAs;
30. Sensitisation of the region to the usefulness of debt for nature swaps.

Communication and Transport

31. Rationalization of air services in the region;
32. Developing strategies for improved land transport policies.

Science and Technology

33. Stronger emphasis on science and technology programmes in the curricula of both secondary and tertiary institutions in the region;
34. Promotion of greater synergy between academia and industry, to ensure and enhance the impact of science and technological development on industry initiatives;
35. Establishment of centres to promote and disseminate information on resources available for research from alternative funding sources such as foundations;
36. Obtaining support for the establishment of a biodiversity centre at UWI, which would collaborate and share information with similar institutions in the region;
37. Greater focus on energy in regional research projects;
38. Greater utilization of SIDS appropriate technology e.g. in water management, generation of energy, pollution control;

39. Conduct of programmes such as workshops and seminars to increase public awareness on the presence and prevalence of GMO in the region and possible consequences for food security as well as human health and safety.

National Institutions and Administrative Capacity

40. Establishment of formal sustainable development public education programmes in modular form mainstreamed in the curricula of educational institutions at all levels;
41. Promotion of stakeholder involvement in national sustainable development institutions through institutionalisation of public participation through broad-based consultation, representation on relevant national bodies, legislation and other processes;
42. Support for the CNIRD as the Regional Focal Point in information dissemination and the sharing of best practices.

Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation

43. Establishment of a RCM for further implementation of the MSI in the region

Capacity Building

44. Conduct of an analysis of capacity-building needs in the region, by the appropriate tertiary institutions within the region, with UWI as the lead institution;
45. Encouraging greater collaboration among the Universities and tertiary institutions in the region, in particular, across language zones (English, Spanish, French, Dutch), so as to ensure harmonization of efforts in the different language bands;
46. The development, by all tertiary institutions, of more modular courses on specific issues in order to accommodate persons with time-constraints;
47. The establishment of post-training database(s) to track expertise in the region by keeping abreast of persons who receive training; e.g. utilizing the resources available at UWI and/or utilizing software that allows for online registration by experts;
48. Promotion of greater use of distance learning, using the extensive distance learning resources of UWI;
49. Consideration to be given to the establishment of a regional science and technology advisory panel as envisaged in the BPOA.

Security

50. Support from the international community to assist SIDS in meeting their obligations as regards implementation of the new international Maritime Security Regime, which came into effect 1 July 2004;

51. Security issues should embrace matters related to human security, such as HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Trade

52. Support for more effective SIDS representation in the various trade negotiating forums to continue to make the case for special and differential treatment, given the openness of their economies and their inherent vulnerabilities, as well as the particular costs of adapting to climate change and sea level rise.

Health

53. Creation of a Caribbean Commission on Health and Development;
54. Promotion of regional cooperation in the procurement of drugs, which could result in significant reduction in their price;
55. Increased promotion and dissemination of information on the availability of grants to support HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and other health-related issues, such as that available to the Caribbean from Japan;
56. Conduct of a closer examination of the Cuban health system as a model to be emulated.

Culture

57. Access to resources especially from the international community to ensure the long-term sustainability of a cultural development fund for the region.

Poverty

58. Promotion of a regional approach to poverty surveys;
59. Development of participatory mechanisms that offer more effective guidance in addressing poverty;
60. The conduct of regional and national studies on the impact and relationship of policies at the national, regional and international level on absolute and relative poverty;
61. Conduct of an analysis of best practices in getting information on, and communicating technologies to, vulnerable groups and the poor as a means of enhancing their earning capacities and empowerment;
62. Increased involvement of the private sector in implementation of the MSI especially in the formation of public-private partnerships in strategic areas.