



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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Dialogue Session: “Caribbean Small Island Developing States  
Informal Preparatory Meeting in preparation for the  
United Nations Small Island Developing States  
Third Preparatory Committee Meeting”  
10-12 June 2014  
Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

LIMITED  
LC/CARL/L.445  
23 July 2014  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE DIALOGUE SESSION: “CARIBBEAN SMALL ISLAND  
DEVELOPING STATES INFORMAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR  
THE UNITED NATIONS SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING”**

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This report has been produced without formal editing.



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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **1. Place and date**

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) convened a three day meeting of Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) experts involved in the negotiations and preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Commerce from 10 to 12 June 2014.

### **2. Attendance**

2. Representatives were from member States of the Caribbean Community and their Permanent Missions in New York.

3. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

4. Representatives of the following regional institution attended the meeting: the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC).

5. Representatives from local ministries also attended the meeting: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, the Ministry of Health and the Environment, and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

### **3. Agenda**

6. The agenda adopted by the meeting is attached as annex II.

## **B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. Opening of meeting**

7. Welcome and opening remarks were delivered by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce. He wished all participants a successful dialogue and expressed the hope that all goals that they might have set for the meeting would be achieved.

8. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean also extended a warm welcome to all participants. She underscored the importance of the International Year of Small Island Developing States and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. She suggested that political leadership and technical support from various regional organizations were needed. She highlighted the importance of providing language and alternative options for the Caribbean negotiators taking part in the negotiations in New York. The Director indicated that the nexus of the SIDS review, the post-2015 discussions and the international year of SIDS should be used strategically by the SIDS themselves. Additionally, she emphasized that the shaping of sustainable development goals will be the focus of the post-2015 development agenda and that SIDS priorities must be seriously considered during those deliberations.

9. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines gave the feature remarks. He stressed that the Heads of CARICOM needed to be briefed on what was at stake for Samoa. He suggested that the Government of Saint Lucia ask the CARICOM Secretariat for a brief on

Samoa, and then make a presentation to the Heads meeting to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in the first week of July 2014. The Minister suggested that a new transformative strategy was required for SIDS. He indicated that the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy were suitable for the era in which they were agreed upon, but now the current and emerging challenges should be addressed in an integrated way, and the solutions should be firmly grounded within the context of the present and pressing challenges of the twenty-first century. The Minister stated that the Caribbean should focus on the priorities of SIDS and establish partnerships with development partners of similar thinking. He indicated that it was necessary to develop some programmes that addressed the challenge of information and communication technologies (ICT). He further reiterated that it was necessary to plan for the better utilization of our exclusive economic zones and to establish more comprehensive ocean management initiatives. He concluded that it was important to find an objective solution towards addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS that would allow SIDS to gain some preferential treatment in the global arena, particularly the international financial institutions.

## **2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

10. The agenda was proposed for adoption and was approved by the meeting with a minor amendment in that the Technical Adviser of the CPDC moderated the first session in lieu of the Senior Environmental Officer at the Ministry of Environment and Drainage of Barbados.

## **3. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 1 to 10 of the compilation text**

11. To facilitate and guide the dialogue, the Technical Adviser of the CPDC had prepared a matrix report synthesis of the zero draft negotiating document for ECLAC. The synthesis document compared the zero draft with the substantive issues in the Barbados interregional preparatory meeting outcome document, as well as identified the areas of contention and/or concerns, and the areas of consensus by the Member States.

12. After the Intersessional Preparatory Committee that was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 21 to 25 April 2014, the zero draft document contained several brackets and many amendments on alternative language and additional text. In between preparatory committees, the co-facilitators produced a Non-Paper. The Non-Paper was an attempt at streamlining the text as the co-facilitators had been given a mandate by the parties to streamline the text of 29 April 2014. The Non-Paper attempted to find some level of consensus between the various texts and ideas that were presented during the intersessional meeting, which brought a higher level of fluency to the text. The meeting therefore examined each paragraph with a view to suggesting inclusions and/or alternative language.

13. The preamble paragraphs were taken in large part from agreed text in other United Nations documents which set the scope of the partnership and commit to the sustainable development principles. The parties generally agreed that there was need to advance the global effort in support of SIDS. The discussion on these paragraphs focused on the fact that countries have to deal with the challenges as well as their impacts. This section also stated that SIDS have made significant effort to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy. There is also a call for strengthening the cooperation by the international community in supporting SIDS.

14. Paragraphs 1 to 7 were deemed acceptable by the experts. Therefore no changes were made to the existing language.

15. Minor changes were made to paragraph 8 as follows:

- (a) The third line of the paragraph from “implement to conference” was suggested for deletion and replaced with the word “advance”.
- (b) On line 4 “including” was replaced by “within the context of”.
- (c) The new language for this paragraph now read: “We reaffirm the commitment of the international community to move the sustainable development agenda forward and in this regard we will take concrete measures to advance the sustainable development of small island developing States within the context of other internationally agreed development goals in order for SIDS to eradicate poverty, achieve their sustainable development, build resilience and improve the quality of life. We recognize the need to expeditiously implement through genuine and durable partnerships the global effort in support of the sustainable development agenda of SIDS through concrete, focused, forward looking and action oriented programmes”.

16. At the onset concerns over the use of the phrase “particular circumstances” were voiced given that persons were of the view that it indicated a classification of SIDS. In the end original wording was kept.

17. Ultimately the original wording of this paragraph was kept however concerns were raised over the language used in its construction as it was considered to be inelegant. A proposal was made for its deletion. One of the areas that generated much dialogue was the phrase “common but differential responsibilities”. While delegates were of the view that was an important statement, they were concerned with the fact that it was only attached to partnerships.

#### **4. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 11 to 20 of the compilation text**

18. There were two minor changes made to in this paragraph. In line 1 the phrase “in the post-2015 development agenda” was suggested to read “in a post-2015 development agenda”. The third line was also revised to include “environmental challenges and shocks and their impacts”. It was stressed that the core priority issues of SIDS should be included in a post-2015 development agenda.

19. The word “depends” in line 1 was queried as some delegates were of the view it implied that failure of the issues outlined in the paragraph was caused by national governments.

20. **SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH**. The group thought that this section did not reflect the true extent of the exogenous shocks, nor did it identify the decline in foreign direct investment, increasing imbalances of trade, and increasing indebtedness as barriers or obstacles to sustainable development in Caribbean SIDS. Those factors help to undermine SIDS achieving their development goals. It was agreed that Caribbean SIDS needed to call on the Secretary General of the United Nations and the international community to devise and implement tools for measuring socioeconomic development that take full account of the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS and that could enable them access to concessional financing.

21. It was suggested that the word “economic” be removed from the wording that headed this section because it excluded social growth and all the associated issues therein. The new reading was suggested to be: “**SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE GROWTH**”.

22. A general dissatisfaction was aired over the negative language used in paragraph 16 as it just seemed to be a list of activities to be achieved. The phrase “poor governance and political instability” was especially flagged by the group leading to a call to have it rewritten.

23. Paragraph 17 was disregarded and three new paragraphs were suggested to be included in the document as follows:

- (a) “We recognize that beyond their natural wealth, people are the greatest resources of SIDS. Increase investments in education and training with the support of the international community which requires SIDS to enhance their human resource capacity with particular attention given to ensuring that their labour markets are developed to meet the current and future demands, industry and the green economy”.
- (b) “Achieving higher rates of growth in SIDS requires expanded trade and investment opportunity in a more conducive international economic environment if sides are to pursue full and productive employment, social protection and the creation of decent jobs particularly for women, youth and persons with disabilities”.
- (c) “We underscore that migrants and diaspora organizations play an important role in supporting and enhancing developmental initiatives in communities of origin”.

24. A recommendation was made for paragraph 18 to be shortened. Therefore only the first sentence remained. The second sentence was then attached to the new paragraph 20 as an (i).

25. A minor change was made to the language of paragraph 19. The phrase “including through public-private partnership” was moved from line 4 and inserted at the end of the sentence on line 2.

26. It was deemed important to the structure of the document that paragraph 20 becomes the new paragraph 22. The paragraph will now start from “we urge bilateral donors” at the end of line one.

27. Paragraph 21 became the new paragraph 20. It was revised to read “Taking into account national development priorities and individual country circumstances, we [agree] to take the following actions:” Changes were made to the following action points that fall under paragraph 21 as follows:

- (a) 21.d.: “Support national, regional and international initiatives that address the access of SIDS for trade in services, particular financial service industry and the surge in cost of doing business in SIDS.”
- (b) 21.h.: “Develop and implement policies to promote gender equality and women’s equal participation in the public and private sector in SIDS”.
- (c) 21.i.: It was also recommended that an extension be made to the action points under 21 to include a (i) whose wording was taken from the second sentence in 18. It reads as follows: “As the green economy is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication, we call on the United Nations system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen its coordination and support of SIDS in their adoption of green economy policies”.

28. Paragraph 22 became paragraph 21 and in this new paragraph the word “threaten” was replaced with “undermine”; the “importance of” was replaced with “in”; the phrase “means of addressing” was replaced with “approaches to promote the” and; the phrase “taking into account” was replaced with “of SIDS including their”.

29. The new paragraph 23 was a reformulation of paragraph 90 which was edited to read as follows: “We call on the International Committee for Development Policy of the Economic and Social Council to devise and implement by January 2016 new and applicable tools for measuring the social and economic development of SIDS that take full account of the unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that give them

access to concessionary financing to face their timely response to exigent shocks and shocks from natural disasters”.

#### **5. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 21 to 30 of compilation text**

30. SUSTAINABLE TOURISM. The group thought that this section needed to demonstrate an integrated approach to the tourism sector and that the policies and practices should be developed in a participatory manner. It was further iterated that this section should focus on enhancing employment opportunities and building strong institutional infrastructures.

31. Paragraph 23.a. was revised to read “Support integrated planning and policy implementation to promote resilient and sustainable tourism”. Questions were raised about mechanisms for reducing vulnerability.

32. Paragraph 23.c. was edited to read “Promote participatory polices that allow communities to gain optimal benefits from tourism”. Recommendations were also made for it to be shortened.

33. Paragraph 23.f. was revised to read “Leverage the expertise of all relevant regional and international bodies to provide platforms for the exchange of best practices and direct support of SIDS”.

34. Paragraph 23.g. now read “Establishing a sustainable island food tourism support initiative based on community participation and sustainable livelihoods and local culture in collaboration with all the relevant United Nations entities including regional development banks as well as regional and national agriculture, culture, environment and tourism authorities”.

35. Paragraph 23.h. was revised to read “Establishing and maintaining, where necessary integrated institutional structures for sustainable tourism”. The rest of the paragraph remained unchanged.

#### **6. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 31 to 40 of compilation text**

36. CLIMATE CHANGE. Participants suggested that climate change be treated as a cross-cutting issue that presented additional challenges to countries achieving sustainable development. However, it was recognised that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary forum for negotiating climate change solutions. It was suggested that a paragraph be included on climate variability and another paragraph on the Global Climate Change Alliance.

37. On this issue of climate change a suggestion was made for the header to be expanded to incorporate sustainable development. The suggested language was “CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”.

38. A suggestion for deletion of paragraphs 25 to 27 was made and replacement with three new paragraphs was accepted. These new paragraphs are as follows:

Paragraph 25: “Call on the international community to support SIDS in the development and implementation of climate resilience and low carbon development as key components of an integrated approach to sustainable development, protecting livelihoods, SIDS physical infrastructure and promote investments for a stronger platform for the sustainable development of SIDS”;



Paragraph 26: “SIDS need the support of the international community for the development of climate change models at scales appropriate to SIDS, so as to afford them support in planning for adaptation to climate change. 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”;

Paragraph 27: “SIDS need the support of the international community to the conduct of studies of the impacts of climate change on the economics of climate change and other priority areas such as agriculture, health, tourism and water among others as areas of priority”.

39. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY. A suggestion was made to link energy to poverty. It was also suggested that the chapeau for the actions should focus on the partnership between SIDS and the international community. Delegates reflected on the fact that the high and volatile cost of imported energy has been a major contributing factor to poverty in the Caribbean.

40. Paragraph 31 was revised to read: “We recognize that dependence on imported fossil fuels and exposure to extreme fuel price volatility are major sources of economic vulnerabilities and key challenges for SIDS for many decades, and that sustainable energy plays a critical role as a key enabler in the sustainable development of SIDS. Enhanced energy security could be achieved through better connectivity to major energy markets, increased energy efficiency and use of economically-viable and environmentally-sound renewable energy”.

41. Delegates thought that it was necessary to include a reference to energy efficiency in paragraph 32.

42. The introduction to the action points that were outlined in paragraph 34 was revised to read “The international community in partnership with SIDS agree to support SIDS efforts to”.

43. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION. The meeting agreed that disaster management is a development issue and that disaster management programmes must be integrated in the general planning process. As such it was agreed that paragraph 35 needed to give more attention to issues of flooding. However it was decided that if it was included then the opportunity for others to make further suggestions would be provided resulting in an exhaustive list in the paragraph.

44. OCEANS AND SEAS. The meeting recognized that more resources needed to be allocated to the proper management of the natural resources of oceans and seas in order for SIDS to optimize the benefits for all. The meeting was informed that this topic would be designated to a small contact group of Caribbean experts for negotiations in New York.

## **7. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 41 to 50 of compilation text**

45. FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION. There was much debate over the placement of the word security in the title. In the end, Caribbean SIDS agreed to support the position of the Group of 77 and therefore the topic remained unchanged.

46. With respect to paragraph 45.c., it was felt that among the action steps subparagraph (c) should focus on expanding agricultural production at the national level and promote intra and interregional trade. The meeting was advised to call for a dialogue on food and nutrition security in SIDS as articulated in paragraph 45.g. instead of a biennial forum, since it would be easier to implement and would achieve similar results.

47. WATER AND SANITATION. Under this heading it was pointed out that there was a need to address institutional capacity, strengthening of municipal systems and proper disposal of waste water.

48. The delegates were of the view that the action points listed under paragraph 47 needed to contain the collection and storage of water, address the issues of desalination and training, and development.

### **8. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 51 to 60 of compilation text**

49. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION. While paragraph 51 remained, there were concerns as to how it was going to interface with the sustainable development goals process and fit into the post-2015 development agenda. As such, a proposal was made for the issue of size to be placed in a document and presented at the Ministerial Conference by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

50. MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL AND WASTE, INCLUDING HAZARDOUS WASTE. The group felt that the original language from the Barbados outcome document was much stronger than what existed in this text and that the negotiators should revert to that language.

51. It was agreed that paragraph 52 be shortened and read as “For SIDS, as for all countries, environmentally-sound waste management is also critical for human health and the environment, and the small land area and remoteness of many SIDS poses particular challenges for environmentally-sound waste disposal”.

52. HEALTH AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES. No changes were made to this section. There was general agreement that the section was in keeping with the region’s priorities.

53. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT. It was suggested that this section be incorporated into the section on SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. Furthermore it was raised that the emerging issues of men and aging populations needed to be included.

### **9. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 61 to 70 of compilation text**

54. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. It was noted that under the section on Culture and Sports it was essential to address the subject of ease of access to international markets for regional artistes so as to level the playing field, as international artistes encounter little to no difficulty when entering the Caribbean region.

55. Under the theme “Promoting Peaceful Societies and Safe Communities” it was suggested that paragraphs 62 and 63 be redrafted. This suggestion stemmed from what was considered to be the negative connotations that were stated in these paragraphs. A proposal to revert to the first language in the text of 29 April 2014 was made. In addition a recommendation for a reformulation was raised so that the root causes of all the issues would be addressed.

56. Under the action points listed in paragraph 68 action point (a), a clarification was sought on exactly what was expected to happen by the end of 2014. The meeting agreed that the enforcement of legislation to control the entry of invasive species was missing from these action points. A new action point was included as (e) and this read “To support SIDS efforts in enforcing laws to control the entry of invasive alien species”.

57. In paragraph 69 it was recognised that it was essential to incorporate sustainable policies to prevent land degradation, quality of soil and biodiversity. A restructure of this paragraph was suggested.

### **10. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 71 to 80 of compilation text**

58. Partnership: There was much debate on the word “partnership” in paragraph 71 and the query raised was whether or not the word partnership was being used to replace the word “commitments”. The importance of having a clear definition of the word partnership and the articulation of the support framework was acknowledged so that there would be no room for misinterpretation as to the acceptance of responsibilities among partners. It was suggested that the partnership section should precede the means of implementation section and that the latter section assume a separate modality.

59. Trade: The participants agreed that SIDS should call for the completion of discussions of the small vulnerable economies agenda within the Doha Development Agenda. Consensus was also arrived at on the inclusion of an additional action point in paragraph 80.e. that would read “Develop an integrated trade assessment facility for SIDS”.

### **11. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 81 to 93 of compilation text**

60. Paragraph 82.a. was updated to include the SIDS national focal point and to create circumstances with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) that required their engagement. This paragraph was revised to read “Creating a coordinating mechanism at regional levels with support of the relevant regional committees and regional intergovernmental organizations and in collaboration with SIDS national focal points. Establish and coordinate a coherent United Nations system wide capacity building initiative to be implemented through the United Nations country teams”.

61. Paragraph 82.c. was restructured to read “Create and strengthen SIDS cooperation and partnership platforms, implementing as appropriate the work programmes of the United Nations agencies, providing assistance to SIDS and mobilizing the support of state and non-state partners in order to support capacity and institution building initiatives in SIDS”. A suggestion was made for institution strengthening and capacity building to be included in the title to create an appropriate linkage.

62. Paragraph 82.d. was revised to read “Support the continued development of tertiary level programmes on the sustainable development of SIDS through the small island developing States University Consortium.”

63. Paragraph 82.h. was revised to read “Create and integrate a national and regional ICT Platform to promote implementation of the SIDS programme of action through the regional coordinating mechanisms, facilitating capacity building in knowledge sharing, communication and interregional cooperation among SIDS, and strengthening data collection for improved advocacy”.

64. Paragraph 82.i. was restricted to read “Promote and strengthen interregional SIDS-SIDS cooperation with emphasis on identifying and applying SIDS-appropriate good practices.”

65. In paragraph 85 mention of the phrase “irrespective of size” was of concern to delegates as there was agreement that the insertion of that phrase posed a danger of classifying SIDS within SIDS. There was also mention of a need to build capacity at the national level to collect data.

66. Paragraph 87.a. was revised to read “Strengthen available accessible data and statistical systems in SIDS by launching a SIDS statistical partnership initiative in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, and enhance their management of complex data systems”.

67. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO SIDS. While paragraph 90 remained unchanged it was initially recommended that it be removed completely. There were concerns about the indicator used to classify

Caribbean SIDS as middle-income countries. In this regard a recommendation for the development of an index for the classification of countries was made.

68. The meeting agrees that paragraph 91 should call on the Secretary General to mandate the Joint Implementation Unit to undertake an audit of the United Nations' role, mandate, function and effectiveness in supporting the development of SIDS.

69. The introduction to the action points in paragraph 93 was edited to read "To ensure the realization of a strategy to monitor full implementation we will do the following".

70. Areas that were flagged for having inadequate coverage were resilience, absence of ICT in areas such as statistical systems and health, the issue of size, social development, the need to merge sections on capacity building and institutional strengthening, and the need to move the section on waste to the section on water and sanitation. The meeting agreed that the subsection on sanitation required greater attention.

## **12. Financing sustainable development in Caribbean SIDS**

71. The meeting agreed that many internationally agreed goals have been underfunded, either by external or domestic sources. Under this section it was suggested that Caribbean SIDS examine improved ways to mobilize funds from the private sector and to revisit the rules and regulations that govern the private sector so as to explore ways in which this sector could deliver additional benefits to SIDS. Also, it was highlighted that it was necessary to alter the types of cooperation in which SIDS were involved as well as the way they engage their donors. It was noted that a new set of donors was now active in addition to the traditional set of donors. It was recommended that SIDS should identify and engage the donor community in Samoa.

72. Participants were however cautioned that many of the new donors do not want to associate themselves with human rights issues as interest in this topic has stopped or slowed the flow of donor resources to some developing countries. The meeting was further informed that while assistance from donors was necessary, it was also important to ensure that the use of domestic resources be maximized. The issue of foreign exchange cover was highlighted as being an important issue for SIDS.

73. The meeting was informed that there was a meeting set for 19 June 2014 in Turkey to discuss the issue of financing in SIDS. Additionally, CARICOM and the United Nations Development Programme were collaborating to host a side event in Samoa on "Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS".

## **13. Overview of major aid effectiveness report and partnerships**

74. On the issue of aid effectiveness, the importance of identifying SIDS strategic partners was noted as well as access to new means of creating sustainable revenue in areas such as tourism, so that competitiveness could be heightened. As such, SIDS needed to develop programmes in the area of sustainable revenue and the Caribbean needed to expand their sources of revenue, be it from fees, taxes or cheaper loans. The group agreed that better debt management could free up additional financial resources to support sustainable development. It was also suggested that new actors should be engaged in the aid dialogue. It was also recognized that the Caribbean Development Bank needed to become more involved in the discussions in the initial stages of negotiating availability of resources and that a mandate coming out of the next CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting should be apparent. A suggestion was made for the hosting of side events and panel discussions in Samoa especially on the topic of size which could address one of the special characteristics of SIDS.

75. Some of the key groups, organizations and countries that were highlighted to further develop and strengthen partnership with were the South- South grouping, the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) and Latin America. The meeting agreed that the Caribbean's natural development partners should be the Central American countries and it was noted that Panama was already identified for partnership in the area of transportation. While new donors were being pursued, it was felt that old donors needed to be revisited while rebuilding bridges and establishing a new basis for cooperation.

76. In general, participants felt that a clear strategy on advocacy needed to be developed for Samoa and that this should highlight the challenges being faced by SIDS. It was suggested that SIDS develop a strategic approach on strategies for harvesting the "low hanging fruits" in Samoa and in other fora. Also, it was agreed that SIDS needed to have a deliberate strategy to leverage resources from countries with which they collaborate and to coordinate among themselves on specific issues. It was further agreed that SIDS should lobby and identify allies in other development dialogue fora. SIDS should also present a comprehensive policy statement on their sustainable development aspirations at the sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

#### **14. Some considerations on the development of partnerships proposals**

77. It was recalled that the Caribbean participants in Mauritius presented proposals to the donor community for funding and that this met with some measure of success. ECLAC informed the meeting that it had commissioned six proposals that should be ready in time for the conference in Samoa. These proposals would address some of the priority areas that were identified through national and regional consultation in the Caribbean preparatory process. The areas are debt, energy, youth employment, information and communication technologies, creative industries, and citizen security. It was suggested that the establishment of a technical unit to identify the needs on the supply side in the Caribbean subregion could be very useful. ECLAC informed the meeting that a strategic outreach and resource mobilization unit would be created within the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. ECLAC also informed the meeting that a type II partnership side event was being organized along with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as part of their platform on partnership and cooperation. ECLAC also suggested that participants should read one of its latest reports entitled Caribbean Convergence authored by Sheldon Mc Lean, Economic Affairs Officer at ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

78. The meeting indicated that countries and/or blocks of countries had indicated an interest in the following partnerships:

- (a) European Union: climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, energy
- (b) Turkey: oceans and disaster management
- (c) Japan: human security, energy, health, non-communicable diseases, disaster management, climate change, and health
- (d) Switzerland: migration, human resources and social issues.

It was further suggested that the areas of interest of the Nordic Cooperation Programme be examined.

#### **15. Closure of the meeting**

79. The meeting concluded with a few final observations and reflections as follows:

- (a) CARICOM needs to articulate a pre and post-Samoa strategy
- (b) Member States need to increase the representation of SIDS nationals into international institutions.

- (c) Public awareness arrangements and programmes need to be improved across the subregion
- (d) The event in Samoa should not be the end. It would be necessary to have a post-Samoa meeting to prioritize the implementation plan of the Samoa outcome
- (e) The region needs to develop a regional outreach programme
- (f) Some project and/or programme proposals need to be taken to Samoa
- (g) Caribbean SIDS need to establish a cooperation and partnership platform
- (h) Caribbean SIDS should provide support for an island food initiative
- (i) SIDS should consider establishing a type 11 Sports initiative
- (j) SIDS need to trigger a discussion with the international financial institutions
- (k) SIDS need to have a clear road map to Samoa
- (l) SIDS should pursue the launching of a trust funds for SIDS in Samoa
- (m) AOSIS needs to improve its institutional structure, if not through a formal corporate identity, through a permanent professional secretariat
- (n) SIDS need to establish a private sector trade facilitation platform in Samoa
- (o) Caribbean SIDS need to establish deeper and broader technical cooperation programmes with the Organization of American States.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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Annex II

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 1 to 10 of compilation text
4. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 11 to 20 of compilation text
5. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 21 to 30 of compilation text
6. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 31 to 40 of compilation text
7. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 41 to 50 of compilation text
8. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 51 to 60 of compilation text
9. Summary of discussions and decisions taken on days 1 and 2
10. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 61 to 70 of compilation text
11. Interactive dialogue on paragraphs 70 to 75 of compilation text
12. Financing sustainable development in Caribbean SIDS
13. Overview of major aid effectiveness report and partnerships
14. Some considerations on the development of partnership proposals
15. Closure of the meeting