

**THE NADI OUTCOME DOCUMENT:
“ACCELERATING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT”**

**Pacific SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting,
Nadi, Fiji, 10-12 July 2013**

The Pacific regional meeting (Meeting), in preparation for the 2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Samoa Conference), was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 10 to 12 July 2013 and reaffirmed the commitment to the principles and priorities of the Rio outcome, the Barbados Program of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. Full participants in the meeting were: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

The Meeting provided an opportunity for Member States to identify their challenges and priorities with time bound, targeted and measurable benchmarks that define their partnership with the international community and scaling up support measures. It also provided an opportunity to dialogue with Major Groups and Development Partners and to reflect in the Meeting outcome the key issues being raised.

The Meeting was opened by the Prime Minister of Fiji who challenged the participants to think and do things differently, as proposed in the Pacific Regional Synthesis Report.

The Meeting noted that Member States remain committed to guaranteeing their sovereignty and survival and to taking full ownership of their sustainable development, eradicating poverty, building resilience, and delivering quality outcomes for our peoples and our nations.

It also agreed that there was a need for a transformational strategy to provide a bridge between national sustainable development priorities and the support channeled internationally through the global development agenda. To do so would promote national ownership..

Mindful of the evolving processes to establish the post-2015 development agenda, the Pacific region is committed to ensuring acceleration of achievement of the MDGs and that its priority sustainable development issues are integrated into the new development framework. The Pacific looks forward to the operationalization of the High Level Political Forum to succeed the Commission on Sustainable Development and underscore the critical importance of an effective sustainable development forum that addresses the SIDS priorities, including through an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism and strengthened national and regional sustainable development coordination mechanisms.

A data revolution in the Pacific is required to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of implementation and indicate our level of success. Accountability is required from all actors involved; Pacific accountability will be seen in how our ambition is translated into action. In this connection, the Meeting noted the interest of members to be part of the Global Monitoring Process for the Global Partnership for effective Development Cooperation with focus on ownership, accountability and transparency.

The Meeting noted that Partners are equally accountable both on their past commitments which still have to be fulfilled as well as on future ones.

It agreed that empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based upon mutual trust, equality, respect and accountability. These are anchored in national ownership and require political will delivered through long-term and predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure meaningful engagement and achieve the vision of self-reliance.

The Meeting strongly supports the theme, “the sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships” for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Apia, Samoa, 1-4 September 2014, to be

Climate Change

The Meeting expressed alarm that while SIDS are among those that contribute least to global climate change and sea-level rise, they are among those that suffer most from the disastrous consequences of such phenomena. Climate change and sea-level rise undermine efforts to sustainably develop in a multitude of ways across the Pacific, and threaten the livelihoods and security of the peoples of the Pacific region, as well as the survival, viability and sovereignty of Pacific nations. International action to address climate change continues to be grossly inadequate, and emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally at an alarming rate.

Achieving the sustainable development goals of the Pacific region and the full implementation of the BPOA and MSI is only possible with urgent global action to reduce green house gas emissions to keep global average temperature increase well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and long-term stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at well below 350ppm CO₂-equivalent levels. The Meeting notes with alarm that atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ exceeded 400 parts per million for sustained lengths of time throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere earlier this year.

The Meeting expressed profound concern about the disturbing lack of ambition and urgency to reduce greenhouse gasses under the UNFCCC, recognizing that without scaled up short term action by Parties, the chance to hold temperature increase to below 1.5°C may be lost. The steady increase in carbon emitting infrastructure locks Parties onto a high emission pathway, and positive feedbacks in the climate system, if triggered, could accelerate the anthropogenic greenhouse effect. Immediate mitigation actions and policies are needed before 2017 to prevent

dangerous lock in of global fossil fuel infrastructure that will make achieving the 1.5 C goal exceedingly difficult.

Adaptation is a priority for the Pacific region, and the provision of sufficient, additional and predictable financial resources to SIDS to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and support national climate change priorities remains a significant gap. Where funds exist, application procedures often preclude SIDS in the Pacific region from accessing those funds and capacity building efforts have not addressed this persistent problem.

The Meeting agreed all Parties must dramatically increase their commitment and efforts to address climate change under the UNFCCC. In particular, all Parties must engage in a paradigm shift to raise pre-2020 mitigation ambition through a practical and results oriented approach that focuses on specific and scalable mitigation actions and policies that can be deployed immediately, as well as strategies for overcoming implementation barriers, including the scaled up delivery of financial resources, technology and capacity building. There is a need to expand the conversation beyond purely climate negotiators to engage those with on-the-ground expertise in the development and implementation of successful mitigation actions —civil society, scientists, the private sector and experts from the relevant ministries within our governments, such as transport, energy, infrastructure and economic/finance management.

Additionally, the outcome of the process launched under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action should be a Protocol under the Convention applicable to all Parties, to be adopted no later than 2015. This will strengthen the multilateral rules-based and legally binding regime, based on science and the principles of the UNFCCC and ensures the survival of the most vulnerable.

The Meeting agreed that all World Leaders must urgently increase their commitment to responding to the climate change crisis to ensure the viability and survival of all SIDS and all nations including through adopting a whole of Government approach and engaging all Departments and Ministries. The meeting noted that the United Nations Secretary-General's Summit on climate change is an important decision point for Parties to raise mitigation ambition, with developed countries taking the lead by putting forward more ambitious mitigation targets using the 2014 Kyoto Protocol ratchet mechanism, and for non-Kyoto Protocol Parties to make comparable commitments. All Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that have not joined the second commitment period should do so immediately.

The Meeting emphasized that there is an urgent need to consider and address the security implications of climate change, including violation of territorial integrity, more frequent and severe climate-related disasters, threats to water and food security, increased natural resource scarcity, and forced displacement and the human dimensions of climate change, including where necessary, initiatives for preparing communities for relocation.

The Meeting further emphasized the responsibility of all nations to protect the individual and collective rights of all people and communities and the sovereign rights of nations displaced from the adverse impacts of climate change, including through migration with dignity.

The Meeting also emphasised that natural disasters, including slow onset events, are a threat to the wellbeing of people. The meeting recognised the benefits of mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in all sectors of national planning.

Health, especially NCDs

The alarming rate of growth in the incidence of NCDs and its impact on Pacific societies and public resources is an emerging issue for the Pacific. The burden of NCDs in the region is already extremely high, causing up to 75% of deaths and much long-term illness and disability. Many of these disabilities and subsequent deaths from NCDs, carry health and social costs that deny individuals, families, communities and nations the ability to attain their aspirations and realize their full potential.

The Meeting acknowledged that while the Pacific region, as a whole, has made progress towards the health related MDGs, there are still gaps in providing affordable, high-quality healthcare to all. Challenges remain in dealing with non-communicable diseases (NCDs), communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and environmental health; family planning, maternal, child and adolescent health; and improvement in health systems.

The Pacific NCD crisis is not just a concern for the health of Pacific people; it drains limited national budgets, reduces worker productivity, separates families, and robs communities of leadership and wisdom, as adults suffer long-term illness and lifespan is shortened. High childhood obesity rates in the Pacific, if not addressed, will cause a real health epidemic, which will be a catastrophe for the future of the Pacific.

The Meeting also expressed concerns at the lack of secure sustainable funding to effectively address the constraints and opportunities necessary for curbing the NCD crisis and the lack of access to affordable, safe and quality medicine including diagnostic services.

It further recognised the possible assistance that could be obtained from non-traditional partners such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the area of NCDs such as cancer treatment in addition to the assistance obtained from traditional partners such as WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, etc.

Completing the unfinished business of the MDGS requires scaling-up of interventions in maternal and child health, particularly for vulnerable groups and isolated populations.

Recognizing the urgent need for pragmatic actions, the Meeting agreed that there must be improvement in the health sector focusing on strengthening national institutions and implementing sustainable health programmes. This includes strengthening outreach and research programmes that include sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and mental health and in particular those programmes targeting youth.

There has been some early progress in the fight against NCDs, and effective actions are understood to be planned or taken ranging from prevention to early detection and treatment. But what is missing is a sense of urgency in the region, and the recognition among Pacific island countries that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is needed to tackle this

health and development crisis. Further action such as adopting a multi-sector response involving not only health but trade, agriculture, education, transportation and other sectors is necessary to address the underlying causes of NCDs such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, smoking and alcohol use, and unhealthy lifestyles. Efforts to ensure quality nutrition are essential to address NCDs and problems related to malnutrition.

While the responsibility to tackle the challenges of addressing NCDs rest with countries themselves, the gravity of the situation requires a priority regional approach through the Healthy islands framework and must be subsequently linked to global processes including integration into the post-2015 development agenda.

Social Development

The Meeting acknowledged that the region, as a whole, has made progress towards the MDGs, though much work remains to be done, and efforts need to be accelerated. The MDGs focused efforts towards social development through its targets and indicators. The BPoA and MSI did not include measurable targets or indicators, nor did they comprehensively address social inequities and vulnerable groups. However there are strong links between the BPoA and MSI to social issues that are cross-cutting such as: poverty, inequalities, population pressures, wellbeing, education, youth, ageing, gender, peoples with disability, culture, decent employment and security of livelihood.

Social development, as one of the three pillars of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring results on the ground now and in the future. Measures for social protection and inclusion need to be put in place to improve wellbeing and guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

In order to address these gaps there is a need for a bottom-up approach and for the BPoA and MSI implementation and national plans and priorities to be aligned. Poverty eradication remains of crucial importance as a cross cutting issue and requires continued and focussed efforts.

The Pacific Regional Cultural Strategy ‘Investing in Pacific cultures 2010-2020’ is an example of a regional strategy to integrate culture into sustainable development strategies, and it should be implemented and supported at all levels.

Inclusive development processes, with the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, should be the basis for defining the region’s priorities. Priority thematic areas identified in the BPoA and MSI can be linked to social issues as well as economic issues in order to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development. Best practices should be replicated.

Development should be people-centered and specifically tailored to national circumstances and culture.

Addressing gender inequality and gender-based violence remain key challenges. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is cross-cutting and must be realized, in particular economic empowerment and full participation in all levels of decision making. Efforts towards

gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on development activities and gains, and the meeting recognized the potential of women as powerful agents of transformation and change.

Social protection measures such as universal access to healthcare and education need to be put in place or strengthened to support the most vulnerable. It is important that youth have access to quality education and decent employment, in particular for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged such as those in rural areas, girls, people with disabilities and marginalized groups.

The Pacific contains a wealth of culture, which is a driver and enabler for sustainable development. In particular indigenous bio-cultural heritage recognizes the deep connections between People, culture, knowledge and the natural environment.

Governance

The BPoA and MSI lacked measurable targets and indicators, as well as a clear monitoring and evaluation framework; this presents a challenge in assessing progress and implementation.

Peace, security, and stability were identified in the MSI as enabling environmental factors and having peaceful and stable societies should be recognised as the foundation required for development.

Inclusive political participation, leadership and sustained commitment are critical to realizing our goals.

Political commitment is connected to the availability of information and data. Access and capacity to compile current and accurate data is necessary to increase transparency, inclusivity, and accountability and to ensure effective service delivery.

Monitoring and evaluation are comprised of several aspects. Monitoring includes progress and achievements as well as gaps and challenges, while evaluation is used by both SIDS and the international community to assess the support provided to SIDS as well as the commitments of SIDS themselves. Environmental and social impacts of development should be evaluated at all levels using integrated tools, for example the System for Environment-Economic Accounting.

The need to shift from capacity to institutional building is an important component of international support to SIDS and should be reflected in all partnerships, as well as in the priorities and work programmes of all UN agencies providing assistance to SIDS.

The Meeting agreed that domestic and mutual accountability and risk sharing among SIDS, partners and implementing agencies and all stakeholders in the development process is needed to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources.

Institution building along with structural reforms encourages the use of country systems and promotes the retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within a country. Such a transformational paradigm shift is needed to address gaps in monitoring and evaluation, and ensure implementation and delivery of results on the ground.

Infrastructure

The meeting agreed that infrastructure in particular for water and sanitation, waste management, energy, transportation, telecommunications and health is essential for sustainable development.

In order to move forward effectively, it is necessary to first conduct an audit of the existing infrastructure assess infrastructure needs and consider necessary reforms. Careful planning and design of infrastructure projects are necessary to ensure resilience.

Partnership is essential for infrastructure development. The support from partners should be aligned with national priorities.

Genuine and durable partnerships, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and public private partnerships remain critical enablers for infrastructure development.

The absence of proper national policies and infrastructure to support appropriate responses particularly for proper waste management remains a challenge.

The Meeting agreed that universal access to infrastructure particularly for vulnerable and isolated groups is an urgent priority.

Innovative mechanisms for financing infrastructure including sustainable transport are required and should involve reform-related incentives.

The Meeting noted the adverse impact of climate change on existing and new infrastructure requires innovative designs to minimise such risks. There is a need for timely monitoring and evaluation of the effects of climate change on infrastructure, including the impacts of catastrophic and slow onset events. This would ensure opportunities to finance climate proof infrastructure as well as identify important infrastructural nexus initiatives.

Information and communication technologies and transport are drivers for economic and social development.

Sustainable Energy

Energy is crucial to sustainable development of the Pacific region.

Sustainable energy lies at the heart of sustainable development. Renewable energy infrastructure has proven to be a powerful force in tackling poverty alleviation and improving living conditions for our remote and most isolated communities. It opens opportunities for the provision of basic human needs, improved health, education, transportation and economic opportunity in all Pacific island countries.

It was acknowledged that supplying energy through burning fossil fuels for electricity heat and transport is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change and ocean acidification.

Much has already been achieved in the sustainable energy sector with major advances in adoption of appropriate renewable energy options, together with developing awareness of energy efficiency and conservation.

Current weaknesses of many parts of the energy sectors in the Pacific have been recognized, including high dependence on imported fossil fuels, high inefficiency and cost, negative impact on competitiveness and employment, high consumption of foreign exchange, and stress on those least able to face the challenges of an energy deficient and costly society.

Initiatives conceived and applied by SIDS have a special relevance for SIDS. For this reason, the meeting acknowledged the efforts of the SIDS-Dock process in this region and recognize its potential to play a significant part in overall development of a strong renewable energy outcome for our communities and people. Existing support by development partners including those by multilateral financial institutions for the region's energy activities is acknowledged. The Meeting also invited all other interested partners to the process to further support our Pacific energy priorities and needs.

It is critical to transform the energy sector of the region away from vulnerability and petroleum dependency towards renewable sources of energy. This is also necessary to diversify the economy, stimulate productivity growth and increase access to energy services for poor households and remote communities.

The Meeting affirmed the need to support national and regional efforts to develop and utilize new, innovative, renewable energy policies and programmes as well as to foster energy efficiency and conservation. It further called for the provision of and easier access to special funding for the assessment and identification of renewable energy technologies, including technical assistance and capacity building.

The Meeting recognized that national planning and political commitment are essential to promote progress the energy sector and create an enabling financial environment. The Tonga Energy Roadmap and renewable energy targets by other countries demonstrates the effectiveness of this approach.

The Meeting reaffirmed the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States aimed at promoting transformational activities in the areas of, *inter alia*, affordable and modern energy access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including the commitments by some small island developing States to undertake the actions contained in its Annex I.

The Meeting agreed that energy and renewable energy should be a priority for the post-2015 development agenda.

Oceans

For the Pacific it is essential to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems and fisheries and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation, sustainable use development and management for present and future generations.

The Ocean provides opportunities for sustainable economic growth for SIDS, in order to maximize the returns for Pacific countries from coastal and marine living and non-living resources in accordance with the precautionary principle.

There is a need to implement measures to increase SIDS participation in sustainable commercial fisheries to provide equitable, realistic and rewarding opportunities including markets for products from Pacific fleets and processing plants.

The Meeting urged the development of approaches to ensure that the burden of conservation and management of these ocean resources falls fairly upon those that harvest and take greatest economic benefit from the resource. This could financial arrangements to compensate those PSIDS that incur significant cost from conservation measures and in the longer-term through strengthening the rights based management and the equitable pricing and transfer of rights.

There is a need to intensify efforts to at least meet the JPOI 2015 target to maintain or restore stocks on an urgent basis to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield.

The Meeting highlighted threats from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU), overcapacity of fishing fleets, inadequate enforcement and unsustainable use and management of marine resources.

The Meeting recommended implementation of Regional Fisheries management Organizations (RFMO) based and national measures to increase SIDS ability to control fishing at levels that provide for ecologically sustainable returns to their growing economies, with at least fifty percent of the fishing efforts in the PSIDS area to be flagged by, or in development arrangements with, PSIDS.

The Meeting agreed that regional and international support in capacity building, financial resources and technology transfer needs to be enhanced in the field of waste management to assist

SIDS in their efforts to reduce or eliminate land based and marine pollution, including marine debris.

Investments targeted towards institutional capacity building on threat abatement will create opportunities for more effective resource management and with it opportunities for a broadened and more inclusive skilled workforce.

The Meeting stressed the need for support from partners in order to facilitate the establishment of the continental shelf for SIDS countries in the region. It stressed the importance of tracking the progress in identifying and mainstreaming strategies by 2014 that further assist SIDS, as mandated in Rio, with the aim of completion in advance of the Samoa Conference.

The Meeting emphasized the urgent need to enhance environmental impact assessment requirements for RFMOs and all other relevant bodies with ocean management or governance responsibilities to improve the resilience of marine ecosystems to oceans acidification.

The Meeting agreed on the urgent need to develop and strengthen regional instruments and programs on Ecosystem Based Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) by incorporating knowledge on ocean acidification, climate change impacts and ecosystem-based adaptation into integrated coastal zone management and reef monitoring and restoration.

The Meeting emphasized the need for stronger regional instruments or programs on controlling Land-based Sources of Pollution.

Sustainable Resource Management and Protection

Sustainable management of natural resources remains an issue and a key concern for SIDS, despite measured progress in these areas.

The Meeting reiterated that the Pacific Island region's greatest sustainable development challenges are climate variability, climate change and disasters with wide ranging impacts that compound existing critical economic, environmental, social and security issues and place additional burden on humanitarian response, and development systems, as well as on national budgets and efforts to achieve national development goals.

The Meeting called for improved national, regional and international efforts towards ensuring food and water security, sustainable land use management including tourism sector development and biodiversity conservation under the auspices of the BPOA and MSI and other internationally agreed development frameworks, in the face of uneven and mixed results within the Pacific region for SIDS. Similar challenges faced by other SIDS regions were noted.

It was underscored that food security is consonant with the health of the Pacific Ocean due to the people's primary dependence on fisheries and other marine resources for their livelihoods. These critically important resources need to be adequately protected, conserved and sustainably used.

Concerns were expressed over scarcity of arable land and depletion of freshwater resources and contamination by pollution from agriculture, industry and domestic production and consumption patterns for sustainable development, and from the neglect of waste management. These are compounded by inadequate access to and unacceptably high cost for safe drinking water, which is not only a serious health concern but a threat to the economies of the region.

Natural resource constraints faced by the Pacific SIDS members arise, *inter alia*, from population pressure on limited resource base and ecosystem fragility and vulnerability. These issues are growing concerns that often lead to conflicts, which threaten peace and security. This is compounded by climate change induced impacts that require focused attention from all stakeholders.

Biodiversity of the land, ocean and seas is an important asset of the region but is increasingly under threat from human activities, deforestation, pollution, overfishing, IUU fishing practices, invasive species, climate change, and ocean acidification. Enhanced and effective national, regional and global efforts under agreed regional and international instruments such as The Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR) are imperative for biodiversity protection for future generations' benefit.

The Meeting underscored the critical importance of protecting, conserving, developing managing and sustainably using the natural and cultural heritage of Pacific Islands for nation building and for the benefit of future generations.

Conservation of natural resources has a development context that recognizes respects and supports sustainable development aspirations of Pacific SIDS members. For enhanced accountability, transparency and good governance in extractive industries such as mining, petroleum, LNG and forestry exploitation and development, Pacific SIDS were urged to sign, adopt and implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which some regional members are already Parties to.

The Meeting encouraged SIDS to undertake strategic environment assessment and cost-benefit analysis of international and regional environment frameworks such as RAMSAR and recommit to the Pacific Water Partnership on Sustainable Water Management, to support sustainable development. Such efforts are to be further supported by improved and integrated holistic domestic policy development, planning, legislation, education, publicity and advocacy that are inclusive of all stakeholders.

The critical importance of a Green-Growth strategy was advocated by the Meeting as a key tool for and component of sustainable development, including through Public-Private Partnership.

United Nations Institutional Support to SIDS

The Meeting agreed that increased and more focussed efforts are urgently required to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS and called for the development of targeted support measures from the international community, so that SIDS can be a showcase for sustainable development.

The meeting agreed on the urgent need to review the mandates and operational functioning of UN agencies providing support to SIDS, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) SIDS Unit, the Office for the High Representative of Least Developed, Landlocked

Developing and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), and the Inter- Agency Consultative Group on SIDS. It is necessary to identify the level of financial resources and institutional capacity needed for the agencies to enhance delivery of projects on the ground and enhance effectiveness; and view and revise the mandates at Apia in 2014 to ensure clear delineation of the roles, accountability, current realities and the ability of the agencies to address new and emerging issues.

The Meeting called for the development and implementation of a formal accountability mechanism for delivering UN and non-UN support to SIDS that includes specific and measurable commitments by the international community to provide assistance to SIDS, focuses on the unique and particular vulnerabilities of and national priorities SIDS. This should include a systemic process for monitoring and evaluating implementation.

National Priorities and Plans

The Meeting noted that national priorities and plans of PSIDS are developed through inclusive processes that utilize national approaches and that PSIDS are working towards national plans that cover all aspects of the three pillars of sustainable development.

The Meeting also noted with concern that there was a “disconnect” between the BPoA/MSI and national priorities and plans for a variety of reasons that include the following:

- i. The BPoA/MSI, in an effort to reflect the SIDS special case, neglected the need for national approaches that can be leveraged to achieve national outcomes.
- ii. The BPoA/MSI focused on the priority thematic areas, as opposed to the enabling environment, actions and the need for transformational change.
- iii. There are a multitude of international processes, each with different reporting requirements that cover certain aspects of sustainable development. The BPoA/MSI focused on the economic and environment pillars, while the MDGs focused on social development. The post-2015 agenda provides an opportunity to streamline the international processes to address these concerns in an integrated manner.
- iv. There has been a lack of ownership in international processes. This is partially due to the lack of capacity and resources for fully participating in international processes. It is important that the region strengthens its national and regional processes to provide effective the linkages to the international processes including the High Level Political Forum for sustainable development.

The Meeting underlined the importance of the BPoA/MSI review process to address all aspects of sustainable development in the BPoA, MSI and MDGs in an integrated manner. It called for the United Nations to strengthen its mandate in supporting SIDS in their sustainable development efforts, including by promoting the effective linkages of international sustainable development agenda to the national development priorities including through regional mechanisms.

The Meeting expressed concern at the lack of international focus and political will on SIDS priority issues. It therefore urged for national level implementation of BPoA and MSI in an effective manner and through country development strategies.

In this context, the Meeting underlined the need for effective and durable partnership between development partners and SIDS in the formulation and implementation of national policies to achieve the BPoA, MSI, MDGs and other internationally agreed commitments in an integrated manner.

The Meeting also called for the United Nations system and other development partners to support SIDS institutional capacity building.

Inclusive and sustainable economic management

The Meeting recognised the need for a transformational change toward better economic management using green growth pathways. Green growth is a tool already utilized to support sustainable development in some countries in the Pacific.

There is a need to move from political commitment to tangible results in the implementation of green growth policies. Success will be built on awareness raising and consultation.

The Meeting recognised that a shift in economic management depends on placing adequate value on natural capital and ecosystem services. For example, fiscal incentives can be used to promote sustainable consumption and production. Capitalising on the contribution of the ‘blue’ economy offers great opportunity for sustainable development in Pacific SIDS.

The Meeting emphasised the need for macro-economic policies which support the promotion of decent work and poverty reduction. Recognising that the broad objective of macroeconomic policy is to contribute to economic and social wellbeing in an equitable and sustainable manner, policy makers need to pursue macro-economic policies that are inclusive and pro-poor. Such policies need to address labour demand and supply, as well as the quantity and quality of employment.

A conducive and coherent policy framework for better economic management should be developed with the active engagement of the private sector and communities to help define expected outcomes.

Means of implementation and partnerships

There are many cases of successful partnerships premised on mutual respect and including ownership, accountability and transparency.

The Meeting recognized South-South and triangular cooperation provide additional opportunities for strengthening capacity, sharing knowledge and promoting inclusive development. The Pacific countries have demonstrated as a good practice the peer review process which could be adopted by all countries, regional organizations and development partners. South-South and triangular cooperation is not a substitute for, but a complement to North-South cooperation. The Pacific needs to find the appropriate balance in the use of different modalities for building capacities, for example by shifting away from workshops to strengthening institutional capacity for service delivery.

There is a need for long-term in-country engagement by development partners backed by real resources that leave behind resilient institutions that are nationally owned and run.

The Meeting called on development partners to provide budgetary support and increase transparency in aid spending. TA and simplified process to access development finance is required. The Meeting called for a clear articulation of the means of implementation through periodic, measurable targets and indicators. This would ensure that partners focus their efforts where most needed, as well as being held accountable for the delivery of their commitments.

The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation is a framework to monitor the effectiveness of development cooperation including through improved coordination and creation of strategic partnerships. Aid delivery must be premised on national priorities and must be delivered using country systems and tailored to national capacities. .

The regional and international organizations, including the Council of the Regional Organisations and the Pacific and the UN system, have contributed to sustainable development and will continue to be called upon to provide support where and as needed.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in the context of the priority goals and strategies outlined in the preceding sections of the outcomes document.

Climate change

The Meeting reaffirmed the urgent imperative to establish in Warsaw at COP19 of the UNFCCC an international mechanism to address loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change.

The Meeting called for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to include climate change as a cross-cutting issue.

The Meeting reiterated the call for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint a Special Representative on Climate and Security, with adequate resources, to report to relevant UN organs on threats to international peace and security resulting from current and projected adverse impacts of climate change and upon request assist vulnerable countries to assess and address their own security challenges resulting from climate change. The Special Representative will provide recommendations to ensure the survival and security of all peoples and the Sovereign rights of all Nations affected by climate change security threats.

The Meeting considered the need for rapid action using a phased approach under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to eliminate the acute threat to the climate posed by HFCs and agreed that the Montreal Protocol be utilized to undertake the gradual phase down of production and consumption of HFCs called for in the Rio + 20 outcome document, The Future We Want.

The Meeting called for additional adaptation financing and capacity to support SIDS specific challenges in the short, medium and long term. It further called for readily accessible, predictable and sustainable financing arrangements and modalities for SIDS that can be drawn down at a rate commensurate with their absorptive capacities and needs. In addition, country systems to disburse resources wherever possible and increased funding for mitigation activities which have co-benefits for development are also needed.

Health, especially NCDs

NCDs are a primary concern for all countries. Hence, it is important that NCDs amongst other health issues is included in the post-2015 development agenda to be addressed at the local level and regional level including through such initiatives as the Healthy Islands Programme of the Pacific.

The Meeting recommended that target setting and monitoring of health is instituted at national, regional and international levels;

Improving the health sector depends on building institutions and sustainable health programs. This includes in rural areas and programs that reach all members of society; outreach and research programs related to mental and physical health, particularly for youth and people with disabilities.

Strengthening coordination of existing and/or new health and development work in the Pacific will ensure the best use of available funds and expertise with the support of development partners.

The Meeting called for the implementation of evidence-based initiatives to reduce the common modifiable NCD risk factors across the life-course and address the social determinants of health, including leveraging the power of local government and civil society;

There is a need to address the lack of access to affordable, safe and quality medicine including diagnostic services.

Social Development

The linkages between the priority initiatives under the BPoA and MSI and social issues should be expanded upon, for example the gender dimension of climate change as well as the impacts on youth, people in rural areas, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.

The Meeting noted that people of the Pacific, as custodians of natural resources, have asserted the need for culture to be recognized as a guide to the region's sustainable development.

The Meeting agreed that social development should be anchored in an inclusive human rights based approach.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be mainstreamed through the three pillars of sustainable development.

Efforts must be strengthened to ensure that all young women and men have access to quality education and decent employment.

Governance

Peace and security, and stability, are prerequisites for and the foundation of all development. The building and strengthening of national institutions including leadership and political will for integrated and partnership development is critical to achieving sustainable development.

There are currently many international processes underway, each addressing different aspects of sustainable development with separate reporting requirements. National development priorities/strategies/plans should be linked but not subordinate to the global development agenda, and it is necessary to integrate and merge these parallel processes. The post-2015 development agenda should streamline these processes into a cohesive framework.

The Meeting called for domestic mutual accountability and risk sharing to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources.

A data revolution is required to increase access and capacity to compile current and accurate data for measuring and monitoring inclusive and sustainable development. Regarding development cooperation, all countries should be encouraged to be part of the Global monitoring process for the Busan Global Partnership for effective Development Cooperation.

Infrastructure

Accessing international financial assistance for infrastructure development should move beyond conventional economic considerations and partnership to include equitable social and environmental circumstances.

Sustainable Energy

The Meeting called on development partners, both government and private sector, to work together for the full implementation of national energy roadmaps and priorities in the Pacific region.

The Meeting called for the concrete implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and for IRENA to live up to its commitment to the Pacific region. It recognizes the SIDS initiated SIDS DOCK programme, the Tonga Energy Roadmap and the recent Pacific Energy Summit, and called for SIDS DOCK to mobilize additional financial resources to the Pacific SIDS. The Meeting was also encouraged by the willingness of Pacific SIDS to explore such innovative technology as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.

There is a need to develop domestic energy resources, wherever economically and sustainably feasible.

Political will is needed to create and implement national energy policy and to create an enabling financial environment to support sustainable development.

Oceans

The Meeting endorsed the need for targeted high seas closures to enable sustainable fisheries. It also asserted the need to recommit to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment, at all levels, and to establish a global network of ecologically representative area based management measures.

It was agreed that SIDS in the Pacific region that have not done so should deposit the baseline coordinates of their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with the United Nations Division of Oceans and the Law of the Sea to prevent loss of territory from climate change.

The Meeting noted the lack of a legal regime on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and recommended the development of an international instrument under UNCLOS with a decision to be taken before the 69th UNGA.

The Meeting endorsed on-going efforts to establish a global network to monitor ocean acidification, particularly in vulnerable ecosystems, such as coral reefs, and areas of high variability, such as coastal regions, and provide relevant measures to allow SIDS scientists to be integrated into international research teams.

The Meeting committed to increasing the area of protected critical ecosystems sensitive to ocean acidification and ensure adequate and sustainable support for the management of such areas.

An SDG on Oceans is critical and necessary to the post 2015 development agenda. The meeting strongly supports the efforts of the PSIDS troika of Nauru, Palau and Papua New Guinea in the Open Working Group on SDGs to ensure the inclusion of goals on healthy, productive and resilient Oceans and sustainable energy.

Sustainable Resource Management and Protection

The Meeting recommended that disaster risk reduction is mainstreamed into national planning and budgetary processes.

The Meeting recognized that sustainable resources management in the context of land, water and food security, agriculture, and biodiversity are critically important considerations that deserve to be supported as they encompass the political, social economic and environment dimensions of the post-2015 development agenda.

The need for land for agriculture, food and water security and economic and social development must be balanced with the need for ecosystem conservation and biodiversity preservation.

Strategies and Means of Implementation

The Meeting recommends that strategies (i.e., Governance, UN/international support and processes; National priorities and plans; inclusive and sustainable economic management) and the Means of Implementation outlined in this document be reflected in the outcome of the Samoa Conference and the post-2015 development agenda.

Appreciation

The participants expressed deep and heartfelt appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Fiji for hosting and chairing the meeting and for the gracious hospitality extended. The facilitation of the meeting and the preparatory process by UNDESA, UNESCAP, UNDP, along with additional support provided by the UN system and regional organizations, was also noted with appreciation.