

Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management

2 September, 10:00 – 13:00

- Climate change and natural disasters are two of the most difficult challenges facing SIDS. However, they can also prove an opportunity for SIDS. The experiences of SIDS can serve as models and examples for other countries to learn from. SIDS need to adopt measures such as strong coordination between donors, cohesive policies, clear identification of priorities. SIDS must integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction into development policy in order to ensure integrated and coordinated actions, minimize duplication and reduce potential conflicts in policy development and make best use of available resources.

- This conference has demonstrated that newly-established partnerships need to implement robust and rapid measures to enhance resilience and build capacity of SIDS to combat climate change for the benefit of their people. New partnerships need to reach cruising speed fast, as climate change and disasters are more than ever an immediate and pressing concern.

- Transition towards sustainable economic growth and a low carbon society is essential for enhancing resilience, and ensuring adequate financial resources for economic and social development. Innovative clean technologies are indispensable as is extensive capacity-building in SIDS to increase their ability to adapt to climate change and manage disaster risk.

- In order to ensure successful implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures to combat climate change and development of effective disaster risk reduction strategies, it is essential to include in partnerships various stakeholders including governments, private sector, civil society, and local communities. All these stakeholders need to feel ownership of the partnerships and their management. SIDS have realized, through their implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action for disaster risk reduction, that there is very little practical difference between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, in particular, at the community level.

- The session recognized numerous partnerships including the following covering: weather monitoring and evacuation drills; flood hazard maps for SIDS; the global climate change alliance

plus; a Pacific renewable energy partnership; a scalable renewable energy and water project in Canary Islands that shares technology with Cape Verde and other SIDS; promoting investment in fisheries and tourism; integrating food energy security into development plan; and investments for building resilience through the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Plus.