



**Opening Statement by
H.E. MINISTER FERRATE
CHAIR OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 10 May 2010

Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be among you today, and to open the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Day during the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. This year, SIDS Day will serve a dual purpose, offering an integrated review of the thematic cluster of the 18th session of the Commission also acting as the preparatory committee for the high level five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy (MSI+5) for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), which will be held during the 65th session of the General Assembly, on 24 and 25 September 2010.

It should be recognized that SIDS have assumed their commitments under the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation with seriousness and a sense of ownership, and that even under difficult conditions and despite recent global crises, have made considerable efforts to implement them. The high level five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action will offer the international community with an opportunity to collectively consider what else can be done to fill important gaps in implementation and to effectively help SIDS meet continuous and new sustainable

development challenges based on a better understanding of their special economic and ecological vulnerabilities of the SIDS in changing global setting.

Climate change is increasing the vulnerabilities of SIDS and will magnify the risks. There is an ethical responsibility to provide financial support for adaptation and mitigation needs.

There has been a thorough five-year review and high-level preparatory processes at national, regional and inter-regional levels in the last many months leading up to the global review process that we are launching today. The SIDS-led process of informal consultations is underway to ensure that the five year review process will add value and achieve concrete outcomes to help advance further implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

The Commission on Sustainable Development has long recognized the special circumstances of the SIDS in promoting sustainable development, and has thus instituted a devoted SIDS Day in its programme of work for the last several years. In accordance with such an established tradition, we will have later this afternoon, a round table discussion on CSD-18 themes from SIDS perspectives. A special focus will be given there on ways and means of overcoming key implementation challenges faced by SIDS in relation to the themes.

As said his Excellency the Honourable C. Peter David, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Grenada last Saturday “the future successful implementation of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation requires renewed commitments and effective partnerships at all levels. Coordination of activities, including donor initiatives, is essential. New and additional resources are critical to making the difference”.

I look forward to a fruitful and constructive discussion.

Thank you.