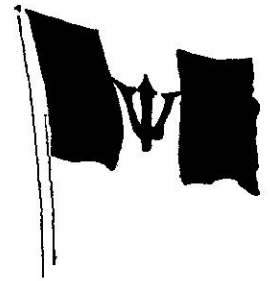




*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

**MR. MOHAMMED DEGIA
SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE
BARBADOS**

AT THE

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

ON

25 FEBRUARY 2014

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

please check against delivery

Co-chair,

As this is my first time taking the floor, let me take the opportunity to congratulate you along with the other newly elected Bureau. You have the full support of the Government of Barbados as you guide us in this process.

Barbados aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representatives of Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China, Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Co-Chair,

The process we began yesterday- the global preparatory process for the Third International Meeting on SIDS- is a very important one in which Barbados intends to actively participate.

The Government of Barbados fully endorses the Outcome Document of the SIDS Inter-regional Meeting held in Barbados last August, which is being used as the Zero Draft for our deliberations during this meeting and in the coming months. The people and Government of Barbados wish to place on record their deep appreciation to all of those persons and institutions, particularly from the UN System that contributed to making the Inter-regional meeting a success.

Co-Chair,

Turning our attention to the Third International meeting on SIDS and the global preparatory process, it is important that we reflect on UN Resolution A/Res/65/2 and Resolution 67/207.

One of the key outcomes of this process from a Barbados perspective is the establishment of the requisite institutional mechanism across the three SIDS regions to facilitate inter- and intra-SIDS collaboration.

This in our view, Co-Chairs, Ladies and Gentlemen, is a *sine qua non* if we are not to repeat the same mistakes made over the past 20 years with respect to the implementation of the BPOA and its complement, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA. This is an issue which the Prime Minister of Barbados underscored in his statement to the SIDS Inter-regional Meeting. This sentiment was again echoed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Barbados at the official launch of the International Year of SIDS.

Related to this, is the need to streamline and bolster UN System Support to SIDS as called for in UN resolution A/Res/65/2. In that context, several proposals have been considered and have been articulated in the Outcome Document of the SIDS Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting. In addition, the Government of Barbados supports the inclusion, in the Final Outcome of the Third

International Meeting on SIDS, of a number of key thematic areas and enabling mechanisms.

These include, inter alia,

- The issues of climate change, disaster risk reduction, health including non-communicable diseases, management of chemicals and waste, biodiversity food security, and sustainable energy;
- The promotion and strengthening of formal and non-formal education;
- The establishment of a SIDS specific support platform within the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production with emphasis on small and medium enterprises, sustainable tourism, sustainable lifestyles and education for sustainable development;
- A coordinated and coherent UN system-wide capacity initiative for SIDS through UN Country Teams in collaboration with regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations;
- Early integration and support for scientific and academic institutions in SIDS within the Climate Technology Centre and Network established under the UNFCCC;

- Establishment of a SIDS Sustainable Development Statistics and Information Programme with emphasis on upgrading national statistical systems and mainstreaming sustainable development data collection and analysis;
- Support to SIDS that are considering or have already begun to adopt elements of a national green economy model.

Co-Chair

We also wish to reiterate the importance of a SIDS agenda that places great emphasis on enabling inclusive social development programming with respect to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, natural and cultural heritage development and protection, youth entrepreneurship and the strengthening of social services and social protection systems.

Likewise, on the economic front, the Government of Barbados also considers the issues of debt sustainability, access to grant and concessional financing for small, indebted middle-income SIDS, participation in the international financial system, and participation in the international trade regime as well as trade related assistance are vital to the sustainable development of SIDS.

Co-Chair

Finally, on the strategic issues of oceans and seas, small-scale fisheries are of particular importance to Barbados and many other SIDS and as such deserve special attention. They support many livelihoods, both at sea and ashore, that are critical to food security. This is especially so in rural coastal areas and remote islands with few alternative sources of protein.

Traditionally, the value of small-scale fisheries has been under recognised because much of their output is used locally and may not be reflected in national accounting. This value is becoming increasingly recognized, as evidenced by FAO, World Bank and World Fish Centre's recent focus on small-scale fisheries.

We therefore call for an increased focus on small-scale fisheries by the FAO and by regional fisheries bodies. This should include improved mechanisms for assessment and management, better facilities for fish and fish workers, attention to fisheries rights and stewardship, strengthening local fisher-folk organisations and initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fisheries.

Co-Chair, these are but some of the issues that should be reflected in the final outcome document of Third International Meeting.

In closing, the Government of Barbados wishes to reiterate the importance of the Third International Meeting on SIDS agreeing to put in place an institutional mechanism in the three SIDS regions with the specific aim of facilitating inter-and intra- regional cooperation and collaboration between SIDS. This would provide the basis for the implementation of many of the specific initiatives, such as the SIDS-Technical Assistance Programme (TAP), which has been called for 20 years ago in the BPOA, though not been implemented, but particularly relevant today. At the appropriate time during the global preparatory process we will further expand on these issues.

I thank you.