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**SPECIAL BODY ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:
MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY FOR THE
FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION
FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES**

(Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda)

PORT VILA OUTCOME STATEMENT

SUMMARY

In response to General Assembly resolutions 62/191 and 63/213, ESCAP organized the Pacific High-level Dialogue on the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, which was hosted by the Government of Vanuatu in Port Vila on 8 and 9 February 2010. The high-level meeting was attended by senior officials from the 12 small island developing States in the Pacific subregion, including at the presidential, prime-ministerial and ministerial levels.

The High-level Dialogue reviewed the progress made by Pacific small island developing States in implementing the Mauritius Strategy and expressed concern about the restraining impact of the global economic crisis on such States. It recommended a number of remedial strategies that small island developing States could adopt in addressing the impact of the global economic crisis. The meeting noted that, while there had been some success in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, none of the Pacific small island developing States was on track to meet all of the Goals by 2015. The meeting agreed that there was no room for complacency and that concerted efforts needed to be made to improve performance.

The Dialogue was followed by the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis, which adopted the Vanuatu Outcome Statement (see E/ESCAP/66/INF/7).

The Special Body may wish to review the main outcomes of the High-level Dialogue and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission for endorsement as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the global review of the Mauritius Strategy.

Introduction

1. The Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States¹ was adopted in 2005 as the global strategy for addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. In 2009, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 62/191, to review the progress made in implementing the Mauritius Strategy at its sixty-fifth session, to be held in September 2010. In its resolution 63/213, the General Assembly further stressed that the review of the Mauritius Strategy should provide the international community with an opportunity to (a) conduct an assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and (b) agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

2. In pursuance of the above-mentioned resolutions, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assisted the Pacific small island developing States in preparing their national assessment reports and drafted a Pacific regional report. Furthermore, ESCAP, with financial assistance from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the collaboration of members of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP), organized the Pacific High-level Dialogue on the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (the meeting) in Port Vila on 8 and 9 February 2010, hosted by the Government of Vanuatu. The meeting provided Pacific small island developing States with the opportunity to exchange views on national progress towards implementing the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and give feedback on the content of the draft report.

3. The meeting was attended by ministers of finance/national planning and senior officials from the Pacific small island developing States and representatives of international and regional organizations. The Prime Minister of Vanuatu and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP opened the meeting and the President of Kiribati provided closing remarks. The meeting was divided into sessions, during which ESCAP presented a section of the draft report as the basis for discussion. Ministers provided formal responses on the content, and the floor was then opened to other participants for comments and views. Sessions were moderated by the chief executive officers and senior officials of regional organizations.

I. CONSTRAINTS, PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PACIFIC

4. Participants discussed the challenges faced by Pacific small island developing States, such as isolation, their small area and population sizes, lack of resources, the high frequency of natural disasters and vulnerability to rising sea levels. Those challenges have been compounded by the recent fuel, food and financial crises, the effects of which are being transmitted to the Pacific through various channels. This has emphasized the vulnerabilities of Pacific small island developing States, with the ultimate impact being lower economic growth, a worsening economic outlook, falling Government revenues and increasing poverty.

¹ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

5. Participants concluded that the vulnerabilities of the Pacific small island developing States continued to exist, while their ability to cope with them had decreased. The area where international and regional cooperation has become most urgent is climate change. The adverse impact of climate change threatens to offset development gains for a number of small island developing States and, in several cases, their actual physical existence and survival. Small island developing States are on the frontline of climate change and many have diverted scarce resources meant for socio-economic development to adaptation and mitigation programmes.

6. Despite the challenges, much had been done in the Pacific to make progress towards implementing the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. The draft report identified more than 30 regional initiatives implemented over the past five years and noted successes in conservation (i.e., the Micronesia Challenge), energy (e.g., the bulk purchasing of fuel, production of renewable energy and setting of national targets to reduce reliance on fossil fuels), subregional shipping, aviation reforms and tourism. The opening up of labour markets in neighbouring areas, including on foreign ships, was also noted as a positive development, as were the achievements of some countries in maintaining political and macroeconomic stability.

7. Participants also noted some progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, although none of the Pacific small island developing States was on track to meet all of the Goals by 2015. Some countries were able to maintain positive economic growth during the global economic crisis, even if it was lower than in previous years or in comparison with Asia and other regions.

8. Discussions highlighted that the Pacific Ocean, although often seen as an isolating factor and a barrier to development, is an “ocean of opportunity” that must be managed for the benefit the Pacific islands and the world. Pacific ecosystems are highly diverse and have sustained the lives of Pacific communities since first settlement. They comprise the most extensive coral reefs in the world, unique landforms, globally important fisheries, significant land and seabed mineral resources and high numbers of endemic species. The Pacific is host to the only large-scale tuna stocks remaining in the world. The region may also contain resources of potential use to humankind that have yet to be discovered. To safeguard Pacific communities and maintain the health of their ecosystems in perpetuity, the meeting noted that a precautionary or “low-regrets” approach must be applied to the development process, as outlined in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.² Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems will be integral to achieving development goals.

II. ADDRESSING THE VULNERABILITIES OF PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: IMPLEMENTATION

9. In their discussions, the ministers and officials highlighted a number of critical vulnerabilities in the Pacific, including in the areas set out below:

(a) *Climate change* remains the greatest challenge, as current and predicted impacts serve to undermine progress towards development and, for some of the Pacific small island developing States, threaten their very existence. Recognizing

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ remains the mechanism for negotiating action on this issue, the meeting noted the need for:

- (i) Urgently reaching agreement on and implementation of meaningful and legally binding commitments following the less-than-desirable outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen;⁴
- (ii) Supporting the provisions in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Declaration on Climate Change 2009,⁵ including immediate adoption of a package of mitigation activities up to and beyond 2012;⁶
- (iii) Providing small island developing States with new, additional, predictable, transparent and adequate sources of grant-based financing to fully meet the adaptation needs of these particularly vulnerable countries, and ensure for small island developing States that access is timely, direct, prioritized and simplified;
- (iv) Developing adaptation funding modalities, including cost-effective solutions to protect the natural environment, designed specifically for Pacific small island developing States;

(b) *Energy.* Fossil fuel dependency has a crippling effect on national budgets and revenues and impacts on key productive sectors in the region, such as fisheries, agriculture and tourism. Support is needed from the international community for:

- (i) Immediate diversification in energy options, with a focus on renewable energy;
- (ii) A move to appropriate technology in key productive sectors;
- (iii) Coordinated support from donors with respect to appropriate technology transfer;

³ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁴ See FCCC/CP/2009/11/Add.1.

⁵ A/C.2/64/11, annex.

⁶ This provides for: (a) long-term stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at well below 350ppm CO₂-equivalent levels; (b) global average surface temperature increases to be limited to well below 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels; (c) global greenhouse gas emissions to peak by 2015 and decline thereafter; (d) reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions by more than 85 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050 (e); annex I parties to the UNFCCC to reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions by more than 45 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and more than 95 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, given their historical responsibility; and (f) a significant deviation from business as usual by developing countries through measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.

(c) *Natural and environmental disasters.* The “knock out” effect of natural disasters on economies and the limited ability to recover has been experienced by a number of Pacific small island developing States over the last five years. Support from the international community is needed for:

- (i) The establishment of vastly improved early warning systems at the regional and national levels;
- (ii) Improved affordable insurance mechanisms;
- (iii) Improved post-disaster support with financing and reconstruction;

(d) *Development assistance.* Pacific small island developing States remain subject to fragmented, unpredictable and difficult-to-access development assistance. It is critical that Pacific small island developing States, donor partners and regional and international organizations work together to enable:

- (i) Better coordination and harmonization of resources from donors;
- (ii) Improved coordination among regional and international organizations for effective delivery of services and support;
- (iii) Pooling of resources where appropriate;
- (iv) Improved capacity of Pacific small island developing States to access and effectively utilize resources;
- (v) Longer-term commitment of official development assistance (ODA) channelled through direct budgetary support, particularly at the national level;

(e) *National plans and budgets.* Despite efforts towards the development of effective national sustainable development strategies, significant challenges remain in linking them to adequate budgets for effective implementation. This matter requires support from all stakeholders to:

- (i) Improve processes related to national sustainable development strategies and link this to improved national fiscal management systems;
- (ii) Mainstream green growth approaches into national plans, policies and budgets;
- (iii) Channel ODA towards national frameworks and areas with a predictable, long-term focus;
- (iv) Increase the allocation of domestic resources for environmental protection and adaptation activities and build capacity in sustainable financing by incorporating national sustainable finance plans in, for example, national sustainable development strategies;

(f) *Infrastructure, transport and information and communications technology.* The isolation of Pacific small island developing States remains a major impediment to the growth of Pacific economies. The latest world economic report noted that Pacific small island developing States are twice as isolated as their Caribbean counterparts. Thus, there is a clear need to improve maritime and aviation infrastructure as well as transport facilities in the region. Furthermore, information and communications technology (ICT) provides a key to unlocking development potential and reducing distance to markets, education, health care et cetera. Support is required from the international community to assist Pacific small island developing States in their efforts to:

- (i) Improve connectivity within and between countries of the Pacific and the rest of the world. This will involve a combination of appropriate cables, satellite technology and national ICT infrastructure;
- (ii) Develop shipping and aviation infrastructure and facilities that meet international standards and ensure the capacity to maintain this;
- (iii) Improve subregional transportation options in both the aviation and maritime sectors;

(g) *Least developed country graduation.* The least developed countries criteria do not place adequate emphasis on the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and their effects on development. Support is needed from the international community to:

- (i) Create more accurate measures of vulnerability;
- (ii) Include an environmental vulnerability indicator in the graduation criteria;

(h) *Fisheries.* While significant efforts have been made to increase the revenue from fishing resources in the region, there remains a need for support by the international community to:

- (i) Improve regional capacity to monitor illegal, underreported and unregulated fishing;
- (ii) Improve and strengthen nationally owned fishing industries.

Cross-cutting issues

10. As identified in the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, a number of cross-cutting issues underpinning any efforts to address the challenges would include:

- (a) Strengthening enabling environments at the national, regional and international levels. This would include partnerships to support national planning and green growth;
- (b) Simplifying access to substantially increased resources;
- (c) Transferring skills in science, development and technology, including through South-South cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region;

- (d) Developing capacity;
- (e) Improving trade, finance development and debt financing through regional cooperation in the Pacific and with Asia.

1. National, regional and international enabling environment

(a) National enabling environment

11. The development and strengthening of national sustainable development strategies and the like remain critical for integrating decision-making systems and processes that foster sustainable development. The main features of effective national sustainable development strategies were acknowledged as including:

- A visible long-term national strategic vision linked to medium-term goals/targets and short-term actions
- Improved links with national budget and fiscal management systems
- Visible and functional coordination both within and across sectors (i.e., horizontally and vertically)
- Visible and functional national and regional policies for science and technology, the protection of natural resources to support sustainable development and the building of resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Streamlined, efficient and effective integration of the Millennium Development Goals and related regional and global commitments
- Genuine partnerships operating between government, development partners, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the community at large
- Recognition of tradition and culture as an asset
- Measurable targets and indicators, where possible

12. Linking national priorities with predictable resources remains a challenge for Governments and donors at the national level. Pacific leaders have committed to improving the impact of development assistance and resource use at the national level by seeking better planning, budgeting and donor coordination through the Cairns Compact.⁷ There is also a need to ensure that national planning systems adhere to the key principles of sustainable development, namely, (a) integration of economic, social and environmental priorities; (b) wide participation of stakeholders in the development process; (c) country ownership and commitment; (d) comprehensive and coordinated policy processes; and (e) targeted resourcing and monitoring.

13. The Pacific small island developing States reaffirmed the special role played by women, youth and people with disabilities in sustainable development. It is important to ensure, through targeted interventions, resources and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, that decision-making processes for sustainable development work towards gender equality and are inclusive of disadvantaged groups. There is a real need to build on Pacific traditions and to strengthen the use of culture and history

⁷ Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific, adopted at the fortieth Pacific Islands Forum, held in Cairns, Australia, on 5 and 6 August 2009, available at www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2009/final-communique-of-40th-pacific-islands-forum-cairns.html.

in the development of strategic planning processes for sustainable development. For a region with diverse and rich cultures, the challenge is to demonstrate to policymakers in Governments, regional institutions, donor agencies and partners that culture is an asset and an integral part of development.

14. Directing aid to those most in need is an important responsibility of Governments, given that the vast majority of assistance flows through them. For instance, Samoa is providing free education to primary school children as a response to the economic crises, with funding support from Australia and New Zealand.

15. Formal social protection that cushions the effects of crises on the poor is limited in the Pacific, with such measures covering less than 20 per cent of the population. Thus, there is a need to consider social protection measures in government planning and budgets, along with efforts to strengthen traditional safety nets and social capital.

16. The meeting recognized the urgent need to implement key regional decisions of the Pacific Islands Forum at the national level, namely, to: (a) safeguard macroeconomic stability; (b) strengthen budgetary management, protecting core services and assisting the vulnerable; (c) improve competitiveness and broad-based growth and resilience; and (d) strengthen development coordination and effectiveness. However, it was also agreed that such reforms would need to be implemented in the context of inclusive and sustainable development in order to minimize the negative impact on the poor and the marginalized while ensuring the sustainability of growth.

17. It was agreed that implementing green growth strategies at the national level would not only attract both donors and private sector investors, but also ensure sustainable growth. These strategies would include investing in sustainable infrastructure, shifting to renewable energy and investing in efficient technologies to reduce energy costs. Green taxes and budget reforms could promote demand for eco-efficient products and services. Implementing such reforms would not only promote the creation of green jobs, but also help address the root causes of food, fuel and water insecurities as well as climate change.

(b) Regional enabling environment

18. Regional architecture in the Pacific has evolved as a direct result of capacity constraints in Pacific small island developing States. The need to build economies of scale and work collectively to address common priorities and challenges has resulted in the establishment of 11 regional intergovernmental organizations under CROP, all with significant work programmes supporting the development of Pacific small island developing States in various sectors.

19. The Pacific Plan is now in place, providing an overarching framework for achieving the Pacific Leaders' Vision of a region of "peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity".⁸ The Cairns Compact was adopted in 2009 to strengthen development outcomes in the region through closer donor coordination and improved national planning and policy environment. Regional partnerships are being developed and implemented in specific areas, such as energy, water, agriculture, ICT, transport and human resource development, and in policy and planning, including in support of

⁸ Available at www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/about-us/the-pacific-plan.

national sustainable development. These initiatives have been well documented, including in the draft Pacific regional report.

20. The meeting agreed that the Pacific Plan had improved collaboration among regional intergovernmental organizations. However, challenges remain and further efforts are needed, not only by subregional organizations, but also by United Nations regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and other regional stakeholders. The challenge at the regional level is to realize the full potential of development assistance through enhanced regional cooperation and integration and international cooperation. At the same time, the meeting highlighted the importance of the contribution of subregional activities, such as the Micronesia Challenge, in conserving and preserving the environment and the culture of the people.

21. The meeting also called for improved quality of data in order to establish a basis for clear performance indicators for sustainable development progress in the region. The international and regional organizations were called upon to support the efforts of the Pacific in the area of data collection and management.

22. The meeting agreed to promote regional and international partnerships that support the region's responses to the global economic crises and climate change and noted that some of these would be discussed at Forum meetings and at the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis, to be convened from 10 to 12 February 2010.

23. Links between the Pacific and Asia should be strengthened through ESCAP membership in those areas that are identified here as priorities for the Pacific.

(c) International enabling environment

24. Significant improvements are needed at the international level in order to overcome budgetary limitations in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action⁹ and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. Tailored forms of assistance are needed for small island developing States in accordance with their special case and limited capacity. Unfortunately, multilateral funding mechanisms have been slow to develop special windows of access for small island developing States. The meeting considered this to be a central impediment to the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

25. Improved coordination and partnerships between international and regional organizations are also needed to avoid duplication and disjointed approaches to assisting small island developing States.

2. Access to and the provision of financial resources

26. The meeting noted with appreciation the long-standing acknowledgement by the international community of the special case of small island developing States and the need to make better use of opportunities offered through financing, trade and technology transfer, including through South-South cooperation. It was agreed that ODA played an important role in helping Pacific small island developing States to

⁹ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

recover from the current crises and to make progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. As such, ODA needs to be more predictable and better aligned with national priorities and the Millennium Development Goals. It was further noted that funding modalities need to accommodate the special constraints of small island developing States and simplify their access and disbursement procedures.

27. The Monterrey Consensus¹⁰ promise of providing financing for development remains largely unfulfilled. Financial resource flows to the Pacific were relatively high on a per capita basis; however, this is due in part to the high overhead costs in a region populated by small and widely dispersed islands. Financial resource flows to the Pacific are insufficient compared with the levels of their vulnerabilities and needs.¹¹

28. There is a need to explore new sources of development assistance. At its London Summit in 2009, the Group of 20 endorsed a six-point plan and made significant financial pledges that target low-income countries. Furthermore, the Copenhagen Accord included a pledge of \$30 billion for addressing the impacts of climate change. The meeting therefore added its voice to those of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries,¹² which have called on the international community to ensure that these pledges for addressing the effects of economic crisis and climate change were additional to and above what had already been committed to under the Monterrey Consensus.

29. The meeting participants also agreed there is a need to ensure that these new funds are quickly and fairly disbursed to countries with the greatest needs; that the voices of the small island developing States are represented in the governance arrangements; that the capacity of Pacific small island developing States is enhanced to utilize the additional resources; and that the focus on small island developing States at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen is enhanced as negotiations continue. At the regional level, there is a need to explore the facilitation of access to financial resources in Asian countries and financial institutions.

30. The meeting agreed that these outcomes should inform preparations for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the Millennium Development Goals, the General Assembly high-level meeting on biodiversity conservation and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Further recognizing that the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation +5 review will be taking place during the International Year of Biodiversity, the meeting noted the importance of biodiversity conservation as a cornerstone for further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.

¹⁰ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹¹ When expressed as a per capita ratio, aid to the Pacific small island developing States appears comparatively high. However, per capita measurement is misleading for a region with a small, widely dispersed population, high overheads, thin routes and small economies.

¹² High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, held in Dhaka from 18 to 20 January 2010.

3. Trade and finance

31. Trade plays a significant role in the development of Pacific small island developing States. Unfortunately, the Pacific small island developing States have remained among the most marginalized in international trade, and the full use of benefits offered by the Doha Development Agenda has not been possible owing to limited supply capabilities and poor infrastructure, as well as the restrictive rules contained in existing trade arrangements. There is a need to ensure that much of the funding allocated to aid for trade can be accessed by Pacific small island developing States. While the amount of aid received is high and much appreciated, the meeting noted that the trade deficits of Pacific small island developing States vis-à-vis some of the major partners were just as high, if not higher. The benefits of foreign investment are also weak in the Pacific and lack sustainability.

4. Science and development and transfer of technology

32. In addition to ongoing efforts in the region to improve science and technology transfer, the meeting agreed to further explore the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation with Asia on appropriate and affordable technologies and connectivity to facilitate the implementation of the priorities identified in this document. In line with this, the meeting called for the immediate revival and strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet) to facilitate the transfer of information and knowledge between the Pacific small island developing States and the rest of the world.

33. The meeting further emphasized the need for specialized vocational training and education to create knowledge and skills in environmentally sound technologies, to create opportunities for technology transfer and to support local ingenuity.

5. Capacity development

34. Capacity is a cross-cutting issue and continues to be a major challenge in the region, including in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. Capacity constraints impact the ability of some Pacific small island developing States to successfully access multilateral funding and to implement projects on the ground. Hence, human-resource development through capacity-building and capacity supplementation is an area that could facilitate the further implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and other development priorities in the Pacific.

35. The meeting underlined the need for specific and targeted capacity-development activities for decision-makers and policymakers to understand existing donor programmes and to be able to access available funding to support practical field projects as per national development programmes. The meeting also agreed that it is necessary to continue the development of technical and vocational training for countries that are keen to access the New Zealand and Australian labour markets.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

36. The timely production and ongoing use of statistics is crucial in ensuring effective responses to the Pacific's vulnerabilities. The draft report makes reference to the importance of databases and other methods of data dissemination for sharing information and knowledge. While the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is seen as the main regional agency for statistics, ESCAP and other international agencies

also provide technical assistance for the building of statistical capacity by providing a forum for the development of statistical methods and standards.

7. Role of the United Nations in the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action

37. The meeting recognized the important role played by the United Nations in facilitating the participation of Pacific small island developing States in global reviews and dialogue and requested that links be strengthened for this purpose between the Pacific, Asia and the international community. The need for the United Nations system to function as a cohesive platform to advocate for the needs of vulnerable members of the global community is greater now than ever before. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes need to converge at the intergovernmental level and be a vehicle to advocate, identify and attract resources to help implement the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation goals and objectives. United Nations intergovernmental processes could be better utilized by agencies and funds for this purpose. The meeting expressed concern that the United Nations was not reporting to members on what they were doing to implement the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and other internationally agreed goals.

8. Role of regional institutions of small island developing States in monitoring and implementation

38. Pacific island leaders agreed at their 2007 Forum to the following amendment to the Pacific Plan in the international context of the Plan:

The Pacific Plan reflects the region's priorities which are in line with and support the implementation of international frameworks such as the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. As such, the Pacific Plan provides a solid platform for regional cooperation guiding collective positions through the Commission on Sustainable Development and other international forums that advocate the "special case" of small island developing States. The collective position of Pacific Islands Forum members in the international arena is a significant tool in garnering support for Pacific island countries individually and as a group and is recognized and valued by other United Nations members.¹³

39. The Secretary-General, in his report to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session, held in 2007, recognized that the reporting on the progress of the Pacific Plan sufficed as the region's report on progressing the objectives of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in the Pacific. This harmonized approach to reporting reduces the burden on Pacific small island developing States and the region as a whole. To further improve this reporting, significant work is needed to develop appropriate indicators and gather data for their effective measurement.

9. Pacific small island developing States submission

40. The meeting endorsed the draft Port Vila Outcome Statement as the summary statement of the views and positions of the Pacific small island developing States on

¹³ Communiqué of the thirty-eighth Pacific Islands Forum, Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 16 and 17 October 2007, annex A (see A/63/78-S/2008/194).

the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation +5 review. The meeting also agreed to update the draft regional report and to include it as an attachment to the Port Vila Outcome Statement. Those two documents comprise the submission from the Pacific region to the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation +5 high-level review meeting, to be convened in New York in September 2010. The documents will be submitted through ESCAP to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, to be convened in conjunction with the sixty-sixth session of the Commission in the Republic of Korea in May 2010. They will also be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development, meeting in New York in May 2010, for consideration at Small Island Developing States Day, the preparatory committee meeting before the high-level review. The meeting also requested the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and the host Government to submit the outcomes of the Pacific High-level Dialogue to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting.

41. The meeting agreed that the Chairman should play an important role in transmitting and presenting these outcomes to global and regional forums, including the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis.¹⁴ To assist the Chairman in his task, the meeting asked the key partners of the meeting, ESCAP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CROP agencies, to work with the officials to develop and implement an action plan for moving things forward through Pacific regional partnerships, including the Pacific Plan, the Cairns Compact and those being developed in support of the national sustainable development strategy process and green growth strategies.

42. It was also noted that the national assessment reports were being finalized and submitted as further inputs to the review. In this regard, it is important to note that regional reporting does not preclude Pacific small island developing States from submitting national reports if they so desire.

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¹⁴ The Conference endorsed the draft of the Port Vila Outcome Statement, and the Conference outcome document (the Vanuatu Outcome Statement) is to be regarded as part of the Pacific submission on the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation +5 review.