



Commission on Sustainable Development
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**Five Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy
for the further implementation of
the Barbados Programme of Action**

GRENADA OUTCOME STATEMENT

Caribbean Regional Review Meeting

**18 March 2010
St George's, Grenada**

Background Paper
CSD18/2010/BP8

Introduction

1. The Caribbean MSI+5 regional review meeting was convened in St George's Grenada on 16 and 18 March 2010 hosted by the Government of Grenada. It was jointly organized by ECLAC and DESA as part of the regional preparatory process for the high-level review to be undertaken by the United Nations General Assembly (GA) at its sixty-fifth session in September 2010. According to GA

5. Compounding these challenges, are the global food and energy crises, the negative impacts of climate change and the uneven and uncertain pace of our full insertion into global trade and development processes and persistent structural vulnerabilities.
6. The Caribbean region remains concerned about the inability to arrive at a far-reaching consensus agreement in the Copenhagen meeting of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC in December 2009. The region supports a process of negotiation within the context of the two-track approach of the UNFCCC to obtain a favorable outcome for SIDS at COP 16 in Mexico in December 2010, with legally binding commitments for developed countries.

Progress achieved

7. Significant progress has been made in strengthening the regional enabling institutional framework over the past five years, including the establishment of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), as the world's first pooled risk insurance system; the formal establishment of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) for the Mauritius Strategy and the completion in December 2009 of the Treaty for Economic Union of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The expansion of the scope of work of the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is a step towards building resilience, response and emergency management capabilities for our countries. In the area of energy, the region has successfully developed a draft regional energy policy and many countries have formulated national energy policies.
8. Many existing national planning frameworks and the emerging institutions and policies, have taken into account key principles of sustainable development as set out in the MSI, despite the fact that the majority of countries in the region do not explicitly have national sustainable development strategies. The importance of stakeholder participation has been recognized in the design and implementation of sustainable development programmes.
9. Achievements have also been made in establishing protected areas including marine, coastal protected areas, which assume added importance in view of the celebrating of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

18. The vulnerability of the economic performance of the Caribbean and the increasing intensity of natural disasters pose significant threats. The current measures of vulnerability are inadequate and therefore do not represent the special circumstances of the Caribbean SIDS. In this regard, it would be expedient to develop specific indicators that would reflect the social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities of SIDS.

Recent trends and emerging issues

19. The issue of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns is of particular importance to the region. Given their small markets, SIDS could potentially have comparative advantage if proper national or regional frameworks for SCP are put in place to ensure cleaner production and resource efficiency. As the 10 year framework for SCP is to be launched in 2012, the region needs to advance its efforts for sustainable waste management, pollution control, life cycle analysis and consumer education.
20. Vulnerability, weak resilience, extreme events, natural, disasters, and also the search for better opportunities can lead to increasing pre

enhancement and sustained investment. This requires the formulation of the appropriate policies so as attract the necessary scale of investment.

25. **Greening of the economies** is considered a priority for Caribbean SIDS. It is therefore necessary to expand the current initiatives in transforming existing economies into more environmentally-friendly ones by for example, building capacity for trade and export in environmental goods and services, especially through providing incentives for small and medium enterprises; promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, building capacity in valuation and costing of ecosystem resources and ecosystem services.
26. In enhancing capacities for **natural disaster management**, the region needs to strengthen the early warning systems. Concomitant with this would be the expansion of a risk management framework that would be complemented by insurance and re-insurance schemes. The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility serves as a model in this regard but its scope of coverage for disasters needs to be urgently reviewed.
27. **Functional cooperation and partnerships** at regional and international levels remain key to advance MSI implementation. The promotion of greater regional cooperation in research and development for SIDS-appropriate applications for improved knowledge management through mechanisms such as SIDSNET and the University Consortium for Small Island Stat

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