

Linkages with the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation

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Overview

- Basis for the Barbados Program and the Mauritius Strategy
- What does the Mauritius Strategy contain?
- Cross-cutting issues to the FCCC process
- how can the UNFCCC process better reflect SIDS concerns and special needs?

The basis

- Recognition that climate change has the potential to delay or prevent the achievement of sustainable development objectives in SIDS
- SIDS face special challenges due to numerous physical and geographic factors
- Barbados Program established that SIDS are responsible for their sustainable development but in cooperation with international community

Contents of BPOA

- Covered most aspects of sustainable development issues as viewed by UN in 1994
- On climate change recommended increased observation of sea-level rise, integrated coastal zone management, assess socio-economic implications, improve public and political awareness, develop adequate adaptation, energy efficiency
- Regional actions to increase cooperation and exchange of experiences among SIDS, providing technical assistance for supporting national efforts in developing adaptation strategies

Review of Barbados Program

- In 2004 a review of progress of implementation of the BPOA, concluding that progress had been “mixed”. A high level United Nations meeting was convened in Mauritius in 2005
- Mauritius Meeting decided not only to review the implementation of the BPOA but to refine its priorities and incorporate areas that had emerged as important for sustainable development
- As a result BPOA 15 chapters expanded to 20

MSI and climate change

- International level actions in the Mauritius Strategy on climate change reinforce those contained in the BPoA. Actions include the development, transfer and dissemination to SIDS of appropriate technologies and practices to address climate change; building and enhancing scientific and technological capabilities and enhancing the implementation of national, regional and international observing systems.
- But stress on “SIDS believe”, not international

Cross cutting issues in MSI to FCCC

- Chapter 20, on implementation, is cross-cutting, indicative of synergies
- Fully implement UNFCCC
- Take steps to address climate change, through adaptation and mitigation
- Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy

MSI (continued)

- Implement the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation
- Transfer of appropriate technologies and practices to address climate change
- Enhance scientific and technological capabilities
- Enhance the implementation of strategies for integrated observations

Synergies with UNFCCC

- Clearly a number of linkages and synergies between MSI and UNFCCC
- Important to raise SIDS special situation under agenda items of UNFCCC
- Adaptation, technology transfer, capacity building, research and observation, and overall ambitiousness of future GHG reductions – most obvious synergies

How can UNFCCC process better reflect SIDS concerns?

- First, SIDS must be proactive, but must have adequate representation
- Thus SIDS need support for participation and for negotiations training
- National focal points and climate change teams need to be strengthened for enhancing national dialogue on priorities for UNFCCC meetings
- Relevant agenda items can then be addressed by SIDS in a more integrated manner, so that linkages to sustainable development and MSI are explored where appropriate

Tasks for the UNFCCC Secretariat?

- Be inventive in how information for agenda items and reports is gathered
- Promote outreach to SIDS to enhance information on climate-related activities exchange
- Assist AOSIS in re-building its internal consultative mechanisms – e.g. through the IACG for the MSI

Conclusion

- SIDS are responsible for their own sustainable development with the assistance of the international community
- Capacity constraints must be acknowledged and acted upon to ensure that SIDS are adequately represented, and that they are prepared for the negotiations
- MSI provides a lot of important information that should be incorporated in relevant discussions