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Agenda item 8 (a), (b) and (c)

Exchange of views on UNFCCC activities relevant to other intergovernmental meetings

International conference for the 10-year review of implementation of the

Barbados Programme of Action

World Conference on Disaster Reduction

Process for providing input to the fourteenth session of the

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 14)

Exchange of views on UNFCCC activities relevant to other intergovernmental meetings

Submissions from Parties

The secretariat has received two submissions under this agenda item. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

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PAPER NO. 1: TUVALU ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

Submission by Tuvalu on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States on COP Agenda Item 8 (a), (b) and (c): “Exchange of views on UNFCCC activities relevant to other intergovernmental meetings:
(a) International Meeting for the 10 year review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action
(b) World Conference on Disaster Reduction
(c) Process for providing input to the fourteenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development

15 December, 2004

Tuvalu, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, has pleasure in presenting the following perspectives on COP Agenda Item 8: Inputs from the Conference of Parties to other Intergovernmental Meetings:

- (a) International Meeting for the 10 year review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action
- (b) World Conference on Disaster Reduction
- (c) Process for providing input to the fourteenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development

(a) International Meeting for the 10 year review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action

AOSIS recalls that the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session requested all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations to participate actively in the 10-year review of the progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States.

AOSIS also notes that Article 4 paragraph 8 subparagraph (a) makes specific reference to small island countries and acknowledges that the UNFCCC has held a workshop on insurance and the impacts of climate change.

We note with alarm the devastating effect that hurricanes in the Caribbean and cyclones in the Pacific wreaked on the economies of many small island states this year and emphasizing the vulnerability of small island developing states to the impacts of climate change-related severe weather events, sea level rise other climate change related effects such as water shortages and coral bleaching.

Small island developing states have difficulty in accessing insurance to protect against the damage created by climate change-related severe weather events, sea level rise and other climate change related effects such as water shortages and coral bleaching.

Furthermore small island developing states are facing with an additional burden of high energy costs due to the cost of importing fuel onto islands and their small economies of scale in purchasing fuel and hence wish to note the importance of taking urgent action by all Parties to reduce the contribution of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

We expect that countries attending the International Meeting on the Review of the Barbados Programme of Small Island Developing States will give due consideration to the vulnerabilities of small island

developing states with respect to climate change-related severe weather events, sea level rise and other climate change related effects such as water shortages and coral bleaching and to support new initiatives to help small island developing states overcome these difficulties.

We believe that a workshop, subject to the availability of funds, should be held prior to the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties on developing a special international insurance facility for small island developing states to meet the reparation costs of climate change-related severe weather events, sea level rise and other climate change related effects such as water shortages and coral bleaching.

We believe that the agenda of the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties should include an item on a review of the outcomes of the International Meeting on the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States in the context of:

(a) their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change; and
(b) their special needs with respect to developing renewable energy and energy efficient systems; and that a special programme for SIDS should be developed within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

(b) World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005

AOSIS notes that the United Nations General Assembly, at its fifty-eight session, decided to convene the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005; and that the General Assembly invited Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations to participate actively in the conference.

AOSIS also notes Article 2, Article 3, paragraph 3 and Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph (g) of the Convention.

We recall the severe cyclones and hurricanes in the Caribbean, the United States and the Pacific created severe damage and loss of lives and note the indisputably close link between natural disasters and the effects of climate change and sea level rise and the devastating impacts that these climate related effects are having.

We appreciate the generous pledge made by the Government of Japan to cover costs of the World Conference, and welcome the voluntary contributions already made to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in that event, and invites those States who have not yet done so to make such voluntary contributions.

AOSIS encourages all Parties to the UNFCCC to attend the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and to find effective linkages between the work of the UNFCCC COP and ongoing efforts in disaster reduction;

We recognize the importance of linking disaster risk management with adaptation strategies, particularly for Least Developed Countries and small island developing states and further recognize the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction, and encourages Parties and regional organisations to establish early warning systems.

AOSIS calls on the international community to provide the necessary financial resources scientific, technical, human and other resources to help countries protect themselves against climate change related disasters.

We urge the international community to develop a comprehensive insurance facility to assist Least Developed Countries and small island developing states to meet the costs of restoring damages to property and human life resulting from climate related disasters.

We also encourage the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC to attend the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and to provide an insight into the close connection between climate change and climate related disasters.

(c) Input into the Fourteenth Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development

AOSIS recalls that the eleventh session of the Commission for Sustainable Development adopted a multi-year programme of work in which the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change will be considered in the 2006-2007 cycle, including a review session in the first year of the cycle and a policy session in the second year.

We note that the Commission has invited relevant United Nations agencies, within their mandates, to inform it of their activities designed to further the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

AOSIS recalls Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in this respect believes that we should include in the agenda of the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties an item on “climate change and energy for sustainable development” with a view to forwarding conclusions to this discussion to the fourteenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development.

We would also like to encourage Parties, non government organisations and the business community to contribute to a trade fair at the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties on the theme of energy for sustainable development

Further we would also like the secretariat to hold a workshop, subject to available funding, on the theme of “climate change and facilitating energy for sustainable development” prior to the 2006 meeting of the Commission of Sustainable Development, with a view to forwarding the outcomes of the workshop to the CSD at its fourteenth session.

PAPER NO. 2: THE NETHERLANDS ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**Exchange of views on UNFCCC activities relevant to
other intergovernmental meetings**

The European Community and its Member States has prepared well for this agenda item and is taking it very seriously, as it allows us to not only talk about ensuring policy coherence, but to also achieve it. We hope that the COP will send strong signals to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Mauritius, and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, and will devise a process to stay engaged in the work of CSD 14/15. The COP is the intergovernmental body, which leads the debate on climate change, and is best placed to highlight the interconnectedness of climate change issues within the broader sustainable development agenda. In addition, it is important to mainstream climate change concerns within the preparation for these meetings also at the national level.

The European Community and its Member States would like to draw the attention of Parties to another upcoming meeting, the Major Event to be held in September 2005 to review implementation of the Millennium Declaration and to monitor the Millennium Development Goals. The UN-Secretary General has instituted a high level panel on threats, challenges and opportunities to draw up a report on the most pressing global security threats, among them environmental degradation. Recommendation 11 of the panel's report, which has been issued last week, "urges all states to reflect the gap between the promise of the Kyoto Protocol and its performance, re-engage on the problem of global warming and begin new negotiations to produce a new long-term strategy for reducing global warming beyond the period covered by the Protocol." The only possible time for the UNFCCC COP to give input to the major event is COP 10. The European Community and its Member States believes that climate change and its interlinkages to poverty, vulnerability and development should feature in the outcome document of the Major Event.

This issue is closely related to the SBSTA item 9 on cooperation with other international conventions, which largely focuses on synergies among Rio Conventions.

Climate change is a threat to humanity, and tackling climate change requires concerted global efforts in the context of sustainable development. Climate change, at the same time, is a complex issue, we still need to raise awareness for the climate problematique and build alliances with all processes concerned with sustainable development. The COP should choose to be the motor in the process of widening understanding for climate issues and alert the world to the possible impacts of and response to climate change. The European Community and its Member States is also working to mainstream climate change risk within development assistance and development plans.

Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the SIDS

The UN Secretary-General has underlined in his report to the Conference that climate change and sea-level rise pose a major threat to small island developing states. Global warming and climate change have brought and will increasingly bring extreme weather events, coral bleaching, costal erosion, the disruption of agricultural activity and vector-borne diseases and reduced resilience of land and marine ecosystems.

Integrated planning and decision-making on coastal zone management, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, energy, health and water resource management can effectively address these climate-related concerns.

World Conference on Disaster Reduction

Regionally, there is a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and some regions are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes.

Extreme weather events are currently a major source of climate related disaster impacts. Efforts to reduce disaster risk and improve disaster management are recognised as important elements of future climate change plans; disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change is a vital issue within the framework of sustainable development; disaster risk reduction and mitigation and adaptation to climate change is to be considered integral to sustainable development strategies and therefore essential for the achievement of MDGs.

The UN General Assembly has highlighted the role of disaster reduction as an essential policy tool to support adaptation to climate change. Risk assessment and monitoring of emerging and slow-onset risks such as climate change is of growing importance. We need to promote the establishment of risk-monitoring capabilities and early warning systems as integrated processes, and give particular attention to hazards with global implications, such as climate change. A lot of good work is already ongoing in identifying interlinkages between disaster reduction and climate change. It is important that the ISDR process, the work of the IPCC, as well as the development and humanitarian community stay engaged in these co-operations.

The European Community and its Member States hope that the COP will stay apprised of the outcomes of these conferences, in particular to their agreements relevant to this Convention.

The UN **Commission on Sustainable Development** will dedicate its 14th and 15th session to the thematic clusters of Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air Pollution/Atmosphere, and Climate Change. This will be the first opportunity to discuss in-depth the cross-cutting links between sustainable development, energy and climate change at the UN-level. The UNFCCC COP will benefit greatly from close cooperation with this process.

Energy for sustainable development, among others, includes taking action to provide access to energy for the poor, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, reducing harmful air pollutants, driving economic growth and enhancing energy security.

Accelerating renewable energies, combined with increased energy efficiency, will be key towards achieving energy for sustainable development and will become the most important and widely available future source of energy and will offer new opportunities for fostering sustainable economic growth including climate protection.

The High Level Panel has pointed out in its Recommendation 10 that incentives should be provided for the further development of renewable energy sources and to begin to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies especially for fossil fuel use and development.

The substantive preparations for CSD 14/15 are only just starting. UN-DESA will issue the guidelines for national reporting on the themes of CSD 14/15 before the end of this year. Climate change experts should be alerted and ready to input into the national reporting to UN-DESA. A lot of work on energy at the moment is ongoing in the follow-up to the International Conference on Renewable Energy, and on the partnership level. The European Community and its Member States are well equipped to provide significant input to the CSD process through several of its partnerships, such as JREC, REEEP,

MEDREP, and the EUEI. The UNFCCC Secretariat should get actively involved in these “Type 2” partnerships in order to strengthen implementation in the energy-climate change related fields.

The COP should stay actively engaged from now on through to the end of the 2nd CSD cycle in order to be able to give input and act as a resource body for the CSD debate. It is hoped that COP 10 would choose to find consensus in informal consultations on how to best achieve this goal.
