

SPECIAL DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the III Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on January 28th and 29th, 2015;

Recognising the particular vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean, which constrain their efforts towards sustainable development, taking into account the significant impact of natural events and the negative effects of climate change, in particular the increase of sea level, as grave threats to their survival;

Recognising the significance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, which among other things, declared 2014 as the International Year of SIDS and created the platform for having the priorities of SIDS become an integral part of the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognising the importance of other relevant United Nations Conferences and Summits on sustainable development, particularly the sustainable development of SIDS; and in this regard take special note emphasizing the importance of the Caribbean Sea Initiative in the United Nations.

Reaffirming the validity of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as a specific fundamental framework for their sustainable development;

Recalling the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa, on 1st - 4th September 2014, which focused the world's attention on a group of countries that are a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities;

Recognizing the importance of the Outcome Document of the Conference, the SAMOA (SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action) Pathway, as a blueprint for achieving sustainable development of SIDS, and reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the sustainable development of SIDS through partnerships;

Recognizing ECLAC's efforts to promote knowledge and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Caribbean SIDS, in the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);

Recognising the need for attention to be given to the means of implementation of the development agenda of SIDS, in order to include partnerships, capacity building, disaster risk reduction and resilience building and appropriate technology transfer;

Recognising the importance of coherence among the relevant global developmental processes with the SAMOA Pathway to ensure continued focus on a group of countries that remains a special case for sustainable development;

1. We call for an increase in all forms of partnerships with and for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to reach their sustainable development priorities and needs.
2. We also call for enhanced international cooperation recognising the different contributions that can provide North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and especially cooperation directed to Small Island Developing States.
3. We urge all countries to fulfil their commitments to Small Island Developing States, to through the provision of predictable and reliable financial resources, according to their capacities, to support the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway. In this regard, we urge the fulfilment of all Official Development Assistance commitments to developing countries, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance to least developed countries.
4. We call for coherence among the global development agendas and processes to ensure that the priorities of SIDS are taken into account in their elaboration. These processes include the Post-2015 Development Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals, the Climate Change Conferences, the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2015:
5. We decided that the Latin American and Caribbean continue to support the Agenda for Sustainable Development, specially taking into account the specific vulnerabilities of the SIDS, through regional cooperation, follow up to the agreements adopted at different International Conferences, and the permanent attention to climate change related problems and actions to mitigate the effects of disasters, as well as, support, in the international level, the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

Belén, Costa Rica, January 29th, 2015