



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

United Nations Member States

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Presentation
on behalf of Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and Timor-Leste
by
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for the Oceans and Seas SDG Side Event
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- In the lead up to Rio+20, we spoke of the need for a paradigm shift and the need of the transformation in the way we think and in the way we address sustainable development.
- The SDG, which are to serve as a driver for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system, will be a major test of whether the international community can indeed deliver on that.
- In the post 2015 agenda it is key to ensure that the smallest and poorest are not left behind again and thus rectify the omission of oceans from the MDGs. Sustainable development of many – including SIDS and coastal states -- are linked to the health, resilience and productivity of oceans as is the path to alleviating extreme poverty.
- But oceans and seas are not an area of interest solely to those who live closest to it. Marine resources and ecosystems provide valuable services in critical areas such as food security and poverty eradication not only to islands and coastal states but to all.
- Over 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods.
 - Around 97% of the world's fishers live in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, where fish are the single most traded food product, valued at \$25 billion a year;

- Fishing provides employment, can help alleviate poverty and boosts nutritional security for millions of vulnerable people;
 - Women represent the majority in secondary activities related to marine fisheries and marine aquaculture, such as fish processing and marketing.
 - In many places, employment opportunities have enabled young people to stay in their communities and have strengthened the economic viability of isolated areas, often enhancing the status of women in developing countries.
- The market value of marine and coastal is estimated at \$3 trillion per year, or about 5% of global GDP and an estimated 350 million jobs are directly linked to the ocean worldwide.
 - This includes industries such as tourism and recreation which contribute to economic growth in both developing and developed countries by creating job opportunities and providing an important source of income and foreign exchange earnings
- Of even clearer universal importance though is the fundamental role healthy oceans and seas play in the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- Oceans and seas provide us the oxygen we breathe – whether you are an island state, a coastal state, a land-locked state, or other.
- They provide us with water for drinking, hygiene and sanitation, agriculture and industrial development.

- They are the primary regulator of the global climate and an important sink for greenhouse gases. They capture and store about 30% of carbon dioxide produced by humans. Whilst we note some UN members concerns about climate change discussions in the SDG process sustainable development without accounting for climate change would be irresponsible. This is because international action to address climate change remains grossly inadequate, and emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally at a distressing rate. Related impacts including extreme events and slow onset events such as climate variability, temperature rise, sea level rise and ocean acidification – as well as security related issues threaten the survival and viability of SIDS and pose a significant challenge to our sustainable development efforts.

- The time has come for us to move past discussion of whether oceans and seas should be a part of the SDG and post 2015 discussion. It is time now to focus on the how. How will we write the goals, targets and indicators? What is the best way to ensure and measure the health of the ocean? How will we ensure that oceans and seas remain a viable long term resource for ourselves and for future generations.

- For the Pacific, we believe that an Oceans and Seas SDG should have three main targets, with each target linked to international action to be taken:
 - (i) Achieving a healthy marine environment
 - actionable measures include – establishing marine protected areas (Aichi target of 10% of coastal and marine areas); enhancing technical and scientific collaboration; effective implementation of conventions; addressing pollution from sea and land-based sources; and action on ocean acidification

- (ii) Achieving healthy fish stocks
 - actionable measures include: environmental impact assessments (EIAs), including of cumulative impacts; implementation of measures on illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, deterring the use of destructive fishing measures, prohibition of subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing; and strong international cooperation and technical support for implementation, particularly for SIDS;
 - (iii) Realizing the economic benefits of sustainable development of marine resources
 - action includes: improved access to fisheries and markets for subsistence, small scale and artisanal fisheries, women fish workers and indigenous people, particularly in SIDS, and support for sustainable tourism activities.
- We also urge that in shaping any SDG including on Oceans and Seas, equity and genuine partnership should remain a cornerstone for resource owners to derive their fair and just share of the use of their natural resources.
 - The implementation of an SDG on Oceans and Seas would provide a new impetus for the integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, overcoming deficits of sector-specific goals or approaches, which has been the main approach to managing the ocean so far.
 - We need to remove the silo approach to achieve an 'integrated, interdisciplinary, intersectoral' approach to ocean management.

Thank you.