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The Commitment



United Nations

UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES



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on the Frontline of
Climate Change**



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The World's Most Vulnerable Countries Must Be Priority in Paris

by UN-OHRLLS
High Representative
Gyan Chandra Acharya

2015 has been a remarkable year, but the United Nations UNFCCC COP21 meeting in Paris is not the end of the road, it is instead the beginning of a longer journey. The global community's ambitious actions and commitments to improve the lives of every person on the planet may well be written into the history books already, however one final push is required to firmly embed this past year in the world's collective memory as a time when a real and meaningful commitment are taken on all aspects of humanity and the planet together.

The Sustainable Development Goals are going to be an important legacy of the United Nations, showcasing an integrated approach, universality and inclusivity on climate change. The climate change conference in Paris must deliver a long-term and

comprehensive agreement that caps global warming to less than 1.5 degrees and strengthens resilience to climate-related impacts. A fully inclusive plan is needed, one that draws in the voices of all. It is imperative that we see substantial resources and knowledge invested in a low carbon economy. Doing so will send a signal that we intend to turn our global vision into reality.

For the most vulnerable countries in the world COP21 represents an opportunity lifeline. Although these countries have contributed the least to climate change, they are most at risk to its negative effects and the least equipped to withstand and adapt to it. Small island developing states (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), in particular, face tremendous challenges. For them the effects of climate change are disproportionately high but also current, real and measurable.



Seed distribution in Burkina Faso.

Oxfam



Under-Secretary-General Gyan Chandra Acharya

UN Photo

One of the greatest threats to small island developing states is sea-level rise and submergence of territories. For example climate experts predict an increase in sea level by two meters by the end of the century, this would flood the islands of Kiribati, which stand only a few feet above sea level and are already experiencing severe challenges with rising waters.

To mitigate and adapt, SIDS must first survive. Coupled with the impacts of the occurrence and severity of storms, ocean acidification and the pollution of oceans, the very oceans that have sustained island communities for millennia, are now threatening their survival. Slow onset of climate change impacts may appear less dramatic, however the gradual introduction of adverse climate impacts may well render some SIDS uninhabitable before they are inundated with the rising sea. In the face of overwhelming scientific evidence, we should not be in a situation where future generations of islanders will look back and ask why we did not tackle climate change in time with a greater sense of urgency and ambition. Especially at a time when the cost of action is far less than the cost of inaction.

For the least development countries and landlocked developing countries, climate change comes with depletion of aquifers, changing rain patterns, desertification, land degradation melting of glaciers and many other disasters, all of which

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harm economic activities and livelihoods, destroying infrastructure and ultimately jeopardising the prospects of realising the global ambitions of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. In the fragile Sahel region continued food security challenges and hunger are due in part to drought, late rains and poor distribution of rainfall. Farmers and pastoralists have seen reduced grain and cereal production, contributing to millions suffering from critical food insecurity. Landlocked countries such as Nepal also suffer the effects of climate change where rising temperatures cause glaciers are melting, ice destabilising in these regions can lead to floods, mudslides and avalanches.

Because of what is at stake, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, from the grassroots level to their political and civic leaders, have lent support and their moral voice to a robust, ambitious and meaningful climate change agreement that is not only cognisant of the challenges they are facing, but effective and includes mitigation and adaptation measures. The translation of this in Paris this December, should be nothing less than an ambitious outcome that safeguards the future of vulnerable



Bhutan.

 Asian Development Bank

countries and the world at large. Nothing will happen without the means of implementation. Finance technology and capacity building have to be an integral part of the solution and they have to be as ambitious as our collective expectation and the scale of impacts. The Green Climate Fund must be financed as expected and delivered expeditiously and equally.

The global community must also take this opportunity in Paris to express its solidarity with countries in special situations. We need to forge a clear road towards capacity building and infrastructure development which will assist vulnerable countries with adaptation and mitigation of climate change related impacts.

Paris is vital but it does not stand alone. Many of the new Sustainable Development Goals cannot be

fulfilled if we cannot reduce global warming and climate change impacts. The synergy is clear. There is only one 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris, Addis-Ababa and Sendai all contribute to this. We cannot deliver on one agreement without delivering on the others. This is a holistic process which requires action and implementation from all, on all, if we are to realise our collective ambition.

The climate conference in Paris will provide a critical opportunity to galvanize the support of financial institutions, development partners and bilateral and multilateral partnerships, to enable vulnerable countries to develop resilience to climate change, including through the use of climate finance.

The 2030 Agenda and a new, universal climate agreement in Paris will be important for creating a low-carbon, climate-resilient future that benefits us all. There comes a time, when we have to have a deep reflection on where we stand and what we are doing. We are at folk in the road and it is my hope that the Paris conference contributes to making our world safer and sustainable for all. This final effort paves the way for effective implementation of the commitments we have worked so hard to secure for future generations. 

A revised version of this article first ran in The Guardian on 2 December 2015.

“ Paris is vital but it does not stand alone. Many of the new Sustainable Development Goals cannot be fulfilled if we cannot reduce global warming and climate change impacts. The synergy is clear.”

– Gyan Chandra Acharya
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

INTERVIEW

Small Islands are Blue Guardians of the Future

The Commitment interviews Mr. Ronald Jean Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues of the Republic of Seychelles to the UN.

The Commitment What outcome do you expect from the Climate Summit in Paris this December?

Ambassador Ronald Jean Jumeau Small island developing states (SIDS) or Large Ocean States as we are often now more accurately referred to, have a lot to lose from a weak agreement in Paris. The shadow of Copenhagen continues to weigh heavily as December's climate conference in Paris looms closer. The desire for a strong outcome in Paris is more than just about fairness for us islanders, it's about survival.

While we should indeed focus on the dangers of settling for the 'lowest common denominator' in Paris, as an international community and affected citizens we must look further. Climate change will not stop in Paris; it will continue to be shifted and moved by the actions of us all, and we must be bold and ambitious in pre-empting this far beyond the agreement that we reach.

The issue of Loss and Damage, long pushed by the SIDS, is another prime example. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and other most vulnerable countries continue to call for this issue to be an aspect of the Paris agreement, but it cannot stop there. Even with the most ambitious agreement in December, the effects of loss and damage will continue to have global ripples for the foreseeable future and be a serious impediment to sustainable development and basic human rights.

Take the example of the Pacific SIDS Vanuatu; its remoteness and the region's high risk of disasters exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. This beautiful and culturally rich nation lies at the epicenter of our climate change decisions. The security of our people, the interconnectedness of our nations and the health of our island states are as dependent on the choices of its own people as on the actions made by those across the rest of the world. We all have a choice to contribute or to challenge the foundations that build or disempower fragile environments. COP21 offers a choice to strengthen our resolve and our planet; it is up to us all to choose to make that choice and to make it wisely.

TC What are your specific expectations? Do you foresee a binding agreement?

RJJ The hope is, of course, for an ambitious and binding agreement. For an agreement that prioritizes addressing vulnerability, a thorough consideration of the financial requirements of promises made and both international and national commitments to realizing the agreement. However, it is important to learn the lessons from Copenhagen. What we must focus on is not 'a binding agreement', but the *right* agreement. Agreeing to a text that is exclusive or does not consider the needs of vulnerable groups is unacceptable.

We must realise the power of our voices: we are Small island developing states and Large Ocean States at the same time and our voices must be heard. While not an expectation, my hope is for countries to stand up for the future we all want. We have the facts of what will happen if we don't act, now it's the time for us to decide what part we want to play in our future.

TC How are SIDS positioning themselves on the road to the Paris agreement in concert with the launch



Mr. Ronald Jean Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues of the Republic of Seychelles to the UN.

 Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Seychelles to the UN

of the post-2015 sustainable development process?

RJJ On mitigation, SIDS stand firm on 1.5 degrees. Moving towards Paris, the pressure to adopt 2 degrees in the text heightens; however we know what this means. The .5-degree difference may not sound like much, but it will change the entire face of our planet. As Large Ocean States we know this, because we have already seen the damage that inaction has on our land, on our borders and through the biodiversity in our oceans. Just as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted a standalone goal on the oceans, we hope to see our Blue Economy and Blue values mainstreamed through the logic, rhetoric and action of the outcome text of COP21.

On adaptation, the fundamental importance of technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity building to the pursuit of sustainable development must not be underestimated. SIDS continue to drive forwards the concept of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, respect for the capabilities of others and to push for tangible and achievable nationally driven indicators towards progress. We are all part of a global partnership when it comes to both adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage and unless we work together towards global solutions—we

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Small Islands are Blue Guardians of the Future...

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will inevitably all suffer, with the most vulnerable being hit first.

SIDS are already taking steps towards adaptation and mitigation. Most of us have ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency plans and targets, and have submitted our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

Seychelles is currently finalising a US\$30 million debt-for-adaptation swap with the Paris Club and South Africa to conserve 30 percent of our 1.37-million-square-kilometre exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as marine protected areas and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. The initiative is debt relief, innovative financing for sustainable development, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs (especially SDG 14), strengthening of ocean resilience, conservation and protection of the ocean, and tackling climate change all in one package!

SIDS are least responsible for, but most vulnerable to climate change, yet we lead from the front in taking action to show that all people and states have a part to play in shaping the future we want. However, we must also remember that we will fail in this

if we do not also focus on how the various post-2015 processes can work together beyond Paris. All these processes are connected; there cannot be sustainable development without a drastic reworking of how we tackle climate change. Many disasters, for example, have roots and repercussions affiliated with climate volatility

This is a year of global change, and it is a year we can strive for more. There is more to this year than 'simply' launching the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs and finding a solution to what Stern deems the 'brutal arithmetic' of climate change. As an interconnected world built on the dedication and drive of individuals for a future we can be proud of, it is up to us.

TC Do you feel that instead of relying on fossil fuel imports, renewable technologies will make SIDS more sustainable? And will this factor be highlighted at the Climate Summit?

RJJ Absolutely. In fact, it is an untold story that the SIDS have emerged as world leaders in renewable energy and energy efficiency through their SIDS DOCK (sidsdock.org) initiative. The key to this transition is resilience and innovation. Out of small islands come big ideas, I always say, and it is from this creativity to create sustainable, low-carbon energy and economies that a shift away from fossil fuel imports is already taking place. Indeed, SIDS are often an innovator in this field.

For Seychelles, with 3,000 times as



Seychelles.

David Stanley / Flickr

much sea territory as land area, ocean energy would have been our first and most obvious choice if it was not the least developed source of renewable energy for the time being. Last year we launched our first wind farm, however putting it out at sea would have resulted in us having fewer turbines for the same amount of investment. So we set it up on an uninhabited artificial island that we had reclaimed from the sea for other development purposes as we ran out of flat coastal land to build on. The turbines are around the edges of the island and our next step is to fill the interior with solar PV panels, thus creating one of the first, if not the first, island entirely dedicated to producing energy from renewable sources. How symbolic it will be of the SIDS' accelerating transition to renewable energy and low-carbon economies.

Transitioning to a network of locally run sustainable energy is not only wise for the sake of our planet, but is economically sensible in our current global climate of economic fluctuation. Whether this will be highlighted at the Climate Summit remains to be seen. I am hopeful that renewable energy will be emphasized as the only pathway forwards to a clean future, my concern lies more in what actions we commit to as a global community to get there. How we balance the desire for economic growth with a Blue Economy, how we understand the needs of our neighbours and still stand firm in the needs we have as Island States.

It is about ensuring that we work towards climate justice, about fairness and about considering a future that extends far beyond our own existence. In COP21 and beyond, this must be how we move forwards as blue guardians and advocates of the future we want. **TC**



Children playing on a small boat, Papua New Guinea.

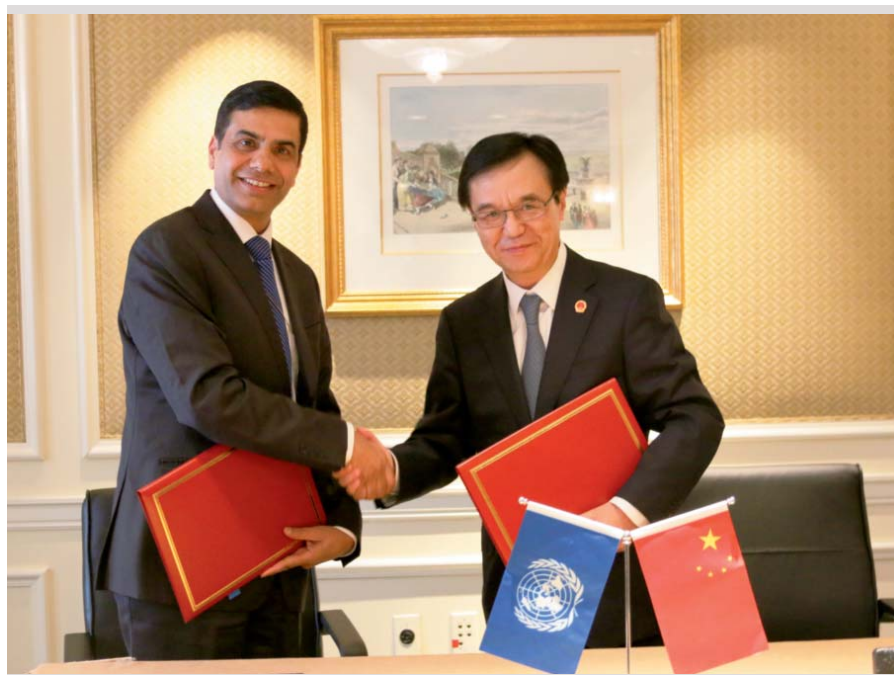
Steven Nowakowski, New Zealand MFAT

Support to Vulnerable Countries Strengthened By New Collaboration between UN-OHRLLS and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will support the world's most vulnerable countries, was signed in September by The United Nations Office for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS) and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM). The MOU, which will see greater cooperation between the two parties, will also assist with the implementation of the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the SAMOA Pathway for the Small Island Developing States.

The signing of the MOU comes a day after OHRLLS organised a High-Level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation co-chaired by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General and H.E Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

Based on OHRLLS' broad mandate and China's economic and technical assistance to vulnerable groups of countries, the two parties agreed in the MOU that under the framework of South-South Cooperation, they will strengthen cooperation with Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in areas of agriculture, health, poverty reduction, trade promotion, and environmental protection. MOFCOM will share China's ideas



Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya and Mr. Gao Hucheng shake hands after signing the MOU.

 Louise Stoddard, UN-OHRLLS

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and experiences of development, so as to help these groups of vulnerable countries to better implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The MOU, was signed in New York by Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya,

Under Secretary-General for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and H.E. Mr. Gao Hucheng, Minister for Commerce of the Peoples Republic of China. 

INTERVIEW

Insurance Assists Governments After Catastrophic Events

The Commitment talks to Mr. Isaac Anthony, CEO of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance (CCRIF).

The Commitment Mr. Anthony, CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) has been categorized as the first multi-country risk pool in the world. Can you explain how it has the potential to assist vulnerable countries?

Isaac Anthony CCRIF provides coverage against tropical cyclones, earthquakes and excess rainfall to member countries in the Caribbean (and now Central America), which are vulnerable to these hazards and the associated problems of flooding and landslides. CCRIF helps to mitigate the short-term cash flow problems small developing economies suffer after major natural disasters.

A critical challenge is often the need for short-term liquidity to maintain essential government services until additional resources become available. CCRIF represents a cost-effective way to pre-finance short-term liquidity to begin recovery efforts for an individual government after a catastrophic event, thereby filling the gap between immediate response aid and long-term redevelopment.

A case in point is the earthquake that occurred in Haiti in 2010. CCRIF made a payout of almost US\$ 8 million (almost 20 times the country's earthquake premium of \$385,500) to the Government of Haiti after the earthquake. It could be said that CCRIF's \$8 million was minimal compared to the damage caused. However, CCRIF's payout—made 14 days after the event—constituted around 50 percent of the total aid the Government received in the first ten weeks in the form of direct liquidity, and the funds were important to



Isaac Anthony.



enable the Government to pay critical salaries in the early days after the earthquake. The importance of the rapidity of the CCRIF payout is clear, particularly given that, according to reports, more than six months after the earthquake, less than 10 percent of the \$5 billion in donor pledges had been received.

Other governments have used CCRIF funds for a number of purposes, including: repairing critical infrastructure, e.g. roads, bridges; making improvements to critical infrastructure e.g. drainage; Instituting mitigation measures e.g. installing meteorological data collection equipment; and providing general budget support. CCRIF funds are used not only to make urgent repairs, but also to increase countries' resilience to natural hazards and climate change, thus mitigating damage from future events.

Since 2007, CCRIF has made 13 payouts totaling approximately US\$38 million to 8 of our 17 member governments.

TC Since CCRIF functions as a non-profit, does it operate as a public-private partnership and how do you provide post-disaster assistance/insurance to least developed countries?

IA CCRIF functions as a not-for-profit organization. CCRIF is operated on behalf of its member states. CCRIF member countries include: one country categorised as an LDC (Haiti), small island developing states, developing coastal states in Central America (Belize and Nicaragua); and



Haitian Village Devastated by Tropical Storm Hanna.



small island nations not considered SIDS (e.g. Cayman Islands, The Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Turks and Caicos Islands). However, the benefits of CCRIF would generally apply to all LDCs.

CCRIF combines the benefits of pooled reserves from participating countries with the financial capacity of the

international financial markets. It retains some of the risk transferred by the participating countries and transfers the remainder of the risk to reinsurance markets.

Each member country pays an annual premium directly related to the amount of risk it transfers to CCRIF.

By pooling the catastrophe risks of its members into a single diversified portfolio, capital needs for paying claims are significantly lowered. This in turn leads to a pricing reduction of about half of what it would cost if countries were to purchase identical coverage individually compared with buying the coverage from CCRIF. **TC**

Technology Bank Feasible and Desirable For World's Poorest Nations



Afghanistan.

 Asian Development Bank

A Technology Bank that supports science, technology and innovation in the world's poorest countries is both 'feasible and desirable' according to the recommendations of a study by a high-level panel of experts, presented to the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon in New York this September.

The study proposes that a Technology Bank for least developed countries be established in the 2015-2016 period and headquartered in Turkey. The study suggests that the Technology Bank be composed of two units, a Science, Technology and Innovation Support Mechanism and an Intellectual Property Bank. Recommendations highlight that the Technology Bank has the potential to strengthen national capabilities, support negotiated agreements and

provide expertise to the world's least developed countries, ensuring that they are no longer left behind in achieving internationally agreed development goals.

"Nothing quite like it has been attempted before" according to the report "but the thinking behind it has been sound and planning to-date suggests that it could be launched on an exceptionally firm foundation". The Technology Bank feasibility study was requested by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who tasked a high-level panel, supported by the UN Office of The High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to make recommendations on the establishment of the bank.

Professor Romain Murenzi, currently Executive Director of the World Academy of Sciences in Trieste, Italy, and formerly Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Rwanda, is chair of the Panel, which also includes Mohamed Hassan (Sudan), Bruce Lehman (United States), Tebello Nyokong (South Africa), Dorte Olesen (Denmark), Posh Raj Pandey (Nepal), Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis (Haiti), Firdausi Qadri (Bangladesh), and Fang Xin (China). Gyan Chandra Acharya, UN Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Hakan Karatas, Director for International Coordination at the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, TÜBİTAK) representing the host country Turkey were appointed ex-officio members.

Modelled on the United Nations University, the report recommends that the Technology Bank should consist of a multi-stakeholder Governing Council with twelve members appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General on a broad geographical basis. The Governing Council will have representation from governments of least developed countries and other Member States of the UN, the global science, technology and innovation community, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and civil society. **TC**

INTERVIEW

Landlocked Countries Advocate For Climate Justice

Ambassador Charles Themban Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN talks to Nosh Nalavala.

Nosh Nalavala Your country is landlocked, with 80 percent covered by the Kalahari Desert. Consequently, less than five per cent of the country is suitable for rain-fed agriculture. Moreover, decreasing availability of fresh water has worsened the situation. How do you plan to improve the situation?

Charles Themban Ntwaagae

Given the semi-arid nature of our climate, water is a scarce resource in many parts of Botswana. It is therefore treated as a very valuable resource in the country. It is true that there has also been a drastic decrease in fresh water lately. Climate Change exacerbates the situation, leading to periodic drought, reduction in the water table, increased pressure on the scarce water resources and reduced


primary land productivity. We have recently witnessed the drying of major dams particularly in the southern part of Botswana that used to supply our population with safe drinking water. In order to ameliorate the situation, we have taken measures to promote improved water management and conservation techniques, including surface run off water and rainwater harvesting, as well as ground water protection.

NN Could you explain how the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) was implemented and the results of this initiative?

CTN Yes, the adoption of the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in 1990 was a landmark development in the management of the environment in Botswana. The strategy was adopted against the backdrop of serious environmental problems that had become evident, key among them was the prevalence of range land degradation, which resulted from overstocking, as well as unsustainable patterns of exploitation of natural resources.



Ambassador Charles Ntwaagae.

 Permanent Mission of Botswana to the UN

The strategy provided impetus for improved management of the environment and for sustainable utilisation of the country's natural resource base. The strategy was effectively and successfully implemented through an NCS Action Plan which was mainstreamed into the sectoral programmes of line Ministries.

NN A recent report indicated that considerable progress has been made in combating desertification in Botswana, but the results of most anti-desertification efforts have not yet achieved the expected results. What results do you expect to achieve?

CTN Of course, in semi-arid climatic conditions such as we have in Botswana, efforts to combat desertification are bound to face challenges and under such circumstances, it naturally takes longer to discern their impact. Having said that, I must hasten to point out that, there has not yet been any organised effort to collect data and realistically assess the impact of the myriad interventions which have been made to date to combat desertification. We expect success by increased percentage of reclaimed productive land, improved land management practices by local communities, and, more importantly, improved food production, leading to the enhancement of the food security situation in the country.

There are also intensified public education efforts in order to raise awareness about the finite nature of land as a natural resource. You may be aware that our neighbour, Namibia, effectively advertises its Namib Desert



South Sudan.

 Albert González Farran - UN Photo / Flickr



Botswana.

 Jwh50 / Flickr

as part of its tourist attractions. We too in Botswana view the Kalahari Desert as a boon, rather than a curse.

NN What are the major issues that LLDCs should bring to the table in Paris?

CTN COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 presents a strategic opportunity for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and developing countries in general to strongly advocate for climate change justice.

Our concern is that developing countries contribute the least to climate change and yet they disproportionately bear the brunt of its impact. This injustice needs to be corrected through effective application of the “polluter pays” principle.

At Paris, LLDCs should collectively underscore the need to reach agreement on a universal, legally binding carbon emissions regime, as well as the urgent need for the world community to address the phenomenon of climate change before it is too late.

Critical for LLDCs would be provision of financial, technical assistance and capacity building, as well as knowledge and technology transfer in order to facilitate effective implementation of mitigation and adaptation programmes, including creation of a dedicated Trust Fund in this regard.

NN How are the LLDCs disproportionately affected by climate change?

CTN As I pointed out, because of their low level of development, developing countries contribute least to climate change but they suffer most from its impact, and this is not fair. Climate change precipitates phenomena such as drought, floods, rise in sea levels etc., which result in loss of human life and destruction of critical infrastructure which is the lifeblood of LLDCs. To this end climate change is by far one of the greatest challenges the LLDCs face in their sustainable development efforts. **TC**

“ Climate Change exacerbates the situation, leading to periodic drought, reduction in the water table, increased pressure on the scarce water resources and reduced primary land productivity.”

– Ambassador Charles Themba Ntwaagae
Permanent Representative of Botswana

High-Level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation



High-Level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation.

 Malwina Buldys, UN-OHRLLS

UN-OHRLLS offered strong substantive and logistics support to a High-Level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation on 26 September 2015, jointly hosted by the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

Following the event a co-chairs' press statement was released. Excerpts are detailed below:

“Over the past decades, developing countries have actively explored development paths suited to respective national realities and made remarkable achievements. The increasingly important role played by developing countries in international affairs, has changed global political and economic paradigms, promoted the transformation of global economic governance and advanced the process of economic globalization.”

“While important progress has been made in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, implementation remains unbalanced, especially among vulnerable country groups. The international community should further intensify development cooperation, pool resources, establish stronger partnerships and create a sound and favorable international environment for sustainable development in developing countries.

The adoption of the historic and transformative 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development by the UN Development Summit, which puts forward ambitious development goals for all countries and provides new opportunities for international development cooperation, was welcomed. Members of the international community were called upon to uphold North-South cooperation as an important channel for international development cooperation, and developed countries were encouraged to honor their ODA commitments especially the allocation of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to Least Developed Countries. Development partners were commended for allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to LDCs.

It is reaffirmed that South-South Cooperation should continue to be guided by the principles, among others, of respect for national sovereignty, equality and mutual trust, win-win cooperation, solidarity and collaboration, helping developing countries to find a development path featuring equity, openness, comprehensiveness and innovation.”

“While recognizing that South-South cooperation has its own complex challenges and is intended to complement—not substitute—North-South cooperation, it nevertheless has the potential to contribute to realizing development aspirations set in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. South-South cooperation could offer the most relevant and replicable solutions to the challenges faced by

other developing countries, in particular the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Stronger ties among countries from the South will also continue to have positive impact on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth in these countries, therefore acting as one of the major vehicles in support of the realization of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.” 

Towards Future Management of Oceans Through Public-Private Partnerships



Unloading of North Pacific ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project cargoes (solar panels) in the outer islands of Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia.

 Pacific Community/SPC

by Roberto Falangola

Healthy oceans and partnerships are vital for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), according to panel members at a high-level meeting in New York this September.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small

Island Developing States (OHRLLS) organized the high-level event on Oceans and implementing the SAMOA Pathway and SDG 14 in SIDS.

Attended by a high-level panel including the King of the Netherlands, The Prime-Minister of Aruba, The Prime-Minister of Samoa, Under-Secretary-General Gyan Chandra Acharya and Sir Richard Branson, the event focused on the importance of healthy Oceans for global food security, livelihoods and economic growth for SIDS. Special attention was paid to the role of public-private

partnerships in spurring sustainable growth and increasing economic benefits within SIDS regions.

“Most SIDS should be regarded as Large Ocean States—relatively small in land mass, but large in terms of their exclusive economic zones... This makes them the custodians of a great part of the world’s oceans,” said King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands.

As a representative of the private sector and the founder of Carbon

continued on page 14

Towards Future Management of Oceans Through Public-Private Partnerships...

continued from page 13


War Rooms, a non-profit organisation which supports entrepreneurs in their efforts to find solutions to climate-change, Sir Richard Branson acknowledged the important role played by SIDS “We need to start protecting ecosystems and habitats to enable marine wild life to rebuild and to thrive; to build resilience to change...It cannot be underestimated, you can be a shining example of what can be done and more importantly what must be done.”

Mr. Gyan Chandra Achaya, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States highlighted the coming launch of **SIDS Global Business Network** in early 2016 which will provide an online platform as an outcome of the 2014 Private Sector Partnerships Forum at the SIDS Conference in Samoa. The Network will support private sector in SIDS and build inter-regional and global business alliances that put SIDS at the forefront “I am certain that public private partnerships on

oceans through the Network will further strengthen and add value to the oceans agenda for SIDS. I encourage all stakeholders, including development partners to support this important initiative to ensure a successful SIDS Global Business Network that contributes concretely to the sustainable development efforts of SIDS,” he said.

Held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly 70th year anniversary and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this event marked a stepping stone towards a future management of Oceans through public-private partnerships as part of SDG14.

SDG14 focuses on the world’s oceans—their temperature, chemistry, currents and life—drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. It emphasizes that our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea.

Throughout history, oceans and seas have been vital conduits for trade and transportation. The goal highlights that careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future. 

INTERVIEW

Landlocked Countries Depend on Success in Paris



Ambassador Sukhee Sukhbold, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN.

 Mark Garten / UN Photo

Contributing Editor Nosh Nalavala interviews Mongolian Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Sukhee Sukhbold.

Nosh Nalavala Do you feel that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the strengthened Global Partnerships will consider the vulnerabilities and special challenges facing Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)?

Ambassador Sukhee Sukhbold

Mongolia, as one of the landlocked countries, strongly believes in global development cooperation and partnership, which will play a significant and unique role to support in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Today, 32 LLDCs face many common challenges, associated with lack of



OCEANS 14 event.

 Malwina Buldys, UN-OHRRLS

direct territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from the world market. Without valuable partnership, individual countries cannot overcome some of the challenges. For example, my country Mongolia achieved steadfast growth of economy in the last 14 years. However, we could not halve the poverty level, but succeeded in reducing poverty by one third to 27.4 percent in 2013 from 36.3 percent in 1995. This experience clearly shows that high economic growth does not necessarily enable everyone to participate in and benefit from economic opportunities and effective social policies. Therefore, it is important recognize role of the valuable global partnership in achieving sustainable, shared growth.

In addition, we understand that the Vienna Action of Programme and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are two sides of the same coin. Therefore, we stay strongly committed to the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Vienna Action Programme that will help LLDCs overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a new development path.

NN How has climate change impacted Mongolia? Will the negative impact of climate change, especially on water, energy, biodiversity, transport infrastructure, agricultural production and food security, find a platform at the Climate Summit in Paris?

SS Mongolia is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change due to its geographical and climate conditions as well as the structure and development level of the economic sectors, and the lifestyle of the people. The records between 1940 and 2013 indicate the increase of the mean air temperature at the land surface at 2.07 degrees Celsius. Mongolia's vast grasslands are under threat of desertification, and roughly 72 percent of the total territory is degraded to some extent. The effects of climate change, increased natural disaster frequency, water scarcity, land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss, and air pollution are major environmental challenges



Mongolia.

 Asian Development Bank

Mongolia faces today. Therefore, it is definitely a new challenge for Mongolia as it is in many other countries around the world.

Recently, Mongolia has completed its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The INDC of Mongolia has its conceptual roots in the National Green Development Policy (NGDP), approved by the Mongolian Parliament in 2014, which addresses key sectorial action plans at the national level, including energy and agriculture sectors are being adjusted. Key indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the NGDP include the savings of natural resources derived from production and services, level of recycling, green employment, green procurement, sustainable use of energy, water, reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and ecological footprint per unit of production.


We hope that a new climate agreement to be adopted at the COP 21 in Paris this December will give due consideration to challenges faced by developing countries, in particular by LLDCs. I would like to highlight that a few weeks ago at the UNGA 70th Session, the President of Mongolia emphasized the importance of this

meeting by stating, “the future of the SDGs will depend on how successful the Paris climate conference will conclude”.

NN What are the main challenges facing Mongolia and other LLDCs in the areas of adaptation and mitigation of adverse climate effects?

SS Mongolia and many other LLDCs are very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, it is extremely important for these countries to develop strong climate change adaptation policy and strategy.

Climate change impacts are very visible in Mongolia, with the change in water resources and regimes, the drying up of lakes and springs in areas without permafrost, the dropping of ground water tables, pasture and soil degradation due to aridity and extreme heat in the summer and thus, a loss of biodiversity, intensified desertification, change of wildlife habitat, and the increasing frequency of forest and steppe fires, with overall environmental degradation.

Mongolia's Government recognizes the urgency of implementation of policy and measures for climate change adaptation. Climate change adaptation strategy was reviewed and adopted by the Parliament of Mongolia in 2011. 

Kiribati Calls for Extraordinary and Unconventional Solutions

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kiribati to the UN, Mrs. Makurita Baaro talks with Nosh Nalavala.

Nosh Nalavala Ambassador, on current projections, Tarawa, the main island of the Republic of Kiribati, will become uninhabitable due to sea level rise by the middle of this century unless there is significant adaptation to the changes it is experiencing. We hear that it is happening faster than predicted. Are global and regional steps being taken to take care of the fate of the people displaced by the impact of climate change?

Ambassador Makurita Baaro

We are experiencing the brunt of the changes to our climate system, not only on Tarawa, but on all 32 of our low lying islands in the country. With the changes in our climate system, and with sea level rise, our islands are now facing major challenges never faced before in our history. We have experienced climate extremes not only from sea level rise but by disaster events such as Cyclone Pam which hit Vanuatu and other low lying Pacific

island, Kiribati included, earlier this year followed soon after by Typhoons Maysak and Dolphin.

King tides combined with strong winds, wrecked havoc to our islands, our homes, our villages and our people. What is alarming is the increasing frequency and severity of such events to us. In some parts of the country, whole villages have had to relocate due to severe coastal erosion and flooding. Food crops have been destroyed and the fresh water lens, our major sources of drinking water are increasingly being contaminated by the intruding sea water. Our people are worried as they watch these events grow in intensity. The most vulnerable are the already vulnerable, women, children, the disabled, the sick and the aged.

It is indeed happening faster than predicted and we are deeply concerned from the frontline that global action to address this existential challenge for



Kiribati.

Toani N. / The Kiribati Mission to the United Nations



Ambassador Makurita Baaro, Permanent Representative of Kiribati to the UN.

JC McIlwaine / UN Photo

us no-where near matches the severity of what we are seeing on the ground.

NN What steps is Kiribati taking?

MB We have taken a decision to take leadership in finding solutions to this major challenge for our people. If we do not do this, no-one else will.

“Business as usual” can no longer be considered to be part of the way forward. We are pushing the message that we must not limit ourselves to working within the shackles and boundaries of our comfort zones, our economic arguments and political “taboos.” The challenge of climate change is a larger call for humanity. It demands that we must rise above national priorities, and think with a global conscience. We must think outside the bounds of conventional thinking, outside of the norm because this is an extraordinarily serious challenge which calls for extraordinary and unconventional solutions.

We need to take bold steps, even if we are not sure they are the right ones. If necessary we can improvise on the way. But whatever we do, we cannot afford to be paralyzed into inaction simply because of the apparent impossibility of the challenge confronting us. Time is running out. And the current alternatives are not acceptable.

In Kiribati we have adopted a multipronged strategy to ensure the survival of our people. We have bought

land offshore. We have looked at floating and artificial islands and options for raising our islands from their current height to maintain heights above the predicted sea-level rises.

We have taken an integrated approach to help prepare and build the resilience of our people focusing not only this major challenge but on the opportunities available to us.

We are focusing on improved health programmes on the premise that a healthier population will have greater resilience to climate change. We have also reformed and strengthened our education programmes, again on the premise that a more educated population will have a better chance to adapt to climate change. We have adopted a policy of “migration with dignity,” the upskilling of our people so that they have the option to migrate to new homes and to be useful citizens

to their new homes and not be a burden as climate refugees. We are also looking at ways to ensure the survival of our culture and to support our citizens’ transition into their new homes.

We are working on ensuring we get better returns from our vast marine resources and maintain our Exclusive Economic Zone. We are talking with like minded countries, the private sector, philanthropy and anyone who shares our vision.


NN Scientists say that the atmosphere could be warmed by 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, but even limiting warming to 2 degrees, commit some island nations and coastal cities to being submerged. Do you see this issue debated at the Climate Summit in Paris?

MB For countries like us, 2 degrees warming is already too late.

The real test of the effectiveness and relevance of the new Sustainable Development Agenda and of the United Family of Nations as it celebrate its 70th Anniversary, is in ensuring that no-one is left behind. Our people and those on the frontline of climate change, face the real possibility of being left behind. We are looking at a Paris Agreement to be an ambitious legally binding agreement that can begin to heal our one shared home and planet. It must place a cap global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. It is also vital that the agreement include provisions on loss and damage, and most importantly, a special mechanism to fast track urgent assistance for millions of people around the world who are at the frontline of climate change who need urgent assistance NOW. [TC](#)



Kiribati.

 New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Survival of Vulnerable Countries Relies on a 1.5 Degrees Celsius World

Mr. Giza Gaspar-Martins, Chairman of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group, talks to *The Commitment*.

The Commitment In negotiations the LDC Group is calling for a 1.5 degrees Celsius world, as anything higher exposes nations to irreversible changes in the climate system. How realistic is this agenda and how will it be viewed at the Climate Summit?

Giza Gaspar-Martins Our position, that global average temperature increase should be limited to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, is shared with other vulnerable country groups, including the small island developing states and countries in Africa. This position is non-negotiable for us. This is a matter of the survival of our countries and people.

Not only this, the 1.5 degree Celsius goal is consistent with what the best available science, including what's reported in the latest assessment report of the IPCC. There is broad agreement among climate scientists that the difference between risks associated with temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius and those of 2 degrees

Celsius is significant in regions with highly temperature-sensitive systems—including low-lying and coastal regions, high mountains and tropics, polar regions and regions experiencing drought. All LDCs fall into one or more of these categories.

In 2010, at COP-16, when Parties agreed on a long-term global goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to hold global average temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, they also agreed to periodically review the adequacy of this goal, and consider strengthening the goal through a structured expert dialogue; this is known as the 2013-2015 review. Last June, the report of the structured expert dialogue came out and one of its key messages was to push the 'defense line' as low as possible, to limit warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The report further elaborated that the technologies and policies required for the 1.5 degrees Celsius scenarios are the same for the 2 degrees Celsius pathway—they simply need to be deployed faster.

Therefore, the reality is that achieving the below 1.5 degree Celsius goal is scientifically and economically feasible—it only demands political will. This is indeed a realistic agenda



Giza Gaspar-Martins.

 IISD/ENB

(www.iisd.ca/climate/unfccc/adp2-11/21oct.html)

which all should fight to adopt in Paris.

TC On the road to the Summit, the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF), the only fund dedicated to LDCs is barely funded, despite approximately 230 projects in the pipeline. What is the way forward for the LDCs when it comes to negotiating strength?

GGM As you say, the LDCF is the only fund dedicated to the LDCs—it was established in 2001 in the context of implementing Article 4.9 of the Convention, which commits all Parties to “take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology”. The LDCs are adamant that this Fund should continue in the post-2020 regime.

However, the Fund is set up in a way that it relies on voluntary contributions from developed country Parties. This has not been effective—one of the main objectives of the Fund, among other activities, is to support the full implementation of LDCs' National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA), which outline our immediate and urgent adaptation needs. Conservative estimates of the full cost of LDCs' NAPAs is over USD 5 billion, and yet, the LDCF has received under USD 1 billion to date. Furthermore, in the past year, the Fund has suffered from a complete lack of resources—in October 2015, there were 35 projects worth almost USD 255 million, ready to be

“Therefore, the reality is that achieving the below 1.5 degree Celsius goal is scientifically and economically feasible—it only demands political will. This is indeed a realistic agenda which all should fight to adopt in Paris.”

– Mr. Giza Gaspar-Martins
Chairman of the Least Developed Countries
(LDC) Group



Bangladesh.

 Asian Development Bank

implemented but stuck in pipeline due to the Fund being empty.

Efforts to clear this pipeline ahead of COP-21 are welcome, but the LDCs make it clear that such ‘quick fixes’ are not sustainable. What we expect is the fulfilment of commitments to support the LDCs in the implementation of their immediate and medium-term adaptation priorities, and other needs reflected in the LDC work programme (this includes, for example, capacity building). This requires scaled up, adequate and predictable funding to be contributed to the LDCF in the long-term.

In the context of the 2015 agreement and the Paris COP, the LDCs are adamant that the Fund should be anchored in the legal agreement and made to serve the LDCs in the post

2020 regime. Such a provision will ensure that the Fund retains its key function as an effective channel for LDCs to receive grant-based finance under the post-2020 climate regime.

TC An encouraging number of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)—the country plans to tackle climate change—have been submitted by LDCs. Will the developed countries support LDCs in the implementation of these INDCs?

GGM The LDC Group represents the 48 poorest countries in the world, the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and least responsible, both historically and currently, for the climate change problem. And yet, as of 22 October 2015, 40 out of 48 LDCs have communicated INDCs. In this manner, the LDCs continue to show their

leadership and have a strong moral voice and position in the negotiations—if LDCs are putting forward their ambitious plans and showing willingness to be a part of the solution to climate change, other countries should also do their fair share. The LDCs have put forward their INDCs in good faith, with the belief that all have a moral responsibility to ensure a safe planet for our future generations. We expect developed countries to not double up their ambition, but also to support us in implementing our INDCs. **TC**

Linking Landlocked Developing Countries to Global Opportunities

by David Chapman

The successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) hinges on strengthened global partnerships and cooperation, according to members of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) at a High-Level Forum in New York this September.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), organized the High-Level Forum of Heads of States and Governments of Landlocked Developing Countries, with the ultimate objective for landlocked developing countries to reiterate their common vision and goals to end poverty and achieve sustainable development through the implementation of the VPoA for LLDCs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the end of the Forum, the LLDC Member States adopted a Declaration calling for the accelerated implementation of the VPoA through enhancing global partnerships and strengthening of the role of the United Nations System.

His Excellency Honourable Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, chaired the High-Level Forum in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of LLDCs. Other notable participating Heads of States included the Presidents of Mongolia and Tajikistan, the Prime Ministers of Bhutan, Lesotho, and Laos, and the Vice-Presidents of

Botswana and Burundi. Ministers and other high-level officials represented their countries at the forum. Each Head of State or Government and High Official delivered a statement that outlined the challenges, experiences, best practices and current and future policies of their respective countries. His Excellency Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, also attended and delivered a statement on behalf of the United Nations, re-affirming the UN's support for the Group of LLDCs and the successful implementation of the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries represents a comprehensive plan of action to address the special challenges and needs of our countries [...] However, we need resources and partnerships, including with our neighbouring transit countries, development partners, international institutions, the private sector,



USG Acharya at the LLDC event.

 Malwina Buldys, UN-OHRLLS

academia, think-tanks, and non-governmental organisations,” expressed Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia during his opening remarks.

Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, reiterated the importance of each of the six priority areas of the VPoA, acknowledged the work being done by development partners and international institutions such as the World Bank and the IRU. Mr. Acharya also noted the “strong coherence” Agenda 2030 held with the VPoA, which would ensure synergy between the LLDCs specific agenda and the global agenda. 



Tajikistan.

 Asian Development Bank

Bangladesh Elected Chairman of Global Coordination Bureau of LDCs

by Diana Charyyeva

Bangladesh was elected the new chair of The Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at the annual meeting of LDC ministers at the UN this October. The new chairman, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, formally took over the role from the Minister of Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals of Benin and was ceremonially handed over the responsibility of leading the group of 49 LDCs.

Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, participated in the high profile meeting and called on the LDCs to invest efforts in implementing the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also assured the LDCs of full UN support to LDCs initiatives to rise above their current status.

The Under-Secretary-General and United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Mr.



Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon at the LDC Ministerial Meeting.

 Roberto Falangola, UN-OHRLS

Gyan Chandra Acharya, expressed his deep gratitude to the delegation of Benin for its outstanding leadership of the group of LDCs for the last three years. He thanked Ambassador Jean Francis Régis Zinsou and his team for their strong commitment to the issues of LDCs and stressed his confidence for the delegation of Benin

to remain fully engaged in support of LDCs. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya congratulated Bangladesh for taking the leadership of the group of LDCs. “I have full confidence that, given its long experience in chairing the group of LDCs, Bangladesh delegation will ably and effectively lead the Group of LDCs.”

In his acceptance speech, the state minister for foreign affairs of Bangladesh expressed thanks to the LDCs for expressing confidence in the leadership of Bangladesh by electing it unanimously as the next chair of the group.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Foreign Ministers of Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, Tuvalu, and representatives of Japan and European Union. 



Cambodia.

 Asian Development Bank

Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya @UNGA70

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States



UN-OHRLS

12 days at the Sustainable Development Summit and General Assembly = **48** meetings



- 12** Summits/High-Level Meetings (26%)
- 11** Meetings with Ministers (23%)
- 16** Meetings attended with Presidents or Prime Ministers (34%)
- 8** Meetings with Representatives from Institutions (17%)



12 Summits/High-Level Meetings



Including hashtags: #southsouth, #Oceans14, #SE4ALL, #sidsdock

16 Meetings attended with Presidents or Prime Ministers*



11 Meetings attended with Ministers



8 Meetings with Representatives from Institutions



1 Memorandum of Understanding Signed



* Including fellow panel members, Vice Presidents and Vice Prime Ministers
Designations do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Climate Change, SDGs and Vulnerable Country Groups

VIEWS FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES....



Mark Garten, UN Photo

We are looking at the Post 2015 agenda as a hybrid of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) successes as well as the improvement of the MDGs challenges and shortcomings. We are looking at enhancing the 2015 transformative transition without obliterating the successes and the gains of the MDGs, and further build in mechanisms that will champion the vulnerabilities of the global contemporaries and emerging challenges.

Dr. Mwaba P. Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN

Mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation for actions to address the issue of climate change is one area where the urgency simply cannot be emphasized more. I believe most of the people are aware that Bangladesh will probably be the largest victim of sea-level rising in terms of number of people affected, as it is one of the, if not the, most densely populated countries in the world, a fact further weighted by the statistic that it is one of the least developed countries of the world.

Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, Former Permanent Representative of Bangladesh



UN Photo. Paulo Filgueiras



Mark Garten, UN Photo

The least developed countries (LDCs) are especially vulnerable to various kinds of shocks, such as natural disasters, commodity price fluctuations and volatility in financial flows including instability in aid and the public health emergencies such as the outbreak of Ebola. At the same time, LDCs do not have effective shock absorbing systems. Therefore, special “crisis mitigation and resilience building funds” for LDCs need to be created to meet their special development needs and to enable them to respond to various kinds of shocks.

Mr. Jean-Francis Zinsou, Permanent Representative of Benin

Nauru is by far the smallest member of the UN family. We have a population of about 10,000 people. When global indicators for the Post 2015 agenda are adopted, we need to ensure that Nauru is counted in the enumeration package of global indicators be they quantitative or qualitative in nature.

Ms. Marlene Moses, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the UN




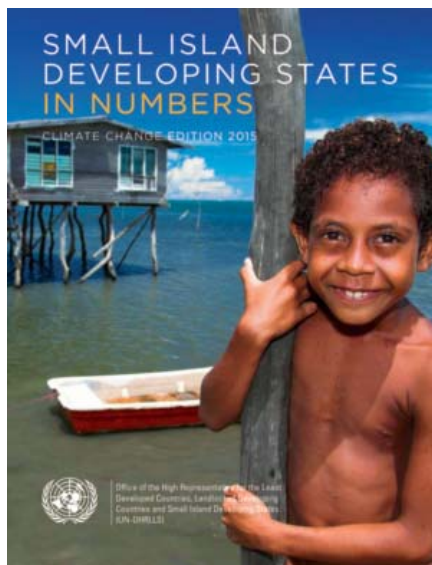
Schneider, UN Photo


Small Island Developing States in Numbers: Climate Change

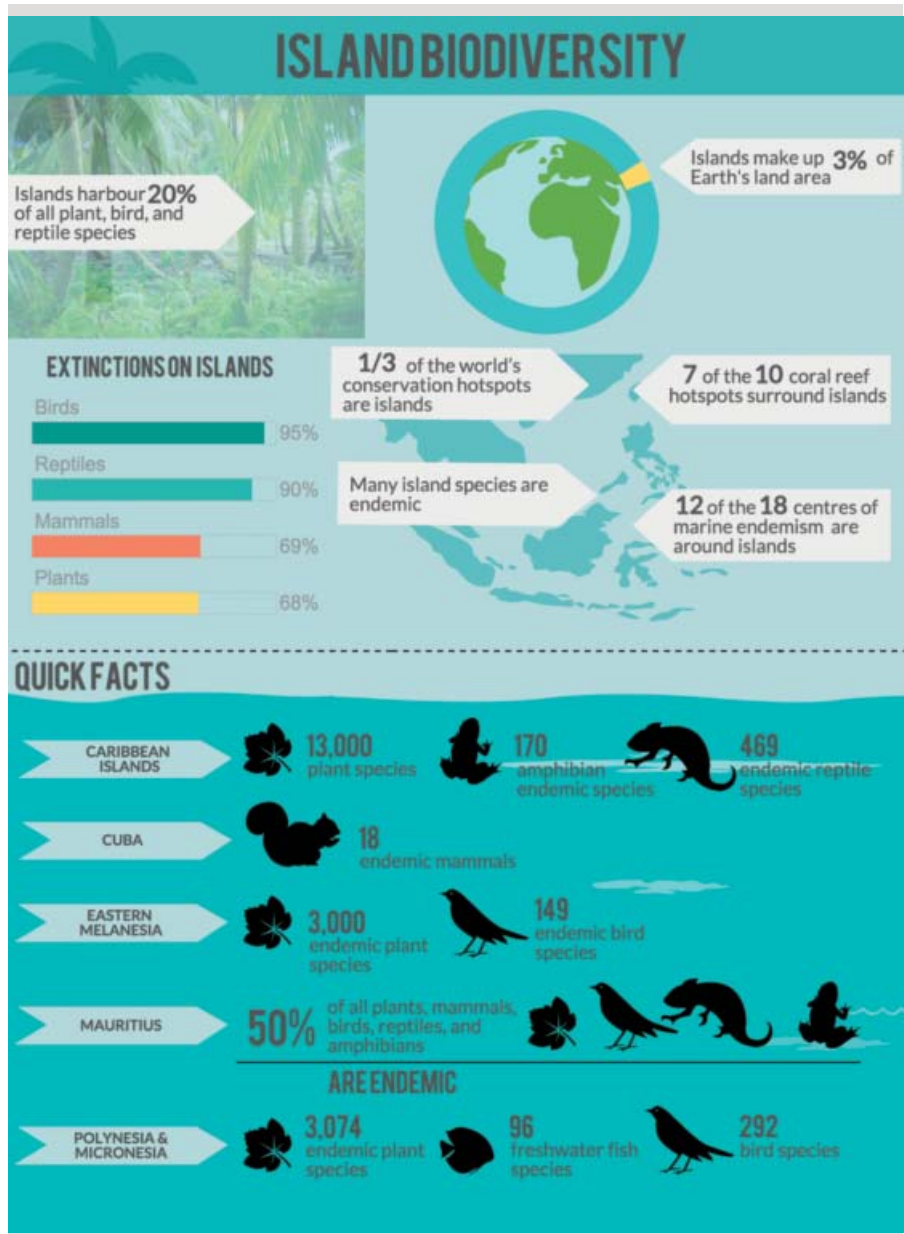
A new publication from OHRLLS provides, at a glance, a snapshot of key figures and statistics that relate to climate change in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). As Member States negotiate a global agreement for future concerted efforts, SIDS are already experiencing the often drastic impacts of climate change such as rises in temperature and sea level.

Infographics, charts and narrative in the publication detail the economic, social and environmental impacts on sustainable development.

The publication is available on-line and in print on request. 



 Papua New Guinea, Steven Nowakowski, New Zealand MFAT



SIDS in Numbers Online Version