

Report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Apia, Samoa
1-4 September 2014



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Chapter I

Resolutions adopted by the Conference

Resolution 1* Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)

*The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,
Having met in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014,*

1. *Adopts*, as the outcome document of the Conference, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), which is annexed to the present resolution;
2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly endorse, during the main part of its sixty-ninth session, the Samoa Pathway, as adopted by the Conference.

Annex

Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)

Preamble

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the full participation of civil society and relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing States. This can be achieved only with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations.
2. We reaffirm the commitments we made at United Nations conferences and summits on sustainable development: the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁴ including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,⁵ the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of

* Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2014; for the discussion, see chap. VI.

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 1, annex.

Action)⁶ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy),⁷ and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”.⁸ We further underscore that these processes are still being implemented and that there is a need for a more integrated approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, with the support of the international community and all stakeholders.

3. We recall as well our commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁹ the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹⁰ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,¹¹ the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,¹² the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,¹³ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹⁴ the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹⁵ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.¹⁶

4. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles.

5. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. We recognize the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, but stress that in the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult.

⁶ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁷ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

¹¹ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹² General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

¹³ Resolution 65/1.

¹⁴ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁵ Resolution S-21/2, annex.

¹⁶ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

6. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

7. We reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment, reducing inequalities and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.

8. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁷ as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to move the sustainable development agenda forward, and in this regard we urge all parties to take concrete measures to expeditiously advance the sustainable development of small island developing States, including through the internationally agreed development goals, in order for them to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve the quality of life. We recognize the need to implement expeditiously, through genuine and durable partnerships, the global effort in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States through concrete, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented programmes.

10. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

11. We recognize that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through the loss of territory.

12. With the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States being "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships", we recognize that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States. Such partnerships should be based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

13. We acknowledge that the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and the implementation of the Samoa Pathway in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States would require appropriate consideration in the post-2015 development agenda.

14. We recognize that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, and some have regressed economically. A number of significant challenges remain.

15. We recognize that the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in small island developing States and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals. We note the views expressed by small island developing States that the financial resources available to date have not been adequate to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, and we also recognize that, at times, complex application procedures have prevented some small island developing States from gaining access to funds that are available internationally. In this regard, we welcome the recent Green Climate Fund Board decision to aim for a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, and we note the importance of continued support to address gaps in the capacity to gain access to and manage climate finance.

16. We note that small island developing States consider that the level of resources has been insufficient to ensure their capacity to respond effectively to multiple crises, and that without the necessary resources, they have not fully succeeded in building capacity, strengthening national institutions according to national priorities, gaining access and developing renewable energy and other environmentally sound technologies, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development or fully integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into national plans and strategies.

17. We underscore the need for adequate and coordinated support from the United Nations system and the importance of accessible and transparent support from the international financial institutions that take fully into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States for the implementation of Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and we call for a renewed dedication of United Nations system support for cooperation among small island developing States and national, regional and interregional coordination.

18. We recognize that small island developing States have made significant efforts at the national and regional levels to implement the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. They have mainstreamed sustainable development principles into national and in some cases regional development plans, policies and strategies, and undertaken political commitments to promote and raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development issues. They have also mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base. Small island developing States have demonstrated strong leadership by calling for ambitious and urgent action on climate change, by protecting biodiversity, by calling for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources and by adopting strategies for the promotion of renewable energy.

19. We recognize and call for the strengthening of the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community in assisting small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and supporting their sustainable development efforts.

20. Mindful of the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not disrupt the development progress which that country has achieved, we reaffirm the need for the smooth transition of small island developing States that have recently graduated, and emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated as a priority by each graduating country, which can, inter alia, mitigate the possible loss of concessionary financing and reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt.

21. While the well-being of small island developing States and their peoples depends first and foremost on national actions, we recognize that there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable partnerships at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States so as to ensure their sustainable development.

22. We reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and we underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Samoa Pathway. With renewed political will and strong leadership, we dedicate ourselves to working in meaningful partnership with all stakeholders at all levels. It is in this context that the present Samoa Pathway presents a basis for action in the agreed priority areas.

Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all

Development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication

23. We recognize that the ability of the small island developing States to sustain high levels of economic growth and job creation has been affected by the ongoing adverse impacts of the global economic crisis, declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, the lack of adequate transportation, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity and the inability to integrate effectively into the global economy. The growth prospects of the small island developing States have also been hindered by other factors, including climate change, the impact of natural disasters, the high cost of imported energy and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise.

24. As it is vitally important to support the efforts of small island developing States to build resilient societies and economies, we recognize that beyond the rich ecosystems of those States, people are their greatest resource. In order to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable growth with full and productive employment,

social protection and the creation of decent work for all, small island developing States, in partnership with the international community, will seek to increase investment in the education and training of their people. Migrants and diaspora communities and organizations also play an important role in enhancing development in their communities of origin. Sound macroeconomic policies and sustainable economic management, fiscal predictability, investment and regulatory certainty, responsible borrowing and lending and debt sustainability are also critical, as is the need to address high rates of unemployment, particularly among youth, women and persons with disabilities.

25. We affirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, which is our overarching goal. In this regard, we consider the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We call upon the United Nations system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen its coordination and support of small island developing States that want to pursue green economy policies.

26. We acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development depends primarily on national action and leadership. We recognize that the private sector plays an increasingly important role in achieving sustainable economic development, including through public-private partnerships. We recognize that sustainable development will also depend, inter alia, on intergovernmental and international cooperation and the active engagement of both the public and private sectors.

27. Taking into full account their national development priorities and individual country circumstances and legislation, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to take the following actions:

(a) Enhancing international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal education and training to create an environment that supports sustainable investments and growth. This includes the development of entrepreneurial and vocational skills, support for transitions from basic to secondary education and from school to work, the building and strengthening of education infrastructure, better health, active citizenship, respect for cultural diversity, non-discrimination and environmental consciousness for all people, including women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(b) Enhancing the enabling environment at the national and regional levels to attract more public and private investment in building and maintaining appropriate infrastructure, including ports, roads, transportation, electricity and power generation and information and communications technology infrastructure, and also enhancing the development impact of the private sector and the financial services industry;

(c) Fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, building capacity and increasing the competitiveness and social entrepreneurship of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and State-owned enterprises in small island developing States, as well as encouraging inclusive and sustainable industrial development with the participation of all people, including the poor, women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(d) Supporting national, regional and international initiatives that develop and increase the capacity and development impact of the financial services industry in small island developing States;

(e) Creating local decent jobs through private and public projects and encouraging entrepreneurs to start up environmentally sound businesses through adequate and appropriate incentives;

(f) Promoting and fostering an environment conducive to increased public and private sector investment and the creation of decent jobs and livelihoods that contribute to sustainable development, with full respect for international labour standards;

(g) Promoting and enhancing the use of information and communications technologies for, inter alia, education, the creation of employment, in particular youth employment, and economic sustainability purposes in small island developing States;

(h) Promoting and enhancing gender equality and women's equal participation, including in policies and programmes in the public and private sectors in small island developing States;

(i) Setting national regulatory and policy frameworks, as appropriate, that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of transparency, accountability and corporate social responsibility.

28. Acknowledging the way in which debt servicing limits the fiscal space of highly indebted small island developing States, we support the consideration of traditional and innovative approaches to promote the debt sustainability of highly indebted small island developing States, including their continued eligibility for concessionary financing from international financial institutions, as appropriate, and the strengthening of domestic revenue mobilization.

29. We acknowledge the importance of addressing debt sustainability to ensure the smooth transition of those small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

Sustainable tourism

30. Recognizing that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, we strongly support small island developing States in taking the following actions:

(a) Developing and implementing policies that promote responsive, responsible, resilient and sustainable tourism, inclusive of all peoples;

(b) Diversifying sustainable tourism through products and services, including large-scale tourism projects with positive economic, social and environmental impacts and the development of ecotourism, agritourism and cultural tourism;

(c) Promoting policies that allow local communities to gain optimum benefits from tourism while allowing them to determine the extent and nature of their participation;

(d) Designing and implementing participatory measures to enhance employment opportunities, in particular of women, youth and persons with disabilities, including through partnerships and capacity development, while conserving their natural, built and cultural heritage, especially ecosystems and biodiversity;

(e) Leveraging the expertise of, inter alia, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, the Global Observatories on Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism and other United Nations bodies, as well as the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, to provide platforms for the exchange of best practices and direct and focused support to their national efforts;

(f) Establishing, upon request, an island, food and sustainable tourism support initiative based on community participation, which takes into consideration ethical values, livelihoods and human settlements, the landscape, the sea, local culture and local products, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, regional development banks and regional and national agricultural, cultural, environmental and tourism authorities where they exist;

(g) Establishing and maintaining, where necessary, the governance and management structures for sustainable tourism and human settlements that bring together responsibilities and expertise in the areas of tourism, environment, health, disaster risk reduction, culture, land and housing, transportation, security and immigration, planning and development, and enabling a meaningful partnership approach among the public and private sectors and local communities.

Climate change

31. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and we acknowledge that climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability.

32. We also reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we emphasize that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

33. We acknowledge the leadership role of small island developing States in advocating for ambitious global efforts to address climate change, raising awareness of the need for urgent and ambitious action to address climate change at the global

level and making efforts to adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change and to further develop and implement plans, policies, strategies and legislative frameworks with support where necessary.

34. We stress that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change in order to protect the global climate.

35. We recall the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹⁸ and underscore that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that the Convention provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

36. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

37. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on long-term climate finance,¹⁹ noting the importance of climate finance in addressing climate change.

38. We look forward to the full operationalization and initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund, including the expeditious implementation of its initial resource mobilization process, taking into account that the Fund will play a key role in channelling, new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to developing countries and will catalyse climate finance, both public and private, at the international and national levels.

39. We urge developed country parties to increase technology, finance and capacity-building support to enable increased mitigation ambition and adaptation actions on the part of developing country parties.

40. We reaffirm the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments and the scientific community, private businesses and civil society, and also including youth and persons with disabilities, and also reaffirm that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change.

41. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris in December 2015, and for it to enter into effect and be implemented as from 2020.

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁹ See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1, decision 3/CP.19.

42. We note the convening by the Secretary-General of the Climate Summit in New York on 23 September 2014, aimed at mobilizing actions and ambition in relation to climate change.

43. We will work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts²⁰ through comprehensive, inclusive and strategic approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries, including small island developing States, that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

44. We call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To build resilience to the impacts of climate change and to improve their adaptive capacity through the design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures appropriate to their respective vulnerabilities and economic, environmental and social situations;

(b) To improve the baseline monitoring of island systems and the downscaling of climate model projections to enable better projections of the future impacts on small islands;

(c) To raise awareness and communicate climate change risks, including through public dialogue with local communities, to increase human and environmental resilience to the longer-term impacts of climate change;

(d) To address remaining gaps in capacity for gaining access to and managing climate finance.

45. We recognize that the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and the release into the environment of hydrofluorocarbons with a high potential for global warming. We support the gradual phasing down of the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.

46. We recognize the importance of scaling up support for activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the context of the REDD-plus mechanism in small island developing States, including the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus.²¹

Sustainable energy

47. We recognize that dependence on imported fossil fuels has been a major source of economic vulnerability and a key challenge for small island developing States for many decades and that sustainable energy, including enhanced accessibility to modern energy services, energy efficiency and use of economically viable and environmentally sound technology, plays a critical role in enabling the sustainable development of small island developing States.

48. We highlight the efforts of small island developing States concerning sustainable energy, including through the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States, aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in such areas as access to affordable

²⁰ Ibid., decision 2/CP.19.

²¹ FCCC/CP/2013/10.

modern energy services, renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including, on a voluntary basis, the commitments by many small island developing States to undertake the actions contained in annex I to the Declaration. The “Sustainable energy for all” initiative of the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, complemented by international commitments, provides a useful framework.

49. We urge the international community, including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the United Nations system, the International Renewable Energy Agency and other relevant stakeholders to continue to provide adequate support, including in the areas of capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for the development and implementation of national, regional and interregional energy policies, plans and strategies to address the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States. We welcome the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which helps small island developing States by pooling knowledge and sharing best practices.

50. We strongly support actions:

(a) To develop a strategy and targeted measures to promote energy efficiency and foster sustainable energy systems based on all energy sources, in particular renewable energy sources, in small island developing States, such as wind, sustainable biomass, solar, hydroelectric, biofuel and geothermal energy;

(b) To facilitate access to existing financing mechanisms to increase capital flows for the implementation of sustainable energy projects in small island developing States on renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(c) To support investment in initiatives by and for small island developing States, in particular the “SIDS DOCK” indicative project pipeline of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects, as well as in the areas of capacity-building and human resources development and public education and awareness;

(d) To promote international collaboration to ensure the access of small island developing States to energy by, inter alia, strengthening their integration with regional and international energy markets and increasing the use of locally available sources of energy in the energy mix, joint infrastructure development projects and investment in production and storage capacities, in accordance with national legislation;

(e) To fulfil their bold and ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in small island developing States for the next decade, taking into account national circumstances, the diversification of energy systems and the provision of funds and technology on mutually agreed terms;

(f) To enhance international cooperation and cooperation among small island developing States for research and technological development and for the implementation of appropriate renewable energy and energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies for small island developing States, including cleaner fossil fuel technology and smart grid technology, through the provision of,

inter alia, financing from a variety of sources, the exchange of best practices and access to efficient technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(g) To access existing mechanisms, or, in regions with no existing mechanism, to encourage the establishment of user-friendly, accurate and comprehensive regional data repositories as online databases on energy, and to conduct technical studies and gather information on grid stability and management, including maximizing the integration of renewable energy and innovative storage mechanisms;

(h) To work on an integrated approach to establishing and strengthening innovative energy road maps in small island developing States, with detailed resource planning, which takes into account social, environmental and economic considerations, as well as access to energy for the poor and people in remote areas.

Disaster risk reduction

51. We recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple with the effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and some of which have been exacerbated by climate change, which impede their progress towards sustainable development. We also recognize that disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States and that there is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters.

52. In consideration of the special case of small island developing States and their unique and particular vulnerabilities, we are committed to supporting their efforts:

(a) To gain access to technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and post-disaster response and recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programmes, including under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management;

(b) To promote cooperation and investment in disaster risk management in the public and private sectors;

(c) To strengthen and support contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and people with disabilities;

(d) To implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and work for an ambitious renewed international framework for post-2015 disaster risk reduction that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist;

(e) To mainstream policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development, as appropriate;

(f) To harmonize national and regional reporting systems, where applicable, to increase synergies and coherence;

(g) To establish and strengthen risk insurance facilities at the national and regional levels and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies, where applicable;

(h) To increase participation in international and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Oceans and seas

53. We acknowledge that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, including that of small island developing States. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal tourism, the possible use of seabed resources and potential sources of renewable energy are among the main building blocks of a sustainable ocean-based economy in small island developing States.

54. Recognizing that small island developing States have large maritime areas and have shown notable leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and their resources, we support their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and resources. We also support their efforts to conserve their valuable underwater cultural heritage.

55. We reaffirm that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,²² provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.

56. Recognizing the concern that potential oil leaks from sunken State vessels have environmental implications for the marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States, and taking into account the sensitivities surrounding vessels that are marine graves, we note that small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis.

57. We recognize that an integrated ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities is needed to optimize opportunities. It should be based on the best available science, give due regard to conservation efforts and precautionary approaches and ensure coherence and balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development.

58. With this in mind, we strongly support action:

(a) To promote and support national, subregional and regional efforts to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their resources by supporting research and the implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management, including for fisheries management, and enhancing national legal and institutional frameworks for the exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living resources;

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

(b) To engage in national and regional efforts to sustainably develop the ocean resources of small island developing States and generate increasing returns for their peoples;

(c) To implement fully and effectively the regional seas programmes in which small island developing States participate;

(d) To address marine pollution by developing effective partnerships, including through the development and implementation of relevant arrangements, such as the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and, as appropriate, instruments on marine debris and on nutrient, wastewater and other marine pollution, and through the sharing and implementation of best practices;

(e) To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures, including from ocean acidification and invasive species, and by drawing on measures such as those identified in the Framework for Action 2013 of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

(f) To undertake marine scientific research and develop the associated technological capacity of small island developing States, including through the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centres and the provision of technical assistance, for the delimitation of their maritime areas and the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;

(g) To enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels so as to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through institutional capacity-building at the appropriate levels;

(h) To support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries, improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management and enhanced facilities for fisheries workers, as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fisheries, and to enhance access to markets for the products of sustainable small-scale fisheries of small island developing States;

(i) To strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of subsidies that contribute to over-capacity and overfishing, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2001 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

(j) For States that have not done so, to consider becoming parties to the 2001 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;²³

(k) To promote the conservation, sustainable use and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including through measures that benefit

²³ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 24.

small island developing States that are adopted by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

(l) To enhance the capacity of small island developing States to sustainably use their fisheries resources and develop fisheries-related industries, enabling them to maximize benefits from their fisheries resources and ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to small island developing States;

(m) To urge the cooperation of the international community in implementing shared responsibilities under regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to enable small island developing States to benefit from and sustainably manage straddling and highly migratory fish stocks covered by those organizations and arrangements;

(n) To enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation to address the causes of ocean acidification and to further study and minimize its impacts, including through information-sharing, regional workshops, the integration of scientists from small island developing States into international research teams, steps to make marine ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of ocean acidification and the possible development of a strategy for all small island developing States on ocean acidification;

(o) To conserve by 2020 at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas in small island developing States, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment;

(p) To address concerns about the long-term effects of munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and resources.

Food security and nutrition

59. We recognize that small island developing States, primarily net food-importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to the fluctuating availability and excessive price volatility of food imports. It is therefore important to support the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, the eradication of hunger and the provision of livelihoods while conserving, protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of land, soil, forests, water, plants and animals, biodiversity and ecosystems. We stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the small island developing States.

60. We also recognize the danger caused by an unhealthy diet and the need to promote healthy food production and consumption.

61. We recognize the call, in the outcome of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, adopted in

Bridgetown on 28 August 2013,²⁴ to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in small island developing States in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing those States, and we invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate this biennial forum.

62. We note the convening of the second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in November 2014, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, which has important implications for small island developing States, and look forward to its outcome.

63. In this regard, we are committed to working together to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To promote the further use of sustainable practices relating to agriculture, crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture to improve food and nutrition security while ensuring the sustainable management of the required water resources;

(b) To promote open and efficient international and domestic markets to support economic development and optimize food security and nutrition;

(c) To enhance international cooperation to maintain access to global food markets, particularly during periods of higher volatility in commodity markets;

(d) To increase rural income and jobs, with a focus on the empowerment of smallholders and small-scale food producers, especially women;

(e) To end malnutrition in all its forms, including by securing year-round access to sufficient, safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious food;

(f) To enhance the resilience of agriculture and fisheries to the adverse impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters;

(g) To maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable food production systems through international technical cooperation.

Water and sanitation

64. We recognize that small island developing States face numerous challenges with respect to freshwater resources, including pollution, the overexploitation of surface, ground and coastal waters, saline intrusion, drought and water scarcity, soil erosion, water and wastewater treatment and the lack of access to sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, changes in rainfall patterns related to climate change have regionally varying and potentially significant impacts on water supply.

65. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To develop institutional and human capacities for the effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the integrated management of water resources and related ecosystems, including supporting women's engagement in water management systems;

(b) To provide and operate appropriate facilities and infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management systems, including the

²⁴ [A/CONF.223/PC/2](#), annex.

exploration of desalination technology where economically and environmentally feasible;

(c) To facilitate the expansion of wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse in the context of the sustainable and efficient use of water resources;

(d) To improve water-use efficiency and work towards eliminating over-extraction, especially of groundwater, and to mitigate the effects of saltwater intrusion.

Sustainable transportation

66. We recognize that transportation and mobility are central to the sustainable development of small island developing States. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth, promote trade opportunities and improve accessibility. Sustainable, reliable and safe transportation achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. We also recognize the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods in fostering full engagement in local, regional and global markets and the potential for sustainable transportation to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas of small island developing States.

67. In this regard, we are committed to continuing and enhancing support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To gain access to environmentally sound, safe, affordable and well-maintained transportation;

(b) To advance the safety of land, sea and air transportation;

(c) To develop viable national, regional and international transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies that take a life-cycle approach to the development and management of transport infrastructure;

(d) To increase energy efficiency in the transport sector.

Sustainable consumption and production

68. As promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development, we recall the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and its vision, and we recognize that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process. This should be done in accordance with national objectives, needs and priorities, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development, and in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities.

69. In this regard, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns to advance sustainable consumption and production, with an emphasis on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and

nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development.

Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste

70. We recognize that the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. For small island developing States, as for all countries, environmentally sound waste management is also crucial for human health and environmental protection, and the small land area and remoteness of many small island developing States pose particular challenges for the sound disposal of waste.

71. In this regard, we acknowledge the following actions to improve the management of chemicals and waste:

(a) Enhancing technical cooperation programmes, including those under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,²⁵ the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management of the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the London Convention and Protocol and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, to strengthen national, regional and international mechanisms for the management of waste, including chemical and hazardous waste, ship- and aircraft-generated waste and marine plastic litter, and further strengthening and expanding geographic coverage of oil spill contingency plans;

(b) For States that have not done so, considering becoming parties to and ensuring an enabling environment for the implementation, including with technical and other appropriate support, of the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste and implementing, as appropriate, the Globally Harmonized System of the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

(c) Facilitating improved access to existing capacity-building programmes, such as those under the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization, which call for strengthened management of specific risks, including control programmes for chemical and other toxic and environmental events;

(d) Implementing reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and return approaches in accordance with national capacities and priorities, inter alia, through capacity-building and environmentally appropriate technologies.

Health and non-communicable diseases

72. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases, and when populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being.

73. We recognize that the burden and threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain serious global concerns and constitute one of

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

the major challenges for small island developing States in the twenty-first century. While prevention, treatment, care and education are critical, we call upon the international community to support the national actions of small island developing States in addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases.

74. We take note of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.²⁶

75. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To develop and implement comprehensive, whole-government multisectoral policies and strategies for the prevention and management of diseases, including through the strengthening of health systems, the promotion of effective universal health coverage implementation, the distribution of medical and drug supplies, education and public awareness and incentivizing people to lead healthier lives through a healthy diet, good nutrition, sports and education;

(b) To develop specific national programmes and policies geared towards the strengthening of health systems for the achievement of universal coverage of health services and the distribution of medical and drug supplies, with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, key development partners and other stakeholders, at the invitation of small island developing States;

(c) To take urgent steps to establish, for the period from 2015 to 2025, 10-year targets and strategies to reverse the spread and severity of non-communicable diseases;

(d) To implement well-planned and value-added interventions that strengthen health promotion, promote primary health care and develop accountability mechanisms for monitoring non-communicable diseases;

(e) To enable cooperation among small island developing States on diseases by using existing international and regional forums to convene joint biennial meetings of ministers of health and other relevant sectors to respond in particular to non-communicable diseases;

(f) To achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and neglected emerging and re-emerging tropical diseases, including chikungunya and dengue;

(g) To reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality and improve the health of mothers, infants and children.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

76. We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment and the full realization of human rights for women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and is a driver of economic growth in small island developing States. Women can be powerful agents of change.

²⁶ Resolution [68/300](#) of 10 July 2014.

77. In this regard, we support the efforts of small island developing States:

- (a) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls;
- (b) To integrate a gender perspective in priority areas for sustainable development;
- (c) To strengthen women's economic empowerment and ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work;
- (d) To end all forms of violence against women and girls;
- (e) To continue taking measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors through such policies and actions as temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks;
- (f) To guarantee equal access to good-quality education and health care;
- (g) To ensure in small island developing States the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,²⁷ the Beijing Platform for Action²⁸ and the outcome documents of their review conferences;
- (h) To tackle the structural and socioeconomic inequalities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination that affect women and girls, including those with disabilities, that hinder progress and development;
- (i) To give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technologies.

Social development

78. We recognize that social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring development progress by small island developing States both now and in the future. We therefore support efforts to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and to guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

79. We support small island developing States in their commitment to an approach to development that is focused on poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have equal access to education, health, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, knowledge, information and know-how. That approach enables citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.

²⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

²⁸ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Culture and sport

80. We recognize that small island developing States possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous and traditional knowledge and cultural expression, which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, can meaningfully advance sustainable development and social cohesion.

81. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and international cooperation in the cultural field in line with applicable international conventions, in particular those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(b) To leverage and build on the joint work of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(c) To develop and strengthen national and regional cultural activities and infrastructures, including through the network of World Heritage Sites, which reinforce local capacities, promote awareness in small island developing States, enhance tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including local and indigenous knowledge, and involve local people for the benefit of present and future generations;

(d) To develop cultural and creative industries, including tourism, that capitalize on their rich heritage of and have a role to play in sustainable and inclusive growth;

(e) To develop domestic mechanisms to conserve, promote, protect and preserve their natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage practices and traditional knowledge.

82. Recognizing the strong capacity of small island developing States in sport, we support the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development, social inclusion and peace, strengthen education, promote health and build life skills, particularly among youth.

Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities

83. We recognize the importance of supporting small island developing States in their ongoing efforts to ensure peaceful societies and safe communities, including through building responsive and accountable institutions and ensuring access to justice and respect for all human rights, taking into account their national priorities and legislations.

84. We recognize that the sustainable development of small island developing States can be negatively affected by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. In particular, the lack of sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for further education and the breaking down of community support structures can lead to increasing numbers of young men and women becoming involved in violence and crime.

85. We support the efforts of small island developing States to combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy by promoting the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions, enacting and using legislation that prohibits trafficking, promoting strong institutions and improving protection mechanisms to ensure adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and forced labour in accordance with relevant national and international agreements and treaties.

86. We support the development of action plans in small island developing States to eliminate violence against women and girls, who are often targets of gender-based violence and are disproportionately affected by crime, violence and conflict, and to ensure they are centrally involved in all relevant processes.

Education

87. We reaffirm that full and equal access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and the importance of local, national, regional and international efforts in this regard.

88. We are committed, in this regard, to strongly supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To provide high-quality education and training for youth and girls with a focus on the most vulnerable, in particular persons with disabilities, including in creative, cultural and environment-related fields, so that all people have the necessary skills and can take advantage of employment opportunities to lead productive lives;

(b) To ensure that education contributes to further building peace and promoting social inclusion;

(c) To increase their investment in education, training and skills development for all, including vocational training, and to improve their access to formal and non-formal education, including to gain entrepreneurial skills, through both formal and non-formal means, such as the use of distance teaching and the development of training approaches appropriate for small island developing States.

Biodiversity

89. We agree to promote international cooperation and partnerships, as appropriate, and information exchange, and in this context we welcome the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011-2020, for the purpose of encouraging the active involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with the vision of living in harmony with nature.

90. We recognize that, overall, small island developing States have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity that in many cases is fundamental to their livelihoods and identity. Noting that this valuable biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are at grave risk, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

(b) To export organic, natural, sustainably produced and locally grown products;

(c) To access financial and technical resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

91. We invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁹ to consider ratifying and implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, while acknowledging that having access to and sharing the benefits of genetic resources contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Desertification, land degradation and drought

92. We recognize that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought challenges will be critical for the achievement by small island developing States of food security and nutrition, their adaptation to climate change, the protection of their biodiversity and the development of resilience to natural disasters. We also strongly support the efforts of small island developing States in designing and implementing preparedness and resilience policies relating to desertification, land degradation and drought as a matter of priority and in catalysing financial resources from a range of public and private sources, as well as in promoting the sustainability of their limited soil resources.

93. We acknowledge the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification entitled “Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)”,³⁰ in which the Conference of the Parties established an intergovernmental working group to, inter alia, establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

Forests

94. Recognizing that forests are vital to livelihoods and ecosystems, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To implement the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests;

(b) To slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including by promoting trade in legally and sustainably harvested forest products;

(c) To achieve appropriate and effective reforestation, restoration and afforestation;

(d) To address obstacles and pursue opportunities to mobilize financing from all sources to support national sustainable forest management policies and improve

²⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³⁰ ICCD/COP(11)/23/Add.1, decision 8/COP.11.

the state of biological diversity by conserving and safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;

(e) To participate in the review of the International Arrangement on Forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to explore the full range of options on the future of the Arrangement;

(f) To strengthen their legal, institutional and human capacity for sustainable forest management on the basis of a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable use of forest resources.

Invasive alien species

95. Noting that invasive alien species pose a threat to sustainable development and undermine the efforts of small island developing States to protect biodiversity and livelihoods, preserve and maintain ocean resources and ecosystem resiliency, enhance food security and adapt to climate change, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To enhance multisectoral collaboration at the national, regional and international levels, including through expanded support to existing structures, to effectively address invasive alien species;

(b) To improve efforts to eradicate and control invasive alien species, including through the provision of support for research on and the development of new technologies by expanding collaboration and supporting existing regional and international structures;

(c) To develop and strengthen their capacity to address invasive alien species issues, including prevention, as well as increasing public awareness in small island developing States about this issue.

Means of implementation, including partnerships

96. While acknowledging the primary responsibility of small island developing States for their own sustainable development, we recognize that the persistent development challenges of the small island developing States require enhanced global partnership for development, adequate provision and mobilization of all means of implementation and continued international support to achieve internationally agreed goals.

Partnerships

97. We call for an increase in all forms of partnership with and for small island developing States.

98. We recognize that, given the vulnerabilities and the need to build the resilience of small island developing States, and keeping in mind the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, there is an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to their sustainable development priorities and needs.

99. We also call for enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and especially cooperation among small

island developing States. We reaffirm that North-South cooperation remains the core type of international cooperation and that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. We recognize that genuine and durable partnerships will play an important role in advancing sustainable development by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, businesses, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders. We further recognize that partnerships are effective instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge and can be powerful drivers for change, innovation and welfare.

100. We reaffirm that small island developing States are equal partners and that empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability and transparency and that political will is required to undertake and implement long-term, predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms, regardless of size and economic value, should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure the meaningful engagement of various actors (including local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the private sector and international financial institutions) and should work to achieve the small island developing States' vision of self-reliance and to cooperate in the implementation of national policies that help fulfil the commitments made in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the Samoa Pathway, the Millennium Development Goals and other international declarations and instruments.

101. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to present recommendations, including through the use of existing intergovernmental mechanisms, for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States. The framework should ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of small island developing States, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development of and ensure the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. The recommendations should be presented to the General Assembly for consideration and action at its sixty-ninth session.

Financing

102. We recognize that financing from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, the development and transfer of reliable, affordable, modern technology on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building assistance and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of advancing sustainable development in small island developing States. As those States have unique and particular vulnerabilities that require dedicated attention, they will continue to make use of a wide range of available financing mechanisms to implement the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

103. We recognize that international financing plays an important role in increasing the capacity of small island developing States to mitigate and effectively respond to multiple crises by increasing the impact of existing funds and mobilizing, catalysing and directly providing financial resources from a variety of public and private sources, including international financial institutions, to support the implementation

of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

104. We urge all countries to fulfil their commitments to small island developing States, including through the provision of financial resources, to support the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. In this regard, 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 to developing countries 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, is crucial.

105. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact. We also recognize the need to improve development effectiveness, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency, and in this regard we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. Furthermore, we will make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support over the medium term. We recognize the importance of the efforts of developing countries to strengthen leadership regarding their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results for effective development by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee development effectiveness. The specific situation of each country must be fully considered.

106. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the use of domestic policies and financing, with due consideration for their respective levels of indebtedness and national capacities;

(b) To gain access to international arrangements and modalities for the financing of development for developing countries, particularly small island developing States, including through capacity-building and a review of application procedures;

(c) To implement, with the provision of appropriate financial resources, in line with existing international commitments within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, climate change adaptation and mitigation projects;

(d) To reduce transfer costs related to remittances while pursuing the international targets and agreed outcomes of important international initiatives set by the United Nations system concerning remittances, given their importance for the economic growth of small island developing States.

Trade

107. Given the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, for example, small size, limited negotiating capacity and remoteness from markets, we recognize that efforts are needed to support their further integration regionally and between the regions and in world markets. With this in mind, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To encourage their successful engagement in trade and economic agreements, taking into consideration existing special and differential treatment provisions, as appropriate, and taking note of the work conducted to date under the work programme on small economies of the World Trade Organization;

(b) To obtain technical assistance through trade-related assistance mechanisms and other programmes to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system, including with respect to explaining trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements and formulating and administering coherent trade policies, with a view to improving trade competitiveness as well as development and growth prospects;

(c) To assess the implications and mitigate the impact of non-tariff barriers to their market access opportunities through, inter alia, appropriate technical assistance and the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization;

(d) To develop and strengthen partnerships to enhance the participation of small island developing States in the international trade in goods and services, build their productive capacities and address their supply side constraints.

Capacity-building

108. We affirm that small island developing States require continued and enhanced investments in education and training programmes to develop human and institutional capacities so as to build the resilience of their societies and economies, while encouraging the use and retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within those States and ensuring accountability and transparency in all capacity-building efforts by all parties.

109. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To improve existing mechanisms and resources to provide coordinated and coherent United Nations system-wide capacity-building programmes for small island developing States through United Nations country teams, in collaboration with national agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations, to enhance national capacities and institutions, building on the lessons and successes of the Capacity 2015 initiative;

(b) To strengthen their national institutions to complement capacity-building;

(c) To ensure the inclusion of capacity-building and institution-strengthening, as appropriate, in all cooperation frameworks and partnerships and their integration in the priorities and work programmes of all United Nations agencies providing assistance to small island developing States in concert with other development efforts, within their existing mandates and resources;

(d) To establish a dedicated intensive training programme for sustainable development for small island developing States in the University Consortium of Small Island States;

(e) To strengthen technical assistance programmes in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and regional institutions in small island developing States;

(f) To build national capacity, where appropriate, to utilize cost-benefit analysis for informed policymaking in the area of sustainable development, including models specific to small island developing States that evaluate the technical, financial, social, economic and environmental aspects related to the accession, ratification and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments;

(g) To build national capacity to fulfil reporting requirements deriving from commitments made by small island developing States when signing international agreements and commitments;

(h) To establish national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States to facilitate information exchange and cooperation, building on existing information and communication platforms, as appropriate;

(i) To enhance regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States on education and training so as to identify and apply appropriate good practices as solutions to shared challenges;

(j) To ensure that women are fully and equally able to benefit from capacity development and that institutions are inclusive and supportive of women at all levels, including at the senior leadership levels.

Technology

110. We recognize that access by small island developing States to appropriate reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies is critical to achieving their sustainable development objectives and in fostering an environment that provides incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship and that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for sustainable development.

111. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States to gain access, on mutually agreed terms, to appropriate, reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies and know-how and to increase connectivity and the use of information and communications technology through improved infrastructure, training and national legislation, as well as public and private sector involvement.

Data and statistics

112. We reaffirm the role that data and statistics play in development planning in small island developing States and the need for the United Nations system to collect statistics from those States, irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way, by, inter alia, allowing electronic submission and, where appropriate, submissions through competent regional agencies.

113. We recognize that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track successes in attaining the internationally agreed development goals.

114. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the availability and accessibility of their data and statistical systems, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, and enhance their management of complex data systems, including geospatial data platforms, by launching new partnership initiatives or scaling up existing initiatives;

(b) To utilize existing United Nations statistical standards and resources in the areas of social and environmental statistics;

(c) To improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant variables in a systemic and coordinated manner at the national level, through appropriate financial and technical support and capacity-building, while recognizing the need for international cooperation in this regard.

115. Furthermore, we call upon the United Nations, the specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates:

(a) To make greater use of the national statistics and development indicators of small island developing States, where available;

(b) To support a sustainable development statistics and information programme for small island developing States;

(c) To elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of small island developing States that better reflect their vulnerability and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience and to strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, the tracking of progress and the development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles.

Institutional support for small island developing States

116. We call upon the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities.

117. In this regard, we call upon the United Nations system to provide support:

(a) To ensure that United Nations entities take fully into account the issues of small island developing States and include support for those States and the development of their capacities in their programmes at the appropriate levels;

(b) To continue to enhance, through national and regional initiatives, the voice and participation of small island developing States in the decision-making and norm-setting processes of international financial institutions;

(c) To improve interregional and intraregional cooperation and collaboration among small island developing States, including, where required, through institutional mechanisms and capacity-building;

(d) To ensure that the issues of small island developing States are adequately addressed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices.

118. We call upon the Committee for Development Policy of the Economic and Social Council to continue to give due consideration to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to monitor regularly, together with their Governments, the progress of small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

119. We request that the Secretary-General conduct a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and the respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States, and we invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, to determine the parameters of the review. We request the Secretary-General, building on previous reports, to provide to the Assembly at its seventieth session the findings of the review and his recommendations thereon in his regular report entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

120. We request the Secretary-General to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat continues, pursuant to its support and advisory services mandate, its analysis and reporting on the situation of small island developing States, including in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, pursuant to its advocacy mandate, ensure the mainstreaming of the Samoa Pathway and issues related to small island developing States in the work of the United Nations system and enhance the coherence of the issues of those States in United Nations processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, and continue to mobilize international support and resources to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by small island developing States.

Priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda

121. Recalling that the small island developing States have identified their priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in the outcome document of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as further refined in the present outcome document, we recognize the need to give due consideration to those priorities in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Monitoring and accountability

122. To ensure the realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing States, we call upon the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions.

123. We recall that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices, will devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments.

124. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the small island developing States;

(b) To request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue to maintain a partnerships platform focused on the small island developing States and to regularly convene the inter-agency consultative group to report on the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, with adequate and timely analysis based on relevant targets and indicators relevant to the small island developing States in order to ensure accountability at all levels.

Resolution 2*
Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Samoa

The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

Having met in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, at the invitation of the Government of Samoa,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to His Excellency Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, for his outstanding contribution, as President of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to the successful outcome of the Conference;

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government of Samoa for having made it possible for the Conference to be held in Samoa and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal;

3. *Requests* the Government of Samoa to convey to the people of Samoa and to the city of Apia the gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

* Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2014; for the discussion, see chap. VIII.

Resolution 3*
**Credentials of representatives to the third International
Conference on Small Island Developing States**

The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,¹

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

* Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2014; for the discussion, see chap. VIII.

¹ [A/CONF.223/6](#), para. 13.

Chapter II

Organization of work and other organizational matters

A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, pursuant to General Assembly decision [67/558](#) and resolutions [67/207](#) and [68/238](#). During that period, the Conference held eight plenary meetings and six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues.

B. Attendance

2. The following 115 States and the European Union were represented at the Conference: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia.

3. The following intergovernmental organizations and other entities were represented by observers: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Community, Caribbean Telecommunications Union, Commonwealth, European Investment Bank, Global Environment Facility, Indian Ocean Commission, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Organization of la Francophonie, International Organization for Migration, International Renewable Energy Agency, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of American States, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Centre, South Pacific Tourism Organization and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

4. The following associate members of regional commissions were represented by observers: American Samoa, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat, New Caledonia and Saint Maarten.

5. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Fund For Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Tourism Organization, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization and World Trade Organization.

6. The following United Nations organs were represented: Convention on Biological Diversity, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Trade Centre, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

7. The list of participants will be issued as document [A/CONF.223/INF/2](#).

8. Many non-governmental organizations attended the Conference. The Preparatory Commission for the Conference accredited those organizations (see [A/CONF.223/PC/8](#) and [A/CONF.223/PC/5](#)).

C. Opening of the Conference

9. The Conference was opened on 1 September 2014 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

10. At the formal opening, during the 1st plenary meeting, on 1 September, after procedural and organizational matters, statements were made by the President of the Conference, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon; the President of the General Assembly, John W. Ashe; the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, Baron Divavesi Waqa; the President of the Economic and Social Council, Martin Sajdik; and the Secretary-General of the Conference, Wu Hongbo.

11. A statement was also made by on behalf of the nine major groups: women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers.

D. Election of the President and other officers of the Conference

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 1 September 2014, the Conference elected its officers.

President of the Conference

13. The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Samoa, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, was elected President of the Conference by acclamation.

Vice-Presidents

14. The following Vice-Presidents were elected:

African States: Benin, Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania;

Asia-Pacific States: Japan and Maldives;

Eastern European States: Estonia and Romania;

Latin American and Caribbean States: Bahamas, Barbados and Mexico;

Western European and other States: Germany, Spain and Turkey.

Vice-President ex officio

15. Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo (Samoa) was elected as ex officio Vice-President of the Conference by acclamation.

Rapporteur-General

16. Milan Meetarbhan (Mauritius) was elected as Rapporteur-General of the Conference by acclamation.

E. Adoption of the rules of procedure

17. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 1 September 2014, the Conference adopted as its rules of procedure the provisional rules of procedure, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (see [A/CONF.223/2](#)).

F. Adoption of the agenda

18. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference adopted the agenda ([A/CONF.223/1](#)):

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Election of officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate.
9. Report of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues.
10. Outcome of the Conference.
11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
12. Closure of the Conference.

G. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters

19. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference approved the organization of work as contained in document [A/CONF.223/4](#).

20. Also at the same plenary meeting, the Conference, in accordance with rule 63 of its rules of procedure, approved the requests for accreditation of the following three organizations to participate in the Conference as observers: the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, the South Pacific Tourism Organization and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

21. At the same meeting, upon the recommendation of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference decided that the President of the Economic and Social Council and a representative of the nine major groups would deliver statements at the opening plenary meeting.

H. Credentials of representatives

22. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed the following States as members of the Credentials Committee, on the basis of the composition of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session: Belgium, China, Colombia, Gabon, Guyana, the Russian Federation, Singapore, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

I. Documentation

23. The list of documents before the Conference is contained in annex I to the present report.

Chapter III

General debate

24. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 1 September 2014, under agenda item 8, “General debate”, the Conference heard addresses by the President of Palau, Tommy Esang Remengesau Jr.; the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Emanuel Mori; the President of the Comoros, Ikililou Dhoinine; the President of Seychelles, James Alix Michel; and the President of the Marshall Islands, Christopher J. Loeak. Statements were also made by the President of Zanzibar and Chair of the Revolutionary Council of the United Republic of Tanzania, Ali Mohamed Shein; the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Peter O’Neill; the Minister of Justice of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Sandra Gutiérrez (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); and the European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

25. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 1 September, statements were made by the Prime Minister of Tonga, Lord Tu’ivakano; the Premier of Niue, Toke Talagi; the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, José Maria Pereira Neves; the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Henry Puna; the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enele Sosene Sopoaga; the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão; the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Joe Natuman; the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Sustainable Development, Human Resources Development, Constituency Empowerment and Social Security of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Denzil L. Douglas; the Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Manasseh Maelanga; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Urban Development of the Bahamas, Philip Davis; the Special Envoy of the President of China to the Conference, Yesui Zhang; the Prime Minister of Aruba and Chair of the delegation of the Netherlands, Mike Eman; the former President and Special Envoy of the President of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom; the Minister of Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology of Saint Lucia, James Fletcher; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, José Manuel García Margallo.

26. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 2 September, statements were made by the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Energy and Minister of National Security, Public Administration, Disaster Management, Home Affairs, Information and Implementation of Grenada, Keith Mitchell; the Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Erlan A. Idrissov; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Anifah Aman; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Jamaica, Arnold Nicholson; the Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Masagos Zulkifli; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Consumer Affairs and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Camillo Gonsalves; the *Ulu-o-Tokelau*, Kuresa Nasau, speaking on behalf of New Zealand; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Winston Dookeran; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius, Arvin Boolell; the Minister of Public Service and Elections and Boundaries of Belize, Charles Gibson; the Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya; the Minister of Development and the Francophonie of France, Annick Girardin; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, Tzachi Hanegbi; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities of Sao Tome and Principe, Natalia Pedro da Costa Umbelina Neto; the Secretary of State for Foreign

Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal, Luís Alvaro Campos Ferreira; the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Takao Makino; the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Mohammed Shahriar Alam; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Lapo Pistelli; and the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, Abderrahim Kadmiri.

27. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

28. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 2 September, the Conference heard an address by the President of Kiribati, Anote Tong.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guyana, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Väino Reinart; the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Brett Mason; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Hans Brattskar; the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, David Anderson; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Vassily Nebenzia; the Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter; the Deputy Minister of Development of Turkey, Mehmet Ceylan; the Deputy Minister for the Middle East and Asia of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Xoan Noya; the Vice-Minister of Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic, Juan Monegro; the Secretary of State for External Relations of Angola, Manuel Augusto; the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, Henry Robert Sterlin; the Special Envoy of the Minister of Cooperation and Humanitarian Action of Luxembourg, Ronald Dofing; the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy of the United States of America, John Holdren; the Permanent Secretary for Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics of Fiji, Pita Wise; the Chair of the delegation of Benin, Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou (on behalf of the least developed countries); the Chair of the delegation of Zambia, Ngoma Mwelwa Chibesakunda (on behalf of landlocked developing countries); and the Chair of the delegation of Denmark, Ib Petersen.

30. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre.

31. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the workers and trade unions major group (Fiji Teachers Union).

32. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 3 September, the Conference heard statements by Freundel Jerome Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados; Kenneth Darroux, Minister for Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries of Dominica; Charles Henry Fernandez, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Antigua and Barbuda; Petteri Taalas, Director-General of the Meteorological Institute of Finland; Manasvi Srisodapol, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Thailand; Ivan Jancarek, Director-General for Non-European States, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; Tawfeeq Ahmed Al Mansoor, Chair of the delegation of Bahrain; Majid Al-Suwaidi, Director for Division of Climate Change and Natural Resources of the United Arab Emirates; Isauro Torres, Chair of the delegation of Chile; Ricardo Varela, Chair of the delegation of Uruguay; Ivo Sieber, Chair of the delegation of Switzerland; Anna Lindstedt, Chair of the

delegation of Sweden; Helmut Boeck, Chair of the delegation of Austria; Virginia Benavidez, Chair of the delegation of the Philippines; Eduardo Ricardo Gradilone Neto, Chair of the delegation of Brazil; Anumula Gitesh Sarma, Chair of the delegation of India; Jonathan Sinclair, Chair of the delegation of the United Kingdom; Rubén Ignacio Zamora, Chair of the delegation of El Salvador; and Hassan El-Laithy, Chair of the delegation of Egypt.

33. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

34. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by observers for two major groups: children and youth (three children representing the three small island developing States regions) and indigenous peoples (Sisi Initiative Site Support Group).

35. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 3 September, the Conference heard statements by Kim Seong-in, Chair of the delegation of the Republic of Korea; João Soares Da Gama, Chair of the delegation of Guinea-Bissau; Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Chair of the delegation of Romania; Thisara Samarasinghe, Chair of the delegation of Sri Lanka; Yanerit Morgan, Chair of the delegation of Mexico; William Calvo, Chair of the delegation of Costa Rica; Patrick Duffy, Chair of the delegation of Ireland; Zehra Akbari, Chair of the delegation of Pakistan; Papouri Tchingtonbé Patchanné, Chair of the delegation of Chad; Fernando Escalona, Chair of the delegation of Argentina; Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Chair of the delegation of Nepal; Gary Jusuf, Chair of the delegation of Indonesia; Nguyen Hong Cuong, Chair of the delegation of Viet Nam; Henry MacDonald, Chair of the delegation of Suriname; and Nichola Sabelo, Chair of the delegation of South Africa.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by Anthony Lecren, Minister for Land Development, Custom Ecology, Sustainable Development, Management and Conservation of Natural Resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone, observer for New Caledonia; and Kedrick Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, observer for the British Virgin Islands.

37. Statements were also made by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat; and observers for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the United Nations Environment Programme; and the International Organization for Migration.

38. Also at the 6th plenary meeting, statements were made by observers for two major groups: women (Diverse Voices and Action for Equality) and the scientific and technological community (University of the West Indies).

39. At the 7th plenary meeting, on 4 September, the Conference heard a statement by Musbah Allafi, Chair of the delegation of Libya.

40. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum; the Director General of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency; the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; the Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Commission; the Executive Secretary of the International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations High Representative for

the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and observers for the Global Environment Facility; the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; the South Centre; International Organization of la Francophonie; the World Bank Group; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; the International Telecommunication Union; the United Nations Children's Fund; the United Nations Population Fund; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; the International Monetary Fund; the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; the Asian Development Bank; the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; and the International Labour Organization.

41. Also at the 7th plenary meeting, statements were made by observers for four major groups: non-governmental organizations (Caribbean Policy Development Centre); local authorities (Conseil Régional de la Réunion); farmers (Caribbean Farmers' Network); and business and industry (Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization).

42. At the 8th plenary meeting, statements were made by the observers for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Summary of the plenary meetings

43. In accordance with paragraph 20 of annex II to General Assembly resolution [68/238](#), the following summary is provided.

44. The Samoa conference was a demonstration of the leadership of small island developing States in pursuing their own sustainable development and in spearheading solutions to sustainable development challenges through renewed partnerships.

45. It has been 22 years since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recognized the special development needs of small island developing States; 20 years since the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 10 years since the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and two years since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development reconfirmed the special case for the sustainable development of small island developing States and decided to hold the third international conference. Small island developing States have progressed towards sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. But, progress has been uneven and, today, climate change and the economic crisis compound the inherent challenges and vulnerabilities of small island developing States. The international commitments to their sustainable development of have not yet been fully translated into effective actions.

46. The conference was held at a propitious moment, as 2015 will be a defining year with the adoption of a post-2015 development agenda, the prospective agreement on a meaningful framework on climate change, the framework on

disaster reduction, and the convening of the Addis Ababa conference on financing for development.

47. The conference outcome document, the Samoa Pathway, provides the blueprint for the sustainable development of small island developing States and for leaving no country and no human being behind. It contains a range of realistic actions and commitments that must now be implemented.

48. The theme of the conference — the sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships — speaks to the importance of a new approach to the development of small island developing States — an approach where all development actors and societies at large join forces in pursuing a balanced sustainable development that encompasses economic and social progress and protects our planet's environment.

49. Climate change disproportionately affects small island developing States. It jeopardizes their livelihood and their very existence in some cases. References were made to the impact of natural disasters, sea level rise, erosion of coastal areas, destruction of infrastructure, increases in climate migrants, health problems and stresses on domestic institutions and national budgets.

50. It is of utmost urgency to address the root causes of climate change. The climate summit to be convened by the Secretary-General in September 2105 is important to bolster the commitment and efforts to arrive at an ambitious agreement on climate change at the end of 2015 in Paris.

51. Some underscored the need for a legally binding agreement. There also were references to the importance of flexibility and to the need for all countries to make commitments, bearing in mind the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. While world leaders should discuss what must be done, each country must take the responsibility to act individually so that we make progress together. This includes both reducing emissions and supporting small island developing States' adaptation efforts. Adopting mitigation measures is of critical importance.

52. The agreement in Paris must reduce the competition for funding resources and support better coordinated implementation as well as less cumbersome processes to access climate finance. To scale up assistance to small island developing States, the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund must be expedited. Implementation of the loss and damage framework will play an important role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

53. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, cost lives and derail development progress. Much is at stake as the international community reviews the framework for disaster reduction, subsequent to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, in 2015 in Japan. The agreements made at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must integrate disaster resilience in climate action.

54. Much attention needs to be devoted to building the resilience of small island developing States not only to climate change and disasters but also more generally to external shocks, such as the economic crisis.

55. It is of utmost importance to preserve and protect oceans and seas, for their climate services, biodiversity and critical food systems, in particular fisheries. This

is critical not only for small island developing States but also for the planet and future generations. Oceans acidification, sea level rise and marine litter must be addressed. A holistic approach is needed in order to ensure sustainable management and preservation of oceans.

56. Combating illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and ensuring sustainable management of fisheries is also essential. Food security and nutrition, which are a continuing concern for small island developing States, also hinge on progress in this regard.

57. Some small island developing States have instituted protected zones covering a large percentage of the oceans under their jurisdiction. Several said that the blue economy should be developed in a sustainable manner.

58. Solutions need to be found for the scarcity and competing demands on freshwater. Integrated waste management is also an important challenge for small island developing States that requires urgent solutions.

59. Energy dependency — especially reliance on fossil fuel with increasing and fluctuating cost — severely impedes the development of small island developing States. New, clean and smart energy solutions are critical. Small island developing States have vast renewable energy potential and are striving to increase their share in energy consumption, becoming world leaders in this area. Several referred to the Secretary-General's initiative on Sustainable Energy for All as an important endeavour.

60. Gender equality, empowering women and girls and eliminating any form of discrimination and violence is a matter of human rights and an integral part of development.

61. Many said that unemployment was reaching alarming levels in small island developing States, especially among young people. They stressed the importance of adopting adequate policies to ensure decent work and to modernize the education sector and raise the quality of education. It is important to build the capacities of the private sector and to boost the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises as those create many jobs.

62. Many warned that a health crisis was in the making in small island developing States. There was concern expressed about the spread of non-communicable diseases. Communicable diseases, diseases related to the environment, maternal and child health also all require urgent attention. This too is an area where the support of development partners is important.

63. Quality education is a powerful driver of development and well-being. Reference was made to other drivers of sustainable development, such as infrastructure development and information and communications technology. It was repeatedly underscored that little could be achieved in the absence of inclusive, job-creating growth. Tourism, if effectively managed and developed, can also bolster development.

64. Small island developing States shared their progress and lessons learned in implementing policies and measures to accelerate their sustainable development, achieve their development priorities and tackle, head-on, the global challenges that affect them. It was felt that small island developing States have much to teach the

world in terms of their nimble and flexible approaches to sustainable development, their innovation and traditional knowledge.

65. Development strategies of all countries, including small island developing States, need to be home-grown. Strategies need to be holistic and balanced so as to provide road maps towards sustainable development. They need to be people-centred and inclusive also of young people, encompassing human rights, gender equality, rule of law as well as protection of indigenous knowledge and respect for culture. The response to climate change and disaster resilience ought to be mainstreamed, as should the sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment. It is also important to strengthen institutional capacities, including at the local level.

66. Traditional development cooperation, triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation and cooperation among small island developing States are needed for ensuring the sustainable development of small island developing States. All forms of partnership, including strategic public-private partnerships, are essential. They should include Governments, local authorities, international and regional organizations, civil society actors and the private sector.

67. There is a need to go beyond traditional donor-recipient relations and to form genuine partnerships built on mutual trust, accountability and transparency. It was said that these “partnerships should not to be defined by more aid but by more opportunities”.

68. In the course of the discussions, many committed to strengthening partnerships and launched new ones.

69. Adequate means of implementation must be mobilized for implementing the Samoa Pathway and the sustainable development agenda. Many said that this includes additional, new and predictable financial resources, capacity-building, access to markets and fair trade as well as transfer of environmentally sound technologies. There were also strong voices for measures to eliminate unsustainable debt. Access to concessional financing is also very important to small island developing States. There were many calls for readjusting eligibility criteria to be based not solely on GDP per capita, but also on the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. In this regard, a number of countries called for a vulnerability index. Many countries also called for the design of new approaches to assist middle-income countries.

70. Cooperation needs to be grounded in mutual respect and shared responsibility, recognizing that countries are interconnected and share the planet. It was hoped that the Addis Ababa conference on financing for development in 2015 would deliver concrete advances for small island developing States, including progress on the unfulfilled aid commitments. Some said that, while partnerships had a critical role in implementation, they could not replace official commitments and obligations.

71. Many highlighted their commitment to small island developing States through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation and partnerships. Examples related to, among others, information and communications technology, energy, education, safeguarding biodiversity, disaster preparedness and resilience, early warning systems, capacity-building, oceans and climate adaptation. It was underscored that the United Nations system had a role at all levels. A few countries welcomed the mandate of the outcome document for the United Nations system to review its responses to small island developing States’ needs.

72. There must be an all-out effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals where they have not been met. At the same time, there is need to craft a more ambitious development agenda to take over after 2015, the target date for realizing the Goals. This post-2015 development agenda will be grounded in the pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development. It must be people-centred. It should pursue social justice and environmental preservation and allow for decoupling economic growth from natural resource use. Such a new agenda can only be realized in peaceful societies, where rule of law prevails and where institutions are effective and accountable. There is a need for a true development paradigm shift.

73. The new sustainable development goals must be universal, but at the same time need to be adapted to the specificities of all countries. Some referred to the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

74. With the Samoa conference, there is a powerful opportunity to ensure that the priorities of small island developing States are reflected in the post-2015 development agenda. It was felt that the goals proposed by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals had succeeded in reflecting the key priorities of small island developing States. It was essential that oceans be addressed in a separate goal. There was also broad agreement that there should be dedicated goals on climate change, energy, health and gender equality. Many stressed the importance of sustainable consumption and production. It was said that greater attention should be given to HIV/AIDS.

75. It is critically important to implement the Samoa Pathway. Many called for all actors to join forces in order to ensure its implementation and the delivery of partnership commitments made at the conference and beyond.

76. Implementation can be boosted if there is a mechanism to review progress: how the international community is fulfilling its obligations, on the one hand, and how small island developing States are fulfilling their national priorities and strategies, on the other hand.

77. Several speakers called for establishment of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. Some said that the new international institutional framework for sustainable development and the new high-level political forum on sustainable development would help in reviewing and promoting progress. It was also said that the reformed Economic and Social Council would step up its work on partnerships.

78. Comprehensive, coordinated and effective institutional support must be provided to small island developing States at the global, regional, interregional and national levels, including by the United Nations system. This is necessary to accelerate and support implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway. Establishing interregional and intraregional intergovernmental mechanisms in the three small island developing States regions is important. In particular, a call was made for a dedicated regional implementation mechanism for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea region in support of their sustainable development efforts.

79. Many said that development progress must not be measured only through GDP per capita. Small island developing States remain highly vulnerable to climate change and shocks, and the criteria for graduation from the list of least developed countries ought to be reviewed. It would be important to extend the transition period, sustain aid and other commitments, and properly monitor the impact of graduation on development gains.

80. Much importance was attached to the development of a vulnerability index. Such an index should be used in determining development strategies as well as resources needed to implement them. The availability of disaggregated data and information of good quality is essential for supporting implementation through evidence-based policies and for reviewing progress in sustainable development and in reducing vulnerability.

81. Many said that the Alliance of Small Island States had played and would continue to play a critical role in ensuring that the voice of small island developing States was heard and that its role would extend well beyond negotiations. The Alliance of Small Island States Leaders' Declaration of 1 September 2014 was welcomed. The role of other regional groupings was also highlighted. Many underlined that small island developing States needed to participate fully in global decision-making, including in the economic, financial and political areas. Many said that the Alliance of Small Island States had played and would continue to play a critical role in ensuring that the voice of small island developing States was heard and that its role would extend well beyond negotiations. The Alliance of Small Island States Leaders' Declaration of 1 September 2014 was welcomed. The role of other regional groupings was also highlighted. Many underlined that small island developing States needed to participate fully in global decision-making, including in the economic, financial and political areas. There was also a call for small island developing States to have a permanent seat on a reformed Security Council.

82. The year 2014 — the International Year of Small Island Developing States — must be remembered not only as the year when ambitious commitments and partnerships were undertaken in Samoa but also as the year when serious implementation was initiated.

Chapter IV

Report of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues

Sustainable economic development (dialogue 1)

83. The first multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue, held in the afternoon of 1 September 2014, was chaired by the Prime Minister of Barbados, Freundel Stuart, who made an opening statement.

84. Keynote addresses were delivered by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Henry Puna; the Prime Minister of Grenada, Keith Mitchell; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, Murray McCully; the President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, Martin Sajdik; the Minister of Environment and Energy of Seychelles, Rolph Antoine Payet; and the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Zhu Min.

85. The dialogue was moderated by the Director of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States, Cletus Springer, who also made a statement.

86. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Jamaica, the United States, Maldives, Tuvalu and Chile.

87. A statement was also made by the observer for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

88. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Nations Development Programme; the International Labour Organization; the World Tourism Organization; the United Nations Environment Programme; the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation; the World Bank; the International Trade Centre; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

89. Statements were made by observers for the following major groups: non-governmental organizations (Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, Sustainable Minerals Institute; Adventist Development and Relief Agency); women (Pacific Island Women Caucus); and the scientific and technological community (Harrisburg University).

90. Following a summary by the moderator of the discussion, the Chair declared the dialogue closed.

Climate change and disaster risk management (dialogue 2)

91. The second multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue, held in the morning of 2 September 2014, was co-chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, José Manuel García Margallo, and the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Takao Makino, who made opening statements.

92. Keynote addresses were delivered by the President of Kiribati, Anote Tong; the European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs; the Special Envoy of

the Secretary-General for Climate Change, Mary Robinson; and the World Bank Group Vice-President and Special Envoy, Climate Change Group, Rachel Kyte.

93. The dialogue was moderated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, who also made a statement.

94. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of the Marshall Islands, the United States, Samoa, Tuvalu, Germany, Norway, Italy, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, China, Switzerland, Vanuatu, Maldives, the United Republic of Tanzania and France.

95. A statement was made by the observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

96. A statement was also made by the observer for the Indian Ocean Commission.

97. A statement was also made by the observer for New Caledonia.

98. Statements were made by the observers for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the United Nations Capital Development Fund; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

99. A statement was made by the observer for the following major group: indigenous peoples (International Indian Treaty Council).

100. After the keynote speakers responded to comments made and questions raised, the moderator summarized the discussion.

Social development in small island developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women (dialogue 3)

101. The dialogue was chaired by Winston Dookeran, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, who made an opening statement. A keynote address was delivered by Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. The partnership dialogue was moderated by Yanerit Morgan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, who made a statement.

Cluster I

Social development in small island developing States

102. Keynote addresses were delivered by Ewen McDonald, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia; Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and Fuimaono Falefa Lima, Dean of Faculty of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship, National University of Samoa.

103. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Grenada and the Maldives. Statements were also made by observers for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the United Nations Children's Fund; and the United Nations Environment Programme. A statement was made by an observer for the following major group: non-governmental organizations (Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations).

Cluster II

Health and non-communicable diseases

104. Keynote addresses were delivered by Leao Talalelei Tuitama, Minister of Health of Samoa; Toomas Palu, Sector Manager, Health, Nutrition and Population, South East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank; and Colin Tukuitonga, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

105. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Palau, the United States, Tonga, Saint Kitts and Nevis (on behalf of the Caribbean Community) and Israel. A statement was also made by the observer for the United Nations Population Fund. A statement was made by an observer for the following major group: non-governmental organizations (Asia Cooperation Dialogue Alliance for the Pacific Region).

Cluster III

Youth and women

106. Keynote addresses were delivered by Roberta Clarke, Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Thailand; and representatives of two major groups: women (Noelene Nabulivou, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era) and children and youth (Karuna Rana).

107. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Samoa, the Netherlands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Chile. A statement was also made by the observer for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

108. Statements were made by observers for the following major Groups: local authorities (Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development); women (Diverse Voices and Action for Equality); children and youth (Small Island Developing States Youth Hub for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea region); and non-governmental organizations (Amnesty International). The Moderator declared the dialogue closed.

Sustainable energy (dialogue 4)

109. The dialogue was chaired by Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, who made an opening statement. Keynote addresses were delivered by Andrew Jacobs, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Pacific; Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility; Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency; Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and Zaheer Allam, Australian Urban Design Research Centre. The dialogue was moderated by Elizabeth Thompson, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Energy for All, who also made a statement.

110. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of the Marshall Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Italy, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the United States, Sao Tome and Principe and Barbados. Statements were made by the observers for the Pacific

Community, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Pacific Islands Forum.

111. Statements were also made by the observers for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; the United Nations Development Programme; and the United Nations Environment Programme. A statement was made by an observer for the following major group: women (Pacific Islands Women's Caucus).

112. The moderator and the keynote speakers responded to comments made and questions raised during the interactive discussion. The Chair declared the dialogue closed.

Oceans, seas and biodiversity (dialogue 5)

113. The dialogue was chaired and moderated by Milan Meetarbhan, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations. Arvin Boolell, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius, made an opening statement.

114. Keynote addresses were delivered by Tommy Remengesau Jr., President of Palau; Angus Friday, Ambassador of Grenada to the United States; Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs; Biliانا Cicin-Sain, President of the Global Ocean Forum and Director of the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy at the University of Delaware; and Kate Brown, Coordinator, Global Island Partnership.

115. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Bahamas, Solomon Islands, Maldives, Germany, China, Fiji, the Netherlands, Italy, Australia, the Cook Islands, Tonga and Barbados. Statements were made by the observers for the Pacific Islands Forum, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Caribbean Community.

116. Statements were made by observers for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility. Statements were also made by observers for the following major groups: non-governmental organizations (The Nature Conservancy, the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy Initiative and Seeing Blue) and the scientific and technological community (Ocean Policy Research Foundation).

117. Biliانا Cicin-Sain responded to comments made and questions raised during the interactive discussion. The Chair declared the dialogue closed.

Water and sanitation, food security and waste management (dialogue 6)

118. The dialogue was chaired and moderated by Ronald Jean Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing States Issues, Permanent Mission

of Seychelles to the United Nations. Ralph Payet, Minister of Environment and Energy of Seychelles, made an opening statement.

119. Keynote addresses were delivered by Federico Ramos de Armas, Secretary of State for Environment of Spain; Karen Tan, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations; Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization; and Alemneh Dejene, Team Leader, Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability, Climate Tenure and Energy Division, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

120. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the United States, Maldives, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Chile. Statements were made by observers for the European Union, the Caribbean Community, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum. A statement was also made by the observer for New Caledonia.

121. Statements were made by observers for the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Environment Programme.

122. The keynote speakers responded to comments made and questions raised during the interactive discussion. The Chair declared the dialogue closed.

Summary of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues

123. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September, summaries of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues were presented by the Prime Minister of Barbados, Freundel Stuart, chair of the dialogue on "Sustainable economic development", by the Secretary of State for the Environment of Spain, Federico Ramos de Armas, on behalf of the co-chairs of the dialogue on "Climate change and disaster risk management", by the Director of the Directorate for Multilateral Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Dennis Francis, on behalf of the chair of the dialogue on "Social development in small island developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women", by the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations in New York, Simona-Mirela Miculescu, chair of the dialogue on "Sustainable energy", by the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations in New York, Milan Meetarbhan, chair of the dialogue on "Oceans, seas and biodiversity", and by the Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing States Issues of the Permanent Mission of Seychelles to the United Nations in New York, Ronald Jean Jumeau, chair of the dialogue on "Water and sanitation, food security and waste management" (see A/CONF/223/11). In accordance with paragraph 20 of annex II to General Assembly resolution [68/238](#), the following summary is provided.

124. Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues were mandated by the General Assembly in resolution [68/238](#) as an official part of the conference. They provided an opportunity for recognizing successful partnerships and initiatives in support of small island developing States; launching innovative and concrete partnerships and initiatives between multiple public and private stakeholders to support the advancement of the sustainable development of small island developing States; and provided a platform for interactive and focused discussions on key priorities related

to small island developing States. The outcomes of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, as mandated by the same resolution, were reported to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and are summarized in the present report.

125. Under the leadership of the host country and “friends of small island developing States”, six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues took place. They provided a platform for lively and interactive discussions on how challenges and impediments could be overcome through partnerships. Even though partnerships are not a substitute for official commitments and obligations, they represent an indispensable tool for implementation that can significantly increase opportunities for small island developing States to become leaders in addressing some of the most difficult challenges facing the international community today, such as those relating to climate change, oceans and the use of renewable energy.

126. Each of the dialogues had a panel of experts who provided interesting insights that provoked lively and interactive discussions, while at the same time announcing a number of existing and new partnerships in the relevant areas. Some 296 were registered through the small island developing States partnerships platform (<http://sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1516>) and over 100 of these were announced during the Conference in the dialogues and the side events. The partnerships need to fulfil “SMART” criteria, which represent characteristics of all successful partnerships; that is, they should be specific to small island developing States; measurable and monitorable; achievable and accountable; resource-based and results-focused; and time-bound and transparent.

127. The following is a short summary of the six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, which encompassed all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Sustainable economic development

128. There is a potential for small island developing States to pursue sustainable economic development by steadily raising economic productivity, generating income and employment and fully utilizing their resources in a sustainable manner, paying particular attention to the sustainable management of their natural and human resources. To this end, small island developing States need to adopt integrated planning of economic activities to decouple economic development from environmental degradation. This also requires capacity-building and investment in infrastructure development and job creation, particularly in the area of information technologies and financial services.

129. Numerous scalable partnerships both existing and new were presented, covering, among other topics, small business promotion, sustainable tourism, business matchmaking, public finance management, trade promotion, economic empowerment of women, sustainable pearl farming, youth vocational training, business intelligence using information and communications technologies, business continuity in natural disasters, renewable energy, clean energy and organic agriculture and value chains.

Climate change and disaster risk management

130. Climate change and natural disasters are two of the most difficult challenges facing small island developing States. However, they can also prove an opportunity for those States. The experiences of small island developing States can serve as

models and examples for other countries to learn from. Small island developing States need to adopt measures such as strong coordination between donors, cohesive policies and clear identification of priorities.

131. Small island developing States must integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction into development policy in order to ensure integrated and coordinated actions, minimize duplication and reduce potential conflicts in policy development and make best use of available resources. This conference has demonstrated that newly established partnerships need to implement robust and rapid measures to enhance the resilience and build the capacity of small island developing States to combat climate change for the benefit of their people.

132. The session recognized numerous partnerships, including the following: weather monitoring and evacuation drills; flood hazard maps for small island developing States; the Global Climate Change Alliance plus; a Pacific renewable energy partnership; a scalable renewable energy and water project in the Canary Islands that shares technology with Cabo Verde and other small island developing States; promoting investment in fisheries and tourism; integrating food energy security into development plans; and investments for building resilience through the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility plus.

Social development in small island developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women

133. Social development is a driving force of sustainable development and calls for a social capital framework based on community trust, social justice, social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods and safe communities with access to essential goods and services. Heritage and culture energize society and are forces for social cohesion. Quality education is the key to social inclusion and mobility, empowerment of women and girls, preventing violence against women and girls, fighting disease including HIV/AIDS, safeguarding sexual and reproductive health and addressing children's development and nutrition.

134. Non-communicable diseases are an epidemic in small island developing States, especially in the Pacific but also in the Caribbean, cutting lives short and undermining all aspects of social development.

135. Partnerships recognized included: Pacific non-communicable disease partnerships; better nutrition against non-communicable diseases; the "Apia Challenge" on non-communicable diseases; entrepreneurship for youth; education; women's empowerment; health in small island developing States; farmers' night markets; marketplace women; microfinance for women; insulin for life; sex education for youth; prevention of gender-based violence; and corporate volunteerism.

Sustainable energy

136. Available, affordable and reliable sustainable energy for all small island developing States is essential to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication, yet small island developing States depend heavily on fossil fuels that drain their country revenues and negatively affect their economies and the environment, with strong implications for climate change. Renewable energy represents a major opportunity for small island developing States to accelerate the transformation of their economies towards greener economies.

137. Numerous partnerships were recognized, including the Lighthouse renewable energy partnership of the International Renewable Energy Agency, the European Union-New Zealand energy access partnership, a partnership programme on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in the Pacific States, and a partnership for strengthening energy grid stability to promote energy efficiency in the Caribbean.

Oceans, seas and biodiversity

138. Small island developing States have an intrinsic economic, social, cultural and environmental connection with oceans and seas and therefore are well-placed to develop sustainable ocean-based economies. Integrated and ecosystem approaches to the management and governance of ocean spaces and activities must be adopted through partnerships. At the same time, it is essential to achieve sustainable use of marine resources, so as to ensure long-term food security and protect rich marine biodiversity. Integrated, holistic and global approaches should be taken for effective management of coastal and marine areas.

139. Partnerships were recognized, relating to ocean acidification, a global ocean carbon observatory network, conservation in the Caribbean, strategic cooperation with small island developing States on biodiversity and forestry, marine scientific cooperation, marine capacity-building and effective management of marine areas.

Water and sanitation, food security and waste management

140. Poor waste management, lack of sanitation, water scarcity and food insecurity are closely interlinked challenges faced by small island developing States. Thus, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns makes both economic and sustainable development sense, as do integrated decision-making and integrated management.

141. In this regard, multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially with the private sector, are extremely important in order to develop and share technologies and know-how, build capacity and develop information and data relevant to small island developing States.

142. Partnerships were recognized for community learning for rural water quality, water science, hygiene coalitions to improve sanitation, organic agriculture, agricultural and food cooperatives, horticulture, livestock management, investment promotion in agriculture, agricultural research, improving food quality, locally grown food, agricultural and food safety, access to intellectual property, including small-island-scale technology, integrated waste management, waste-to-energy technology and waste water management in atolls.

Chapter V

Report of the Credentials Committee

143. Rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States provides that:

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-eighth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

144. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 1 September 2014, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee having the same composition as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-eighth session, namely Belgium, China, Colombia, Gabon, Guyana, the Russian Federation, Singapore, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

145. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 3 September 2014.

146. Deborah Yaw, Director, Multilateral and Global Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, was unanimously elected Chair.

147. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the secretariat of the Conference dated 2 September 2014 on the credentials of representatives of States participating in the Conference and of the European Union. A representative of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement relating to the memorandum, in which, among other things, he updated the memorandum to indicate credentials and communications received subsequent to its preparation.

148. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, formal credentials of representatives to the Conference, in the form required by rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, had been received as at the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee from the following 42 States and the European Union: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, China, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Fiji, Guinea, Guyana, Holy See, Ireland, Japan, Libya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Zambia.

149. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, information concerning the appointment of representatives of States to the Conference had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference, as at the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, by means of a cable or a telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, by the following 74 States: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chad, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico,

Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

150. As noted in paragraph 3 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, the following 82 States invited to participate in the Conference had not, as at the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference any information regarding their representatives to the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

151. The Committee decided to accept the credentials of the representatives of all States listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the above-mentioned memorandum and the statement relating thereto, and of the European Union, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 7 of the present report would be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference as soon as possible. With regard to the States listed in paragraph 8, credentials concerning their participation would be reviewed as appropriate.

152. The Committee adopted the following draft resolution without a vote:

“The Credentials Committee,

Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the States and of the European Union referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the memorandum by the secretariat of the Conference.”

153. The Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft resolution approving the report of the Committee.

Action taken by the Conference

154. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2014, the Conference considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.223/6). The Conference was informed that since the formal meeting of the Committee, credentials in due form had been received from Mauritius and Turkey.

155. The Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in its report (for the text, see chap. I, resolution III).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the outcome document of the Conference

156. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2014, the Conference had before it a draft resolution on the outcome document of the Conference, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), submitted by the President ([A/CONF.223/L.1](#)). The Samoa Pathway, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee, was before the Conference in document [A/CONF.223/3](#).

157. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted draft resolution [A/CONF.223/L.1](#), in which it recommended that the General Assembly endorse the Samoa Pathway (for the text, see chap. I, resolution I).

158. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United States.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Conference

159. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2014, the Rapporteur-General introduced the draft report of the Conference ([A/CONF.223/L.3](#), A/CONF.223/CRP.1 and A/CONF.223/CRP.2).

160. The Conference adopted the draft report and authorized the Rapporteur-General to finalize the report, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Chapter VIII

Closure of the Conference

161. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2014, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution expressing the Conference's gratitude to the host country ([A/CONF.223/L.2](#)).

162. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution II).

163. Also at the same meeting, closing statements were made the by Secretary-General of the Conference and the President of the Conference.

164. At the same meeting, the President of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States declared the Conference closed.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
A/CONF.223/1	4	Provisional agenda
A/CONF.223/2	3	Provisional rules of procedure
A/CONF.223/3	10	Draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
A/CONF.223/4	6	Organizational and procedural matters
A/CONF.223/5	6	Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
A/CONF.223/6	7	Report of the Credentials Committee
A/CONF.223/7		Letter dated 4 September 2014 from the representative of Argentina to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States addressed to the President of the Conference
A/CONF.223/8		Letter dated 4 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
A/CONF.223/9		Letter dated 11 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF/223/11		Summaries by the Chairs of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues
A/CONF.223/L.1	10	Draft resolution: Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)
A/CONF.223/L.2	11	Draft resolution: Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Samoa
A/CONF.223/L.3	11	Draft report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
A/CONF.223/CRP.1 (English only)	11	Summary of the plenary meetings to be included in the draft report of the Conference
A/CONF.223/CRP.2 (English only)	11	Summaries of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues to be included in the draft report of the Conference

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
A/CONF.223/INF/1	6	Information for participants
A/CONF.223/INF/2		List of participants
A/CONF.223/INF/3		List of partnerships registered in the small island developing States 2014 partnerships platform

Annex II

Opening statement by the President of the Conference

Opening statement by Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa and President of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

I want to welcome you all to a conference that Samoa, its Government and people have worked hard and long to make a special event. We are proud to be given this opportunity to show and share with you our home, our realities and our aspirations. To the United Nations membership, I thank you for giving us this honour.

Many of you have travelled a considerable distance to be here. Thank you for making the journey. From some places on the globe, Samoa is a long distance away. But so too are New York and Europe, places we are required to travel to on a regular basis. My hope is that those who have travelled far will come to appreciate the great distances that many island representatives have to traverse whenever the world community convenes global events like today's conference. But distance does not need to be a tyranny if we work together to understand our many differing perspectives.

In an increasingly interrelated world, critical problems do not recognize borders and hold no respect for sovereignty. The big problems of our small islands will sooner rather than later impact every country irrespective of level of development or prosperity. Clearly we need to work together and partner with others to achieve our full potentials in order to effectively address our expanding challenges.

The overarching theme of our conference is the sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships. We thank the international community for accepting our proposal for this to be the focus of our conference. And the extent to which partnership has been embraced and woven in the conference's programme shows the potential for a similar approach in comparable United Nations meetings elsewhere.

Our partnerships theme allows each and all of us, countries, regional and international organizations, civil society, the private sector — all gathered here who support the cause of small island developing States — to set out specific commitments. Small island developing States' priorities and the means to implement them have already been articulated, negotiated and agreed upon and are now a matter of United Nations record. We hope that partnerships will help provide the means to implement them.

There are always great opportunities to deliver moralistic statements and declarations of intent. But grandstanding won't achieve our goals. Blaming and shaming and apportioning culpability is uncharacteristic of genuine partnerships. While strong and clear words are welcome, declared commitments to action are even more warmly embraced.

It is crucial as we work through this conference, as we are involved in the partnership dialogues, as we attend and listen and learn from the large array of side events and parallel activities, that we keep clearly in mind that the work starts here.

This conference is built on the Barbados and Mauritius conferences of the past 20 years. We know from those great events that it is what follows on that makes the real difference.

The “special case of small island developing States” is a clear recognition by partners of our vulnerabilities and the unique challenges faced by our small, isolated, but incredibly beautiful and unique island nations. Our articulation of that special case over the last 20 years, and its translation into action is the very underpinning of the partnerships we celebrate and launch this week. It enables our partners to embark on a journey with us over time to help build resilient and meaningful futures for our people, and indeed for the rest of the world who enjoy what small island developing States have to offer.

Our conference is being held on the threshold of some very important events, not only for small island developing States but for all the human family. Three weeks from today, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will host the climate summit in New York. We as Heads of State and Government should take the lead. To support an ambitious climate change treaty in 2015, we should announce bold commitments of what we can do, not what others should do. The outcome of our summit should send a clear signal to the Lima Conference to negotiate in earnest and in good faith so that Paris becomes the conference of hope for small island developing States in 2015.

In singling out climate change, I want to remind us that 22 years ago at the Earth Summit in Rio, it was we the islanders, through our Alliance of Small Island States, who insisted on placing climate change on the international agenda, where it remains a priority item to this day.

Our message is the same today as it was in Rio in 1992: climate change is a global problem, yet international action to address it remains grossly inadequate. Small island States contribute the least to the causes of climate change — yet suffer most from its effects. For our low-lying islands, climate change is an existential issue; sympathy and pity will not provide solace nor halt the devastational impacts. That is why we want all our partners to step forward and commit to addressing once and for all the root causes of climate change.

And in the implementation of your national commitments, small island developing States’ vulnerability should not be advanced or used as the reason for doing so. What individual countries do is first and foremost for the benefit of their people and their own economies. By necessity and survival, small island developing States have no choice but to mitigate and adapt to the changing environment. It’s the future of our people that is at stake — hence we have to act now, not tomorrow, with or without the support of others.

Looking back, the Alliance of Small Island States has come of age. Its writ is no longer limited to climate change. Its advocacy now extends to all three pillars of sustainable development, and more. Full credit goes to Nauru, our current chair, for its dedicated and committed leadership of the group during significant developments in the multilateral arena. The preceding chairmanship of Grenada from the Caribbean region is also deserving of special mention for advancing the goals of the group. With the shift of the leadership at the start of 2015 to a member from the African and Indian Ocean region, we are optimistic that the Alliance will continue to provide the moral voice in the climate change negotiations — as the proverbial

“canary in the coal mine”. We will continue to sound the alarm bells whether States hear it or heed it. There is no other option.

As small island developing States, we benefit from the different perspectives and support of our development partners, our regional organizations as well as the United Nations system. We call for further effort to ensure that there is clarity between regional and global mandates to avoid unnecessary tensions and to ensure that both are given appropriate balance when policies are being developed that affect small island developing States.

One of the realities of small island developing States is the pace of change occurring around them. The twenty-first century will see more change than all of history before it. By their very characteristics of remoteness, size and the like, small island developing States are vulnerable to missing the opportunities that come with such globalization and change. The challenge going forward from this conference will be to ensure that this does not happen. Never before have we needed such strong and focused support from our many partners. Never before has there been a greater need for the United Nations system to work in clear and focused support of small island developing States.

I want to acknowledge the partnership between the Secretary-General and the States Members of the United Nations in designating 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States, the first time a group has been accorded such rare recognition.

We are “sea-locked” nations. The inclusion of oceans as a potential “stand-alone” sustainable development goal through our persistent advocacy underscores the importance of oceans to our people. Oceans are the world’s most important shared resource connecting all people; they act as vast ecosystems regulating climate and weather and are a driving force in the global economy. The sea may divide us, but it actually connects us and brings us together — not simply in terms of the bad news that is the global rise in sea level, but as an asset whose sustainable development binds us together and can contribute to our collective wealth as nations.

One of my pleasant responsibilities as President of the conference is to facilitate the adoption by consensus of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action, or the Samoa Pathway in short, before the closure of our conference. To this end, I want to recognize the hard work and the accommodating spirit which characterized the negotiation of our outcome document under the co-chairs, New Zealand and Singapore. The fact that the Samoa Pathway was approved months ahead of our conference was a rarity in the United Nations context, and to take place at a time of unprecedented action and effort across many areas of the sustainable development agenda is clearly genuine partnership at work.

This week we meet to chart a course to continue and increase efforts to protect, develop and maintain the contribution that small island developing States make to the global community and to themselves. Small island developing States’ viability and prosperity are interconnected with the actions and development pathways of your own countries, no matter the size and economic status. In our global village, we must be attentive to ensure there is equilibrium among the three pillars of sustainable development. Because where a few countries exploit economic, environmental or social advantages, it will indeed have dire implications and

consequences for the rest of the world. This sense of balance and support, of give and take, is the foundation upon which genuine and durable partnerships among small island developing States and with others should be anchored for now and the long haul.

We have launched a new and evolving framework for partnerships. We have also brought the private sector and other major stakeholders to the same table with small island developing States and their partners. The pre-conference forums of last week, the parallel events, the side events and the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues this week will hopefully serve as the new template for the United Nations to do things differently and innovatively. Small island developing States deserve nothing less. We hope that the Samoa Pathway will be a pathway of concrete commitments from all our partners to lead small island developing States to a future where there is hope for the smallest among us, so that no one is left behind.

That must be our legacy. My fellow leaders of small island developing States are determined that it will be. Thank you.

Annex III

Closing statement by the President of the Conference

Closing statement by Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa and President of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

We have just adopted by consensus the Samoa Pathway. We have similarly accepted as part of the conference outcome the summaries of the six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue sessions. I want to thank you all for your cooperation, without which we would not have been able to complete our task on time.

This week has been a great privilege for me and all my Pacific brothers and sisters to host you on our shores at the third small island developing States conference. I hope your brief sojourn in our islands has given you a deeper appreciation of our challenges and empathy for our realities and allowed you to witness first-hand what we are doing to deal with the major global problems of our time. Those were the overriding reasons for us hosting this conference.

I hope this experience has been as rewarding for you as it has been for us and that you will leave here with a sense of what it feels like to be a small island developing State in a global arena of competing priorities and demands, where those with the resources and the influence emerge the winners. I hope too that you had a chance to see how we celebrate our culture and to fully appreciate how interwoven our lives, economies and societies are with our environment. And that fundamentally we are all part of a global family and our destinies are very much linked with yours.

Before closing, I have a few messages to share with you. I hope your reflections are similar.

At the outset, let me recall that Samoa is by no means the final destination for responses to small island developing States' development challenges. Rather it is an important launching point for our journey to sustainably employ the few resources available to us to improve and raise the standard of living of our communities.

The first meeting of consequence is the Secretary-General's summit on climate change in three weeks' time, an essential forerunner to the Lima and Paris negotiations for an ambitious climate change treaty in 2015. For small island developing States, capturing their positions in a Paris treaty is an absolute priority.

Equally important is the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Japan in March 2015. The gradual but inevitable shift of focus from small island developing States' vulnerabilities to building their resilience means that any decisions on this front must be informed by the perspectives of those States.

And, there are of course the sustainable development goals to be finalized soon and the post-2015 United Nations development agenda framework to be negotiated in due course, which small island developing States should keep under constant watch so that they do not become missed opportunities for the group.

Thus after today's closure, I hope the Samoa Pathway will not be viewed as an end in itself, to be used only as a reference point for convenience or until the next conference. Much investment in genuine goodwill by small island developing States and their partners went into agreeing to the Samoa Pathway as the blueprint for small island developing States' sustainable development for now and the immediate future.

For our partners and for ourselves in particular, I trust that over the next 10 years, the Samoa Pathway will become the compass to guide our trip, the itinerary that ensures we don't miss any important multilateral meetings along the way, and the prepaid ticket that guarantees a seat on this journey and ensures that our voice is heard by other members on any matter affecting small island developing States and the international family.

This week, the messages emanating from this conference have been heard loud and clear around the globe, thanks to the power of Internet technology and connectivity. Distances have been eliminated and different time zones are no longer a barrier. This was made possible with the support of local information technology companies and global corporate partners like the Microsoft Corporation. We owe them all a note of gratitude.

Today marks a beginning, not an end.

This week we have all helped to build a great *va'a*, or voyaging canoe, the Samoa Pathway. We have equipped it with the many paddles necessary to move it forward, through the many partnerships we have celebrated and launched here in the Pacific. We are departing on a journey and charting a course together towards the many multilateral negotiations awaiting us. It is our sincere hope that you will all be ambassadors of goodwill for small island developing States. Indeed, as I said at the outset, Samoa and the Pacific is your home, and you will always be welcomed as family and friends.

The time for speeches is over. We must now set sail, determined to follow the course of action we have mapped and agreed to here at the third small island developing States conference. With the genuine and durable partnerships established during the conference, there is every reason for small island developing States to look ahead to the future with great comfort and confidence.

I thank you. *Fa'afetai ma ia manuia.*