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48 Sustainable development of small island developing States: further implementation and review of the Barbados Programme of Action (Barbados+10)¹

The General Conference,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in April-May 1994,

Recognizing that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from their small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, climate change and climate variability, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack and depletion of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports, waste management challenges, erosion of social and cultural values, and issues related to migration and social transformations,

Recognizing the great cultural diversity of small island States, including the multidimensional connections that link islands with each other and with the rest of the world,

Aware of the significant efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral financial and trading system,

Recalling that UNESCO has carried out projects specifically focused on small islands for more than 30 years, a house-wide review having been prepared for the Barbados 1994 Conference, in the form of a document entitled “Island Agenda – An Overview of UNESCO’s Work on Island Environments, Territories and Societies”,

Also recalling the more recent measures taken by UNESCO to work closely with its small island developing Member States and Associate Members in optimizing benefits from the programmes and projects of the Organization, including the cross-cutting themes of eradicating poverty and promoting information and communication technologies,

Recalling further in this respect the steps taken by UNESCO to promote intersectoral, interregional cooperation in fields related to sustainable development in coastal areas and small islands, such as

1. Resolution adopted on the reports of Commissions I, II, III, IV and V at the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st plenary meetings, on 15, 16 and 17 October 2003.

the establishment by the General Conference at its 28th session in 1995 of the Coastal Regions and Small Islands (CSI) platform,

Taking into account the consultation processes conducted by UNESCO during the period 1997-1999, including “Focus on the Pacific”, “Focus on the Caribbean” and “Indian Ocean Forum 2000”,

Recalling the discussions and decision by the Executive Board at its 159th session in May 2000 on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (159 EX/Decision 7.1.1),

Taking note of the particular emphasis given to small island developing States in the Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, and the call for the United Nations General Assembly to consider convening an international meeting for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action,

Noting the decision of the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 57/262 to convene an international meeting in 2004 in Mauritius, including a high-level segment, for a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Noting also the invitation extended by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session (CSD-11, New York, 28 April-9 May 2003) to the international community, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies to support regional initiatives and to collaborate closely in partnership with the regional organizations and institutions to expedite preparations for the review,

Noting furthermore the invitation of CSD-11 to the international donor and development community and international organizations to provide information, on or before 31 January 2004, on their activities in support of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as on recommendations for further action in support of the full implementation of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the initial steps taken by UNESCO to respond to these invitations, including the identification of a UNESCO focal point for the Barbados+10 process and the participation of UNESCO in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Barbados+10 and in the preparations for the Mauritius meeting mentioned above, as well as the house-wide efforts to set up an interactive website designed to facilitate public access to information on the Organization’s wide-ranging work related to sustainable living in small island developing States,

Recalling the strong emphasis placed on the importance of the sustainable development of small island developing States at the Ninth Consultation of National Commissions for UNESCO (Nadi, Fiji, 7-11 July 2003),

1. *Urges* Member States and Associate Members to:
 - (a) participate actively in the preparation, convening and follow-up of the international meeting to be held in Mauritius in August-September 2004 to provide for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
 - (b) mobilize UNESCO’s programmes and networks in their respective countries and regions, in order to promote further the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, *inter alia* through the use of existing media and new information and communication technologies to nurture stakeholder dialogue, regional and interregional understanding, and cohesive action;
2. *Urges* non-governmental organizations in official relations with UNESCO to:
 - (a) work in close partnership with government and other stakeholders for the preparation of the Mauritius meeting and its follow-up;
 - (b) become actively involved in the civil society component of the Mauritius meeting and its preparatory process at national, regional and international levels;
3. *Invites* the Director-General to:
 - (a) continue to undertake concrete measures for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action in the context of UNESCO’s programmes and projects, giving special attention to the synergies of various kinds of interaction and cooperation – within and between societal sectors, disciplines, various stakeholder groups (government, civil society, youth, private sector, research and education communities) and regions, and within and between institutions and organizations at various levels (local, national, subregional, regional, international);
 - (b) contribute to the full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, *inter alia* through appropriate efforts to compile, synthesize and diffuse experience on UNESCO’s past, ongoing and future contribution to sustainable development in small island developing States;
 - (c) report to the Executive Board at its 169th session on the status of and preparations for the Mauritius meeting and its expected outcomes;

- (d) report to the General Conference at its 33rd session (2005) on the outcomes of and follow-up to the international meeting in Mauritius (August-September 2004), to include pertinent proposals in document 33 C/5 and in subsequent C/5 documents and to take the results of the meeting fully into account in the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4).