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V

Reinforcing UNESCO's strategy on small island developing States

- Welcoming with satisfaction* the declaration by the United Nations of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States,
- Acknowledging* the distinctive contribution that UNESCO has made to the implementation of the follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States under the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) in such areas as tangible and intangible cultural heritage, natural heritage, climate change and education for sustainable development, and communication and information, among others,
- Appreciative* of the role that UNESCO is playing, particularly through the UNESCO Offices in Apia for the Pacific, in Kingston for the Caribbean and in Nairobi for the Indian Ocean, as well as its SIDS focal point unit at Headquarters and the Liaison Office in New York, in preparation for, and contribution to, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Apia on 1-4 September 2014,
- Anticipating* that the Apia Conference will: assess progress to date in the implementation of the Barbados [Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States](#) (1994), and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2005); seek renewed political commitment by SIDS Member States and UNESCO by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation; identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and also identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,
- Seeking* to actively contribute to, and build on, the priorities and opportunities for SIDS to be defined by the Third International Conference in Apia, and ensure timely input to, and implementation of, the Organization's contribution to its outcomes before, and as soon as possible, after September 2014,
- Considering* the abolition of the UNESCO intersectoral platform on SIDS and the reduced human resources of the SIDS focal point unit,
- Having received* assurances from the Director-General as to the Organization's ability and resources to build on the principles of the Mauritius Strategy, with a view to deepening and renewing UNESCO's approach by developing cross-cutting and cross-scale approaches to reducing vulnerabilities and promoting the resilience of small island developing States in the face of global environmental and socio-cultural change, as expressed in paragraphs 19 and 65 of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4),
- Welcoming* the commitment, in the implementation of each of the major programmes for 2014-2017, to a special emphasis on small island developing States with a view to addressing their unique and particular vulnerabilities,
1. *Invites* the Director-General:
 - (a) to seize all relevant opportunities to associate UNESCO's activities for small island developing States during 2014, with the International Year of Small Island Developing States (2014), with the aim of raising awareness of the unique sustainable development challenges faced by this particular group of Member States, as well as to celebrate SIDS education, scientific and technological achievements in response to those challenges;
 - (b) to continue to provide support for the convening of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Apia, Samoa, in September 2014, in particular through the UNESCO

Office for the Pacific in Apia, UNESCO's other SIDS field offices, and the coordinating SIDS focal point unit in Headquarters;

- (c) to ensure timely contribution from the SIDS Member States on the future priorities in the Organization's programme of work beyond 2014, in particular relating to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, natural heritage, climate change adaptation and mitigation, tourism, disaster risk reduction including, *inter alia*, early-warning systems of impending storms and tsunamis, education for sustainable development, and building knowledge societies;
- (d) to reflect the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in the implementation of the Organization's Programme and Budget for 2014-2017, and to report thereon to the Executive Board at its 196th session;
- (e) to develop an action plan for implementing the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in the areas relevant to UNESCO's mandate, to be:
 - (i) developed in consultation with the subregional offices concerned, in particular the UNESCO Offices for SIDS of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and the Caribbean, coordinated by the dedicated SIDS focal point unit, and in consultation with all SIDS Member States;
 - (ii) prepared within six months after the Third International Conference in Apia;
 - (iii) inclusive of a package of strategic, highly visible, tangible actions and measurable indicators, addressing key issues within UNESCO's mandate including education for sustainable development, heritage protection, tourism, oceans, culture, youth, traditional knowledge and actions to address climate change, with quantifiable outcomes for SIDS;
 - (iv) adopted with an interregional SIDS focus, aimed at facilitating institutional capacity-building and the sharing of experience and best practices among SIDS of all regions;
- (f) to implement this action plan through highly decentralized activities in SIDS of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans and the Caribbean, taking full account of interdisciplinary connections between all major programmes and interregional linkages among SIDS worldwide;
- (g) to ensure, as far as is possible, within existing budgetary allocations, that the field offices concerned, and the coordinating SIDS focal point unit at Headquarters, are provided with the capacity and the human resources to begin delivering on this action plan from 2015;
- (h) to collaborate fully with the United Nations family of institutions, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and with other international and regional organizations, in contributing to timely follow-up to the Conference, while at the same time avoiding duplication.