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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Diamane **Diome** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see [A/75/457](#), para. 3). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 6th meeting, on 24 November 2020. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary record.¹

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/75/L.16](#) and [A/C.2/75/L.52](#)

2. At its 6th meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" ([A/C.2/75/L.52](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Rosemary O'Hehir (Australia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.16](#).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.52](#) had no programme budget implications.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbols [A/75/457](#), [A/75/457/Add.1](#), [A/75/457/Add.2](#), [A/75/457/Add.3](#), [A/75/457/Add.4](#), [A/75/457/Add.5](#), [A/75/457/Add.6](#), [A/75/457/Add.7](#), [A/75/457/Add.8](#) and [A/75/457/Add.9](#).

¹ See [A/C.2/75/SR.6](#).



4. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Colombia.²
5. Also at the 6th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.52](#) (see para. 13, draft resolution I).
6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Turkey, the European Union (on behalf of its member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Islamic Republic of Iran and El Salvador.²
7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.52](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.16](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/75/L.21](#) and [A/C.2/75/L.47](#)

8. At its 6th meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” ([A/C.2/75/L.47](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Rosemary O’Hehir (Australia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.21](#).
9. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.47](#) had no programme budget implications.
10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.47](#) (see para. 13, draft resolution II).
11. Also at the 6th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.²
12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.47](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.21](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

² Ibid.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,² the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,⁴ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁵ the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁶ the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁷ the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,⁸ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁹ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,¹¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹³

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 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 *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 I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

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 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ *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.

⁷ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁸ Resolution 69/15, annex.

⁹ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 70/1.

¹¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹³ Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

Recalling also the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,¹⁴

Recalling further its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, reaffirming in this regard the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Taking into account all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006, 63/214 of 19 December 2008, 65/155 of 20 December 2010, 67/205 of 21 December 2012, 69/216 of 19 December 2014, 71/224 of 21 December 2016 and 73/229 of 20 December 2018,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹⁵

Recalling also the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983,¹⁶ and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,¹⁷ which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁸ and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora¹⁹ and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,²⁰

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,²¹

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource

¹⁴ Resolution S-22/2, annex.

¹⁵ Resolution 60/1.

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

²¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 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 II.

base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

Recognizing also that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risks of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic and its severe global economic disruptions are having a significant negative impact on the sustainable development and humanitarian needs of Caribbean countries that are dependent on tourism, commodities, stable global supply chains and remittances, making the prospect of achieving the 2030 Agenda more difficult,

Noting that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rising sea level, oceanic oscillation phenomena, such as the El Niño phenomenon, and the potential increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, which increase their sustainable development challenges,

Welcoming the initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to establish a debt swap task force so that Caribbean economies can mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change while trying to reduce the debt burden,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Recalling the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds,

in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the safe transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity of and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote the integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the significant progress made on regional ocean governance through the formulation of the strategic action programme of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project, endorsed by ministers in 21 countries of the region,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States members and associate members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

Recalling the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work and its contribution to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to international law;

2. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for regional and international action to enhance efforts at the national and subnational levels, as appropriate, to build resilience;

3. *Stresses* that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to support and invest in action at all levels to build resilience through, inter alia, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, the sustainable management of ecosystems and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity;

4. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

5. *Reaffirms its support* for the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to enhance their support, including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, as appropriate, to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

6. *Welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

7. *Invites* the international community to support the efforts of the Caribbean Sea Commission to establish a databank with the aim of improving the management of the specific emerging critical issues related to the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea through the sharing of management experiences and project resource data, including, but not limited to, the prediction, monitoring and management of sargassum seaweed inundation faced by the Caribbean;

8. *Welcomes* the convening of the eighth summit of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Managua in March 2019, which adopted the Declaration of Managua and its plan of action for the period 2019–2021, which includes measures to support and promote the preservation and sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

11. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session;

12. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to the relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

13. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region under annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention

of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto,²² which entered into force in May 2011;

14. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

15. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

16. *Notes with deep concern* that invasive alien species, such as *Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*, known as lionfish, constitute an emerging threat to biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region, and urges the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide assistance and support in addressing this issue in the region;

17. *Also notes with deep concern* the sargassum seaweed influx and its negative impact on the people, the territory and the economy of the Caribbean, as well as the deterioration of the coral reefs;

18. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

19. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to actively support the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States for the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

20. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years, in particular the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and invites Member States and other partners to support early warning systems in the region;

22. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

23. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc,

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1340, No. 22484.

Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

24. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

26. *Encourages* the international community and the United Nations system, in line with their programming priorities, to support initiatives aimed at addressing mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in the wider Caribbean region included in the Plan of Action for 2019–2021;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, under the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” of the item entitled “Sustainable development”, on the implementation of the present resolution, emphasizing the three dimensions of sustainable development, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such, without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations, unless otherwise agreed.

Draft resolution II
Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated
Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius
Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of
Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island
Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹ is a stand-alone, overarching framework setting out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States that builds on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States² and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ and recognizing that the Samoa Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁵ and is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁶ the New Urban Agenda⁷ and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁸

Reaffirming also that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, renewing thus our solidarity with them, as they continue to face the combined challenges arising, in particular, from their geographical remoteness, the small scale of their economies, high costs and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and remaining particularly concerned that many small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

¹ Resolution 69/15, annex.

² *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.

³ *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.

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

⁵ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁶ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

⁸ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Acknowledging the severe consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the sustainable development of small island developing States envisioned in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including the far-reaching and enduring consequences for poverty eradication, employment, growth and social welfare as a result of the unprecedented contraction of their economies, and noting with concern that the external debt stocks of small island developing States have increased by 70 percentage points since 2009, resulting in the average rate of external debt to gross domestic product in those States rising by 11 percentage points to 61.7 per cent in 2019, while the ability of those States to self-insure against exogenous shocks continues to deteriorate further, highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks,

Acknowledging also the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

Taking note with concern of the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the special reports entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

Welcoming the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September, noting its multi-partner initiatives and commitments, noting also the Youth Climate Summit, held on 21 September 2019, and stressing the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in small island developing States,

Noting the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, acknowledging their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the call made in the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”,⁹ encouraging the fulfilment of voluntary commitments pledged in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and noting the decision to postpone the 2020 conference,¹⁰

Noting with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, welcoming the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020, at the level of Heads of State and Government, and looking forward to the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Underscoring the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and noting that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for small island developing States and other developing countries,

⁹ Resolution 71/312, annex.

¹⁰ Decision 74/548 of 13 April 2020.

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation, and paragraph 22 of the Samoa Pathway, which underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to address the major challenges facing small island developing States,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹¹
2. *Welcomes* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration,¹² in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening cooperation with and support to small island developing States in the context of sustainable development, in line with their national development strategies and priorities, and looks forward to the implementation of the calls made in the political declaration;
3. *Reiterates* the call to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Declaration of Barbados¹³ and 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, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalls the discussion during the 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;
4. *Notes* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States have significantly expanded;¹⁴
5. *Notes with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;
6. *Calls for* urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the Paris Agreement, to address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

¹¹ [A/75/273](#).

¹² Resolution [74/3](#).

¹³ *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 I.

¹⁴ See [A/71/324](#), [A/71/324/Corr.1](#) and [A/71/324/Add.1](#).

7. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek new solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

8. *Calls for* immediate and substantial actions to facilitate the responses of small island developing States to recover from the unfolding crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and address the unprecedented health and economic crisis unfolding in such States, while preserving their sustainable development achievements and commitments, and reinforce their resilience to climate change in line with the Samoa Pathway and the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide recommendations, as part of his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use;

(b) To use his convening powers with the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to work on devising solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term;

9. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;

10. *Reiterates* that many small island developing States continue to face the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and in this regard recognizes the economic challenges, including unsustainable debt levels, arising in part from extreme weather events and slow-onset events;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to conduct, in consultation with Member States, all relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, an examination of the disaster-related funding and support environment, with a view to the possible development of a targeted voluntary disaster fund, mechanism or financial instrument, coordinated with and complementary to existing mechanisms, to assist small island developing States in managing disaster risk and building back better after disasters, and to report thereon at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly;

12. *Reaffirms* that official development assistance, both technical and financial, can foster resilient societies and economies, and calls upon the international community to mobilize additional development finance from all sources and at all levels to support small island developing States' efforts;

13. *Calls upon* relevant institutions to learn from one another's efforts to address the diverse circumstances of countries, to better manage transitions and graduation, recognizes that official development assistance should continue to focus on countries most in need, and takes note of a willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to invite the World Bank to consider reviving the high-level working group among the development banks and its partners to review the rules governing access for small island developing States to concessional finance;

15. *Underlines* the need to take targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

16. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States is not possible without private investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be facilitated and attracted through the creation of an enabling environment and capacity support for small island developing States;

17. *Notes* the comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria by the Committee for Development Policy, which was concluded at the plenary of the Committee, in 2020;

18. *Recognizes with concern* the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, remains mindful that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multiannual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, inter alia, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macrofinancial stability;

19. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2020, within existing resources, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, convened in September 2019, and on the efforts to assist small island developing States to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic;

21. *Recognizes* 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 success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General, within existing resources and in consultation with Member States, all relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, to identify the Samoa Pathway priority areas not covered by the Sustainable Development Goals or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and, if any are identified, to develop forthwith targets and indicators for those priority areas while ensuring complementarities and synergies and avoiding duplication, in order to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, and while noting the work being done by the Office of the High Representative to develop a toolkit for a harmonized approach to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway as a whole, and to provide recommendations as part of the report of the Secretary-General

on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.
