

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

First meeting (24-26 February 2014)

Final meeting (23-27 June and 11 July 2014)

Special meeting (21 March 2014)



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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [68/238](#) of 27 December 2013, the Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held its first meeting from 24 to 26 February 2014 and its final meeting from 23 to 27 June and on 11 July 2014.¹ The Preparatory Committee also held one special meeting, on 21 March 2014.
2. During the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, four plenary meetings, as well as a number of meetings of its two contact groups and its working group, were held, and various associated activities were carried out.
3. The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee was opened on 24 February by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference, Wu Hongbo.
4. During the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, three plenary meetings,² as well as a number of meetings of the working group on the draft outcome document of the Conference, were held, and various associated activities were carried out.
5. The final meeting of the Preparatory Committee was opened on 23 June by the Co-Chairs of the Committee, Karen Tan (Singapore) and Phillip Taula (New Zealand).
6. All the meetings of the Preparatory Committee were chaired by the Co-Chairs (Singapore and New Zealand).

B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 24 February, the Preparatory Committee elected the following members of its Bureau by acclamation:

Milan Jaya Meetarbhan (Mauritius)
Ronald Jean Jumeau (Seychelles)
Katsuhiko Takahashi (Japan)
Karen Tan (Singapore)
Elena Anca Jurcan (Romania)
Dmytro Kushneruk (Ukraine)
Kereeta Whyte (Barbados)
Yanerit Morgan (Mexico)
Phillip Taula (New Zealand)
Juan Manuel González de Linares Palou (Spain)

¹ The Preparatory Committee also held an intersessional meeting from 21 to 25 April 2014, during which it held two meetings, as well as a number of informal meetings and various related activities.

² The Preparatory Committee had to request approval from the Bureau of the Committee on Conferences to continue the third plenary meeting of the Preparatory Committee beyond 27 June 2014 in order for the Preparatory Committee to complete its work.

8. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected, by acclamation, Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations, as an ex officio member of the Bureau of the Committee.

9. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee was informed that Karen Tan (Singapore) and Phillip Taula (New Zealand) would serve as the Co-Chairs and that Juan Manuel González de Linares Palou (Spain) would serve as the Rapporteur of the Committee.

10. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, opening statements were made by the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference, Wu Hongbo, and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Gyan Chandra Acharya.

C. Agenda and organization of work

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 24 February, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its first and final meetings, as contained in document [A/CONF.223/PC/1](#). The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference.
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

13. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved its proposed organization of work for the first meeting, as contained in an informal paper, on the understanding that further adjustments would be made as necessary.

14. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish the following contact groups: contact group I, to consider the issue of the accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Conference and its preparatory process; and contact group II, to consider the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee further agreed that contact group I would be co-facilitated by Vice-Chairs Yanerit Morgan (Mexico) and Elena Anca Jurcan (Romania), and that contact group II would be co-facilitated by Vice-Chairs Milan Jaya Meetarbhan (Mauritius) and Kereeta Whyte (Barbados).

16. At its special meeting, on 21 March, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the preparatory process

and in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States”, as contained in document [A/CONF.223/PC/L.1](#).

17. At the 1st plenary meeting of its intersessional meeting, on 21 April, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish a working group for the negotiations on the draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

18. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee agreed that the working group would be co-facilitated by the Co-Chair, Phillip Taula (New Zealand), and by Mark Neo (Singapore), on behalf of the Co-Chair, Karen Tan (Singapore).

19. At the 1st plenary meeting of its final meeting, on 23 June, the Preparatory Committee approved its proposed organization of work for the final meeting, as contained in an informal paper, on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary.

20. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee was informed of the recommendation of the Bureau that the President of the Economic and Social Council and a representative of the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21,³ on behalf of all the nine major groups, would be invited to speak at the opening plenary meeting of the Conference.

21. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee was informed of the decision of the Bureau that, time permitting and without setting a precedent, opportunities to make statements in the general debate would also be given to other entities allowed to participate in the Conference as observers, namely the intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations, other intergovernmental organizations and interested United Nations organs.

22. Also at that meeting, the Preparatory Committee was informed of the decision of the Bureau that, time permitting and without setting a precedent, the nine major groups would be provided with the opportunity to make statements in the general debate.

D. Attendance

23. The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee was attended by representatives of 71 States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of regional commissions, representatives of United Nations organs and representatives of non-governmental organizations also attended. A preliminary list of delegations is contained in document [A/CONF.223/PC/INF/1](#).

24. The final meeting of the Preparatory Committee was attended by representatives of 48 States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and

³ Women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers.

other entities, associate members of regional commissions, representatives of United Nations organs and representatives of non-governmental organizations also attended. A preliminary list of delegations is contained in document [A/CONF.223/PC/INF/2](#).

E. Conclusion of the session

25. At the 3rd (resumed) plenary meeting of the final meeting, on 11 July, a statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee.

F. Documentation

27. The list of documents before the Preparatory Committee is contained in the annex to the present report.

Chapter II

Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

A. Arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the preparatory process and in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

28. At its special meeting, held on 21 March, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the preparatory process and in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States” ([A/CONF.223/PC/L.1](#)).

29. At the same meeting, Yanerit Morgan (Mexico), Vice-Chair of the Preparatory Committee and co-facilitator of contact group I, made a statement and introduced the draft decision.

30. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

31. Also at that meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).

32. Also at its special meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision.

B. Accreditation and participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process

33. At the 1st plenary meeting of its final meeting, on 23 June, the Preparatory Committee approved the requests for accreditation for the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency to participate in the work of the Conference and its preparatory process as observers.

C. Accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

34. At the 2nd plenary meeting of its final meeting, on 25 June, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the preparatory process and in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States” ([A/CONF.223/PC/L.2](#)).

35. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

36. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision and decided to endorse the recommendations by the Secretariat on the accreditation

of those non-governmental organizations and other major groups currently not in consultative status but wishing to attend and contribute to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process, as contained in annex 1 to the note by the Secretary-General ([A/CONF.223/PC/5](#)).

D. Provisional rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

37. At the 2nd plenary meeting of its final meeting, on 25 June, the Preparatory Committee had before it the draft provisional rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States ([A/CONF.223/PC/3/Rev.1](#)).

38. At the same meeting, Milan Jaya Meetarbhan (Mauritius), Vice-Chair of the Preparatory Committee and co-facilitator of contact group II, made a statement and introduced the draft provisional rules of procedure.

39. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and recommended them to the Conference for adoption (see [A/CONF.223/2](#)).

E. Draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

40. At the 3rd (resumed) plenary meeting of its final meeting, on 11 July, the Preparatory Committee had before it the draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)”, as contained in an informal paper.

41. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation).

42. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft outcome document, as contained in an informal paper, and recommended it for adoption by the Conference (see [A/CONF.223/3](#)).

43. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nauru (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Turkey, Samoa, the Holy See and the Maldives.

44. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the European Union.

Chapter III

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

45. At the 3rd (resumed) plenary meeting of its final meeting, on 11 July, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft report of the Preparatory Committee as contained in document [A/CONF.223/PC/L.3](#) and entrusted the Rapporteur, in collaboration with the Bureau and the Secretariat, with its finalization.

Annex

List of documents before the Preparatory Committee

| <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Title or description</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| A/CONF.223/PC/1 | 2 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| A/CONF.223/PC/2 | 4 | Letter dated 24 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General |
| A/CONF.223/PC/3 | 3 | Draft provisional rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States: note by the Secretary-General |
| A/CONF.223/PC/3/Rev.1 | 3 | Revised draft provisional rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States: note by the Secretary-General |
| A/CONF.223/PC/4 | 2 | Letter dated 16 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States |
| A/CONF.223/PC/5 | 2 | Arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States: note by the Secretary-General |
| A/CONF.223/PC/6 | 2 | Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process: note by the Secretariat |
| A/CONF.223/PC/7 | 2 | Letter dated 23 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States |
| A/CONF.223/PC/L.1 | 2 | Arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the preparatory process and in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States: draft decision |
| A/CONF.223/PC/L.2 | 2 | Arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States: draft decision |

| <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Title or description</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| A/CONF.223/PC/L.3 | 6 | Draft report |
| A/CONF.223/PC/INF/1 | | Provisional list of delegations for the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee |
| A/CONF.223/PC/INF/2 | | Provisional list of delegations for the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee |

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