



MAURITIUS

STATEMENT

by

**The Hon. Anil Kumar Bachoo
Minister of Environment &
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at the

**14th Review Session of the United Nations
Commission on Sustainable Development**

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Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure for me to address the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 14th Session. I thank the Secretary-General for his presence at the opening of the High-Level Segment as well as for his report. I am particularly grateful for the special review on Small Island Developing States.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the Republic of South Africa on behalf of G-77 and China and by Botswana on behalf of Southern African Development Community.

Mr. Chairman, this second cycle addresses issues on energy, climate change, atmospheric pollution and industrial development as well as the linkages among them. From a SIDS perspective, there are intricate linkages between energy and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman, SIDS are particularly vulnerable to and are suffering from the impacts of globalization and trade liberalization. We are bound to change our economic architecture by exploring niche markets, consolidating our tourism sector and developing the services sector, among others. However, there is a time

lag, as markets need to be prospected, capacity developed and investment projects funded. Further, in view of our limited carrying capacity, the environmental impact of development, especially in the tourism and manufacturing sectors exacerbates our vulnerability. To complicate matters further, energy cost is annihilating all our efforts towards competitiveness in international as well as local markets leading to unemployment and negative growth in our countries.

Our partners in the north, have the responsibility to provide comprehensive and timely support integrating financial resources, technology development and deployment and capacity building to accompany our economic reform.

The shift towards renewable sources has thus also become an imperative. Cost of energy impairs efforts of developing countries towards sustainable development. These countries are actively involved in prospecting and promoting renewable energy. There are promising possibilities for bio-fuel, ocean technology and other sources, especially in SIDS. But to apply the appropriate technology to ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency, and to find the financial resources needed for investment, both in research and production remain a major constraint. We still need to see a real interest to help developing countries harness these possibilities.

Mr. Chairman, the full impacts of climate change on SIDS are not fully appreciated by the international community. We are concerned that the full environmental, economic and social dimensions of the impact of climate change on SIDS are given only marginal attention, while their vulnerability continues to grow. There is also a lack of information and detailed scientific research. Adaptation projects continue to be implemented with local funds in SIDS, as affirmed in the report of the Secretary-General. Donors, specially the GEF within its focal area of climate change, should direct full support, through special windows, to adaptation activities in SIDS, and to research and collection of scientific data.

Mr. Chairman, SIDS day provided an opportunity to review progress in taking forward the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. The discussion has clearly shown that SIDS cannot walk alone in this process.

It is remarkable that considerable efforts have been made to bring sustainable development in the mainstream through appropriate strategies in SIDS. What gives rise to serious concern is the fact that fifteen years after Rio, we still have to make the same appeal for financial resources, access to affordable and appropriate technology and capacity building, which are fundamental means of implementation.

Mr. Chairman, this second cycle can, and should, make a difference. In this respect, my delegation urges that a proper mechanism be put in place to mobilize the necessary resources, and call on the Secretary-General to ensure that the DESA plays its role fully.

Thank you.