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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: Ms. Francesca Cassar (Malta)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 18 (see [A/77/443](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 22nd and 25th meetings, on 21 and 23 November 2022. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary record.¹

II. Consideration

A. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/77/L.23](#) and [A/C.2/77/L.43](#)

2. At the 21st meeting, on 10 November 2022, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" ([A/C.2/77/L.23](#)).

3. At the 22nd meeting, on 21 November 2022, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" ([A/C.2/77/L.43](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 12 parts, under the symbols [A/77/443](#), [A/77/443/Add.1](#), [A/77/443/Add.2](#), [A/77/443/Add.3](#), [A/77/443/Add.4](#), [A/77/443/Add.5](#), [A/77/443/Add.6](#), [A/77/443/Add.7](#), [A/77/443/Add.8](#), [A/77/443/Add.9](#), [A/77/443/Add.10](#) and [A/77/443/Add.11](#).

¹ See [A/C.2/77/SR.22](#) and [A/C.2/77/SR.25](#).



Committee, Ahmed Magdy (Egypt), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.23](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that [A/C.2/77/L.43](#) had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.43](#) (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

6. Also at the 22nd meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Türkiye, the European Union (also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.43](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.23](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/77/L.22](#) and [A/C.2/77/L.55](#)

8. At the 21st meeting, on 10 November 2022, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) introduced 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.2/77/L.22](#)).

9. At the 25th meeting, on 23 November 2022, 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.2/77/L.55](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ahmed Magdy (Egypt), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.22](#).

10. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed of the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#), contained in document [A/C.2/77/L.74](#).

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#) (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

12. Also at the 25th meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia and Canada), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.22](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

14. 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,

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

Recognizing the efforts of Caribbean States to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”¹⁵ and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,¹⁶ calling for further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6 that matured in 2020, and renewing the commitment to take urgent action and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all the targets as soon as possible, without delay,

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, 73/229 of 20 December 2018 and 75/214 of 21 December 2020,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹⁷

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 1983,¹⁸ 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,¹⁹ 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 Diversity²⁰ and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora²¹ and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,²²

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 21,²³

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 71/312, annex.

¹⁶ Resolution 76/296, annex.

¹⁷ Resolution 60/1.

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

²² *Ibid.*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

²³ *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 Sea is a critical asset, which inter alia provides a range of ecosystem services and socioeconomic benefits in the form of food security and nutrition, employment, foreign exchange, culture and recreation,

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

Deeply concerned that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its severe global economic disruptions are having a devastating 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 for Sustainable Development 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,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, including in launching the debt swap initiative and the Caribbean Resilience Fund, to support Caribbean economies to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change, and noting also the particular efforts to address and reduce debt burdens, including through the Caribbean Resilience Fund,

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,

Noting with concern the impact of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on the Caribbean Sea area, encouraging further efforts at all levels to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, and welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,²⁴

²⁴ UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

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,

Welcoming the decision taken by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session to strengthen global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 5/7²⁵ and 5/8²⁶ of 2 March 2022,

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, and noting with deep concern the findings about cumulative human impacts on the ocean, including ecosystem degradation and species extinctions, as highlighted in the second *World Ocean Assessment* and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*,

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 progress that has been made on regional ocean governance by the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project, and the opportunity to further advance marine spatial planning through the commencement of the global PROCARIBE+ project,

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, including its plan of action for the period 2022–2028, 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,

²⁵ [UNEP/EA.5/Res.7](#).

²⁶ [UNEP/EA.5/Res.8](#).

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 adaptation and action at all levels to build resilience through, inter alia, disaster risk reduction, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, the sustainable management of ecosystems and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, and in this regard urges Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to COVID-19 recovery efforts;

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. *Also welcomes* the convening of the sixth International Cooperation Conference of the Association of Caribbean States, to be held in Havana on 10 and 11 November 2022, which aims to boost cooperation and attract funding to address new strategies and the implementation of projects and initiatives in support of the sustainable development of the Greater Caribbean;

8. *Acknowledges* the need to scale up the efforts of the Caribbean Sea Commission for the delivery of its programme of work, in particular in promoting the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, alongside plans to advance new initiatives at the sixth International Cooperation Conference of the Association of Caribbean States, and invites the international community to support these next steps;

9. *Looks forward* to the convening of the ninth summit of the Association of Caribbean States, to be held in La Antigua Guatemala in May 2023, and the adoption of its plan of action for the period 2022–2028, which focuses on strategizing to reposition the Greater Caribbean for enhanced resilience;

10. *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;

11. *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;

12. *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-ninth session;

13. *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;

14. *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,²⁷ which entered into force in May 2011;

15. *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;

16. *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;

17. *Invites* the international community to actively support efforts of Caribbean countries to implement regional strategies and action plans on marine pollution and marine biodiversity to further promote the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

18. *Notes with deep concern* that invasive alien species, such as *Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*, known as lionfish, constitute an acute 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;

19. *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;

20. *Encourages* continued collaboration and resource mobilization by the international community and all other sources, including public and private, bilateral

²⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1340, No. 22484.

and multilateral, to support capacity-building mechanisms and strengthen sargassum seaweed management for the Caribbean;

21. *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;

22. *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;

23. *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;

24. *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;

25. *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;

26. *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, 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;

27. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of 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;

28. *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;

29. *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 of the Association of Caribbean States for the period 2022–2028;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth 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 and 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 severe negative impact on 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 and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity,

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.

solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

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,

Recognizing with grave concern that small island developing States saw their external debt position deteriorate further in 2021, reaching new record levels of 66.1 billion dollars and raising the ratio of debt service costs to export revenues from 37 per cent in 2019 to 41.1 per cent in 2021,

Acknowledging 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 Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C, Climate Change and Land* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

Noting the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, owing to their unique characteristics, dependence on and particular exposure to the ocean and its biodiversity, and noting also the central role of the ocean in the culture, livelihoods and sustainable development of the peoples of small island developing States,

Acknowledging the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”⁹ and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,¹⁰ adopted, respectively, at the 2017 and 2022 United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, acknowledging also the further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on its targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6, which matured in 2020,¹¹ and renewing the commitment to taking urgent action and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay,

⁹ Resolution 71/312, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 76/296, annex.

¹¹ Ibid.

Noting with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, recalling the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020 and the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by China from 11 to 15 October 2021, and looking forward to the second part, to be held in Canada from 7 to 9 December 2022, at which a post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted,

Noting with concern also the impact of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on small island developing States, encouraging further efforts at all levels to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, as well as welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

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,

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;¹²
2. *Recalls* 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,¹³ and looks forward to the full and urgent 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 Barbados¹⁴ 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 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the

¹² [A/77/218](#).

¹³ Resolution [74/3](#).

¹⁴ *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.

sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;

4. *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;

5. *Welcomes* resolution 5/14 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in which it decided to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics;

6. *Recalls 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 of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizes the need for allocation of adequate resources commensurate with the mandates of these units, taking into account the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

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 crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and address the unprecedented health and economic crisis in these 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, notes with appreciation the recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the round-table process entitled “SIDS access to finance – identifying solutions for resilient COVID-19 recovery”, invites Member States to consider the statement and call to action from the second round-table dialogue on small island developing States and access to finance, held on 7 October 2021, and to join the Group of Friends of Small Island Developing States, and welcomes the commitments made by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in the communiqué of its high-level meeting of 2020, to improve policies and programmes to address the particular needs of small island developing States;

9. *Recognizes* that small island developing States face significant challenges in accessing sufficient affordable financing for sustainable development, including concessional financing, and in this regard encourages providers of development finance to consider the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States in order to strengthen development cooperation;

10. *Recalls* the Secretary-General’s recommendations and guiding principles on the development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on

its finalization and potential uses, also recalls the establishment of a representative high-level panel of experts co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, welcomes the progress of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States on its work and on its interim report, and in this regard:

(a) Supports the proposed definitions for structural vulnerability and resilience and the two-level structure outlined in the report as the basis for the Panel's continued work, guiding the selection of appropriate indicators to inform vulnerability across all sectors of sustainable development, the proposed governance structure and the development of the country vulnerability-resilience profiles;

(b) Notes the request of the Panel for an extension of time to complete its work, and decides to request the Panel to finalize its work on the index, in full consultation with all Member States and other relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the terms of reference for the High-level Panel, and to convene additional consultations, as necessary, to address these and other relevant issues, taking into account the written submissions submitted to date, and to submit its final report no later than 30 June 2023;

11. *Reiterates* that small island developing States continue to face loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, resulting in unprecedented social, economic and environmental challenges that push debt to unsustainable levels, and in this regard calls for urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to avert, minimize and address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

12. *Takes note of* the Secretary-General's findings regarding the limited capacity of small island developing States, including upper-middle-income and high-income small island developing States, to gain access to disaster-related funding owing to differing eligibility criteria and the quantum of resources required to gain access thereto, as well as the need for an enabling environment at all levels, invites international financial institutions to revise eligibility criteria and modalities that prevent access to resources, taking into consideration multidimensional vulnerabilities, and urges the international community to enhance the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for disaster risk reduction and other preventive measures as part of a comprehensive risk management framework that matches the scale of existing and future disaster risks, while taking into account the barriers that have prevented the effective mobilization of critical financing to small island developing States, especially for implementation of associated plans and strategies devised by small island developing States;

13. *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;

14. *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;

15. *Reiterates* the call to 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;

16. *Reiterates* the call to 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;

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

18. *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;

19. *Recalls* of the comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria by the Committee for Development Policy in 2020, and looks forward to the next review process;

20. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, consistent with the Samoa Pathway and in line with the Small Island Developing States Partnerships criteria and norms;

21. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of 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, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

22. *Also reaffirms* its call to convene in 2024, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and decides that the international meeting will be convened in the second or third quarter of 2024 for a duration of no more than five days;

23. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2024, 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 and the forthcoming fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

25. *Reiterates* its call for the Secretary-General to continue to use his convening powers 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, with due regard to multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to consider requesting that a wide variety of stakeholders, including the United Nations system, international financial institutions, development banks and multilateral development partners, convene a high-level meeting during the Conference to discuss the mobilization of resources for small island developing States;

26. *Decides* that the Conference should:

(a) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, including the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes, stressing the importance of continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and the previous programmes of action for small island developing States, and seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, inter alia, through the mobilization of targeted resources, including domestic and private investment, and assistance for small island developing States;

(b) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community, and further identify priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States for consideration, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

27. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community and the private sector, which have played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

28. *Calls for* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States and for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States, in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States to achieving sustainable development;

29. *Decides* to convene in 2023, prior to the commencement of the seventy-eighth session, a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

30. *Also decides* that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

31. *Further decides* that the Conference will result in an intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document;

32. *Decides* to establish a preparatory committee to make the organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference, which will hold a one-day organizational session in the first half of 2023 and two sessions, of no more than five days each, in the first half of 2024, and also decides that the bureau of the preparatory committee shall consist of two members from each regional group, as well as ex officio members from the host country and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, and that the committee shall elect two Co-Chairs from among the nominated bureau members, one from a developed State and one from a developing State;

33. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the 10-member bureau of the preparatory committee no later than 31 January 2023, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the preparatory committee, and invites the bureau to convene further meetings of the preparatory committee on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner, to conclude discussions on the draft outcome document of the Conference;

34. *Decides* that the preparatory committee, during its organizational session in the first half of 2023, will adopt decisions and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly on the additional modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

35. *Agrees* that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

37. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences;

38. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and major groups identified in Agenda 21,¹⁵ to participate as observers in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee;

39. *Calls for* the participation of associate members¹⁶ of the regional commissions in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994, 2005 and 2014;

40. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General for the Conference at the earliest possible date;

41. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

42. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and other major groups, particularly from small island developing States, in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself, as appropriate, and invites voluntary contributions to support their participation;

43. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate and track the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including its Sustainable Development Goals, and other internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard recalls the adoption and finalization of the monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, further encourages small island developing States to utilize the framework for reporting ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, reiterates the call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist with strengthening their statistical offices and to provide enhanced support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis, including high-quality and disaggregated data, welcomes the launch of the Data Platform for the Small Island Developing States by the United Nations Development Programme at the Wadadli Action Platform convened in Saint John's on 8 and 9 August 2022, and further calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to update the General Assembly on this matter;

¹⁵ *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. The major groups identified in Agenda 21 are women, children and youth, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers.

¹⁶ American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Guam, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-eighth 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 national, regional and interregional preparatory meetings, as well as the preparatory process for convening the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index;

45. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth 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”.
