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Agenda item 2

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

Draft resolution

Sponsored by: Fiji and Samoa

**Co-sponsored by: Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of),
Solomon Islands**

Reaffirming the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States with a focus on the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Agenda 21,¹ which recognized that small island developing States and islands supporting small communities were a special case for both environment and development,

Also recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,² which acknowledged that small island developing States were a special case for both environment and development,

Further recalling the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ recalls since 1992, the vulnerability of Pacific small island developing States has become of increasing concern while their capacity to cope had not, and that this was due in no small part to the additional pressures of climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise, which had been compounded by the international fuel, food and financial crises,

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 II.

² *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (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 2, annex).

³ General Assembly resolution 65/2.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/2, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the unique and particular vulnerabilities of the small island developing States and called for improved and additional measures, and for coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to be taken at all levels to further implement the Mauritius Strategy,

Noting that, occupying about one third of the earth's surface, the Pacific Ocean provides a significant global environmental, economic, social and developmental contribution to sustainable development,

Recognizing that Pacific small island developing States share the same vulnerabilities as those of other small island developing States and are economically and ecologically fragile and vulnerable, while their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets place them at a disadvantage economically and prevents economies of scale,

Noting the joint statement issued by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and the Secretary-General at the forty-second Pacific Islands Forum, in Auckland, New Zealand, on 7 and 8 September 2011,⁴

Welcoming the support provided by the secretariat of the Commission, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific to Pacific small island developing States in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Reaffirms* the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of Pacific small island developing States for sustainable development;

2. *Invites* members and associate members, as appropriate:

(a) To recognize the importance of the oceans and the sustainable development of ocean resources to Pacific small island developing States, including the need for the conservation and sustainable management of the Pacific Ocean and coastal environments for the benefit of small island developing States and as a global resource;

(b) To support efforts for the sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, other organizations and bilateral donors:

(a) To continue to support capacity development and capacity supplementation for Pacific small island developing States to pursue sustainable development and to increase their resilience, including in response to the challenges of climate change;

⁴ Joint Statement of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Annex 3 of the Forum Communiqué of the forty-second Pacific Islands Forum, Auckland, New Zealand, 7-8 September 2011 (Available from <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2011/joint-statement-of-pacific-islands-forum-leaders-un-secretary-general.html>).

(b) To improve access to finance so that Pacific small island developing States can transform their economies towards sustainable development and climate resilience;

(c) To promote and support voluntary technology transfer as a contribution to the sustainable development of Pacific small island developing States;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its seventieth session.
