

**Sixty-ninth session**

Agenda item 19 (b)

Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of 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. Borg Tsien **Tham** (Singapore)**I. Introduction**

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see [A/69/468](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 30th, 35th and 37th meetings, on 5 November and 1 and 5 December 2014. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.2/69/SR.30](#), 35 and 37).

II. Consideration of proposals**A. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/69/L.8](#) and [A/C.2/69/L.44](#)**

2. At the 30th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 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.2/69/L.8](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol [A/69/468](#) and Add.1-9.



Development of Small Island Developing States, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want', and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

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

“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 and 67/205 of 21 December 2012,

“Taking into account also the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

“Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

“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, 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, 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 Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,

“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,

“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 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 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 rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the 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 create new and increasingly numerous sustainable development challenges,

“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,

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

“Mindful of the diversity 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 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 Ecosystems project, endorsed by ministers in 21 countries of the region,

“Welcoming the continued efforts of the States 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,

“*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. *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;

“3. *Welcomes* 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;

“4. *Also 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;

“5. *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;

“6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations 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;

“7. *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-first session;

“8. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to 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;

“9. *Welcomes*, 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, which entered into force in May 2011;

“10. *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;

“11. *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;

“12. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within 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;

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

“14. *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;

“15. *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;

“16. *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;

“17. *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;

“18. *Notes* with deep concern that invasive and alien species, such as lionfish, constitute an emerging threat to biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region;

“19. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance in addressing this issue in the region;

“20. *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;

“21. *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;

“22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, under the sub-item entitled ‘Follow-up to and implementation of 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, 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.”

3. At its 35th meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations” ([A/C.2/69/L.44](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Tishka Francis (Bahamas), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.8](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.44](#) had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, the representative of Jamaica, orally corrected the draft resolution (see [A/C.2/69/SR.35](#)).
6. Also at its 35th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.44](#), as orally corrected (see para. 16, draft resolution I).
7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution as orally corrected, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see [A/C.2/69/SR.35](#)).
8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.44](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.8](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/69/L.24](#) and [A/C.2/69/L.53](#)

9. At the 30th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 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 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” ([A/C.2/69/L.24](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

“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, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,

“Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled ‘The future we want’, including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States,

“Recalling its resolutions 67/206 of 21 December 2012, 67/207 of 21 December 2012, 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 68/1 of 20 September 2013, 68/6 of 9 October 2013 and 68/238 of 27 December 2013, and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013,

“Taking note of the Leaders’ Declarations of 2012 and 2014, adopted at the meetings of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States held in New York on 27 September 2012 and in Apia on 1 September 2014, respectively,

“Welcoming the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and its adoption of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway),

“Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and its preparatory process provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, observers and various intergovernmental organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as civil society, the private sector and the major groups representing all the regions of the world,

“Welcoming the partnerships announced at the Conference by Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and major groups,

“Welcoming also the inaugural meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held in New York on 24 September 2013, and looking forward to the future meetings of the forum, at which adequate time shall be devoted to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States,

“Recognizing that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

“Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for the excellent facilities, staff and services provided and arrangements made in hosting the Conference, and for the hospitality extended to the participants,

“Expressing its appreciation to the Secretariat of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General of the Conference, the specialized agencies, the United Nations regional commissions, funds and programmes, and partners as well as those countries that contributed to the Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States, for their contribution to the success of the Conference,

“Expressing its appreciation also to the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference,

“Stressing that the development options of small island developing States are limited, recognizing the special case of small island developing States and the challenges they face in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and recognizing also that they will continue to be constrained in meeting those challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community,

“Recognizing the special challenges and needs of small island developing States, many of which are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

“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,

“*Having considered* the report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

“1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

“2. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), and urges its speedy implementation;

“3. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States and to seek additional solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

“4. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Samoa Pathway;

“5. *Calls upon* the international community to assist small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks;

“6. *Calls upon* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced predictable and targeted support to small island developing States;

“7. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

“8. *Decides* that the small island developing States partnership framework to be established should be open and adaptable to the priorities and realities of small island developing States and ensure effective follow-up to their partnerships, in particular the new ones launched in Samoa, with the ability to include new small island developing States partnerships in support of their sustainable development as set out in the Samoa Pathway;

“9. *Recalls* paragraphs 116 to 120 of the Samoa Pathway, and requests the Joint Inspection Unit to provide recommendations to assist the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in determining the parameters of a comprehensive review to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States and the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the Samoa Pathway;

“10. *Also recalls* paragraph 121 of the Samoa Pathway and the need to give due consideration to the priorities of small island developing States in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

“11. *Decides* to devote one day at future meetings of the high-level political forum to addressing the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

“12. *Requests* the United Nations system to mainstream the Samoa Pathway into its work programmes;

“13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

“14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled ‘Sustainable development’, a sub-item entitled ‘Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) for the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States’.”

10. At its 37th meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” ([A/C.2/69/L.53](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Tishka Francis (Bahamas), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.24](#).

11. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of financial implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.53](#) (see [A/C.2/69/SR.37](#)).

12. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.53](#) (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

13. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Samoa, the United States of America, Japan, Canada and the European Union (see [A/C.2/69/SR.37](#)).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.53](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.24](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

15. At its 37th meeting, on 5 December, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations” ([A/69/314](#)) (see para. 17).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. 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 outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁶ and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁷ (Samoa Pathway), as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,⁸

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 and 67/205 of 21 December 2012,

Taking into account also the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁹

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 Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁷ Resolution 69/15, annex.

⁸ Resolution S-22/2, annex.

⁹ *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.

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹⁰

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 1983,¹¹ 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,¹² 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 Diversity¹³ and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora¹⁴ and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,¹⁵

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 21,¹⁶

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 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 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 rise in sea level, 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

¹⁰ Resolution 60/1.

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

¹³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

¹⁶ *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.

volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, which increase their sustainable development challenges,

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,

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

Mindful of the diversity 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 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 Ecosystems project, endorsed by ministers in 21 countries of the region,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States 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,

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. *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;

3. *Welcomes* 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;

4. *Also 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;

5. *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;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations 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;

7. *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-first session;

8. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to 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;

9. *Welcomes*, 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, which entered into force in May 2011;

10. *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;

11. *Calls upon States*, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹³ 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;

12. *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;

13. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within 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;

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

15. *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;

16. *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;

17. *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;

18. *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;

19. *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;

20. *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;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first 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, 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.

Draft resolution II

Follow-up to and Implementation of 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 the Declaration of Barbados¹ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,² the Mauritius Declaration,³ the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁴ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁵ (Samoa Pathway) and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁶ including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

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, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,⁷

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,⁸ including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States,

Recalling its resolutions 67/206 of 21 December 2012, 67/207 of 21 December 2012, 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 68/1 of 20 September 2013, 68/6 of 9 October 2013 and 68/238 of 27 December 2013, and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013,

Taking note of the Leaders’ Declarations of 2012 and 2014, adopted at the meetings of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States held in New York on 27 September 2012 and in Apia on 1 September 2014,

Welcoming the holding of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and the adoption of the Samoa Pathway,

¹ *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.

² *Ibid.*, 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 I.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁵ Resolution 69/15, annex.

⁶ *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.

⁷ Resolution 65/2.

⁸ Resolution 66/288, annex.

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and its preparatory process provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, observers and various intergovernmental organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as civil society, the private sector and the major groups representing all the regions of the world,

Welcoming the partnerships announced at the Conference by Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and major groups, and in this regard recognizing that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Welcoming also the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and looking forward to the future meetings of the forum, at which adequate time shall be devoted to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States,

Recognizing that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for the excellent facilities, staff and services provided and arrangements made in hosting the Conference, and for the hospitality extended to the participants,

Expressing its appreciation to partners for their contributions in kind and to the Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States, to the members of the Bureaux, to the Secretariat of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General of the Conference, the specialized agencies, the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes, for their contributions to the success of the Conference,

Reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

Recognizing that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

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,

Taking note of the report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,⁹

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁰
2. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁵ (Samoa Pathway) and urges its speedy implementation;
3. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway;
4. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States as identified in the Samoa Pathway, namely sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication and sustainable tourism), climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, sustainable transportation, sustainable consumption and production, management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste, health and non-communicable diseases, gender equality and women's empowerment, social development (culture and sport, promoting peaceful societies and safe communities, and education), biodiversity (desertification, land degradation and drought, and forests), invasive alien species, means of implementation, including partnerships (partnerships, financing, trade, capacity-building, technology, data and statistics, and institutional support for small island developing States), priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda and monitoring and accountability;
5. *Stresses* the need to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and follow-up to the Samoa Pathway;
6. *Acknowledges* in this regard that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and to that effect are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;
7. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure the effective follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway;
8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities

⁹ *Report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Apia, Samoa, 1-4 September 2014 (A/CONF.223/10).*

¹⁰ [A/69/319](#).

and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

9. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

10. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

11. *Reaffirms* paragraph 101 of the Samoa Pathway, and emphasizes that the partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States should be open and adaptable to the priorities and realities of small island developing States and consistent with other relevant processes and mechanisms in order to promote efficient and effective follow-up to the existing partnerships, in particular the new ones launched in Samoa, and to encourage new genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability and focused on concrete action-oriented programmes addressing the priorities of small island developing States;

12. *Recalls* paragraphs 116 to 120 of the Samoa Pathway, and in this regard requests, the Joint Inspection Unit to make recommendations in order to facilitate the work of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in determining, as soon as possible, and no later than March 2015, the parameters of a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles in supporting sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States and the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action,² the Mauritius Strategy⁴ and the Samoa Pathway;

13. *Also recalls* that the initial findings of the review and recommendation thereon should be included in the regular report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, to be 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”, notes that the complete results would be included as an addendum to the report before the end of the seventieth session, and emphasizes that the review should be undertaken by the appropriate, independent entity within the United Nations system in the most efficient and cost-effective manner;

14. *Further recalls* paragraph 121 of the Samoa Pathway and the need to give due consideration to the priorities of small island developing States in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

15. *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;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 123 of the Samoa Pathway and the need for the high-level political forum on sustainable development to devote adequate time at the 2015 meeting and the future meetings to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a 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”.

17. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations”

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations”.¹

¹ A/69/314.