

**Code:** UNEP/1/4

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Programme

**Topic:** The Disproportionate Impact of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in Small Island Developing States

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

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3 *Bearing in mind* the need for the development of sustainable energy infrastructure within the international  
4 community to assist in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions,

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6 *Calling attention to* the disproportionate impact of climate change in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the  
7 negative effects it has on agriculture and tourism within these Member States, as agriculture and tourism are among  
8 the main proponents of GDP throughout SIDS, as reflected in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)  
9 Pathway,

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11 *Expressing due concern* regarding the extreme and disproportionate amount of carbon emissions between nation  
12 states being released worldwide and the risks that they pose to SIDS due to the relationship between carbon  
13 emissions and sea level rise, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, specifically Article 2,

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15 *Cognizant* of the Sustainable Development Goals with an emphasis on Goals 2, 7, 13, 14, and 15 set in General  
16 Assembly resolution 70/1,

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18 *Acknowledging* the pressing need for education on sustainable development for SIDS populations, especially  
19 women, who are disproportionately threatened by changes in sea level,

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21 *Recognizing* the necessity of financial aid for SIDS in mitigating the effects of climate change and improving  
22 infrastructural capabilities due to the rising seas,

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24 *Noting with appreciation* the extensive funding efforts that have already been taken by the Global Environment  
25 Facility (GEF),

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27 *Viewing with appreciation* the positive contribution of finances for sustainable climate projects in developing states  
28 for promoting climate-friendly economies, measuring climate change adaptation and the preservation and sustainable  
29 use of carbon reservoirs stimulated by the German Climate Initiative (ICI),

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31 *Reaffirming* the collective action among the international community, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and  
32 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) such as the *Youth Volunteer for the Environment Program* occurring in  
33 Ghana and the *Youth Technical Brigade* through existing legal frameworks such as the Global Health Platform (SS-  
34 GHX), and the UN World Food Program (WFP) and the UNESCAP to assist with health, food and disaster relief  
35 among SIDS,

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37 *Emphasizing* the significance of contributions made towards the enhancement of the restoration of agriculture  
38 potential such as the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes as stated by the World Food Program,

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40 *Recognizing* that organizations such as the *Institute for Water Education and the International Network on Water,*  
41 *Environment, and Health* provide multilateral research initiatives and that institutions like the *Third World Network*  
42 *of Scientific Organizations* and the *Third World Academy of Sciences* provide accessible grants for research,

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44 *Citing* the importance of tourism in the economies of developing nations, including SIDS, where the establishment  
45 of sustainable eco-tourism is a viable solution as laid out in the Quebec Declaration of Ecotourism,

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47 *Emphasizing* the need to maintain state sovereignty to promote economically independent and geographically stable  
48 states, especially in regards to SIDS,

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50 1. *Urges* Member States to allocate a proportional amount of aid for sustainability and infrastructural projects  
51 in SIDS in accordance with A/RES/55/279, in respect to their relative economic capacities and through  
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- a. GEF Trust Fund,
  - b. UN Capital Development Fund,
  - c. SCCF (Special Climate Change Fund) Trust Fund,
  - d. the LDCF (Least Developed Countries Fund) Trust Fund, and
  - e. the Adaption Trust Fund;
2. *Urges* all Member States to strengthen existing policy sectors of society to reduce levels of greenhouse gas emissions to allow for further sustainable development by means of:
- a. coordination of efforts between state governments, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations as seen in the Alliance of Small Island States, and
  - b. domestic policies for educational programs that increase public awareness of environmental resource management as discussed in the St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability;
3. *Reaffirms* the mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which will act as the platform for nations to showcase and share new breakthroughs in CSTs as well as creating international standards and protocols for the sequestration of carbon in soil with the mandate of:
- a. educating member states of the advantages of carbon sequestration as compared to reducing current greenhouse gas emissions,
  - b. emphasizing that sequestering methods such as biochar are currently implemented and that their use should be expanded, especially in developed nations,
  - c. encouraging the development of new CSTs for a more cost effective way of combatting rising sea levels caused by CGH emissions that will submerge small island nations, and
  - d. creating a commission to study and determine the long term impacts of carbon sequestration on the environment;
4. *Encourages* member states to reduce the use of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emitting fossil fuels by adhering to the legal framework of the Kyoto Protocol by:
- a. establishing a National Registry to monitor GHG emission reduction levels,
  - b. recommending the formation of a compliance system to ensure that member-states are upholding their commitments in helping slow adverse climate trends that affect SIDS,
  - c. establishing a proportional reduction in carbon emissions in relation to each member state’s consumption levels,
  - d. shifting towards renewable sources of energy (such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal by integrating technologies supplied by the scientific community as reported by the UNEP at every compliance board, and
  - e. supporting SIDS financially in their implementation of clean energy policies through allocation of funds by the Green Energy Fund;

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5. *Implements* food security and adaptability programs within agricultural sectors of SIDS that are strained by climate change by means of:
    - a. sharing agricultural adaptability techniques and research to mitigate the strains of climate change,
    - b. utilizing water efficient varieties of staple crops,
    - c. implementing improved terracing, agroforestry, and agro-silvo pastoral systems through funding from GEF funds,
    - d. utilizing the established knowledge and traditional practices of indigenous peoples within SIDS and coastal regions to adapt to the changing climate conditions and rising sea levels, and
    - e. implementing IGOs to promote sustainable food security practices such as Italy's Global Island Partnership (GLIPSA);
  6. Urges member states to cooperate with NGOs to provide frameworks for agricultural platforms such as:
    - a. the Latin American and Caribbean Center for Rural Women organizing a voice for rural women, giving them access to land rights as well as access to land rights as well as access to clean water and conserve native flora, and
    - b. the Biodiversity International which works with small farmers and fishermen specifically in SIDS;
  7. *Requests* additional research and research grants from international scientific organizations and institutes on drought resistant cultivars, green energy and technology, global climate change and linked sea level rise, solutions for the loss of fresh-water resources in SIDS, natural disaster warning systems and protection, and the economic outcomes of implementing these technologies and solutions; as well as utilizing NGOs for the installment of community-based watershed management programs;
  8. *Promotes* the enhancement of environmentally sustainable industries within SIDS leading to responsible economic growth by:
    - a. implementing sustainable fishing practices through the furthered research and monitoring of fish migration patterns and utilizing similar methods to the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECFAC) and Cuba's *SOS Pesca*,
    - b. drawing attention to the inadequate use of only 13% of the \$1,078,300,000 in the GEF Trust Fund of the four year period from 2014-2018 and urges the GEF to properly utilize the fund that is allocated specifically for our planet's most pressing environmental issues, and
    - c. notes the importance of the protection of tourism infrastructure from coastal erosion and inundation through sea level rise;
  9. *Further recommends* investment and development of sustainable energy sources for SIDS by IGOs such as the International Renewable Energy Association as demonstrated in SIDS DOCK;
  10. *Creates* an initiative modeled after Germany's Climate Change Initiative (ICI) to promote climate friendly economies, measuring climate change adaptations, and the preservation and sustainable use of carbon reservoirs to ensure sustainable development of all sectors of all members states, specifically on SIDS;
  11. *Encourages* further cooperation with IGOs and NGOs that engage local government and civil society as demonstrated in the Stockholm Plan of Action for Integrating Disaster Risks and Climate Change Impacts in Poverty Reduction in order to:

- 163 a. encourage the use of *Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition* in case of disasters or other emergency  
164 situations that may result in food insecurity within SIDS,  
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166 b. develop technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster preparedness and  
167 recovery education programs similar to the Climate Risk and Early Warning System (CREWS)  
168 initiative, and  
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170 c. strengthen contingency planning for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and  
171 population evacuation;  
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- 173 12. *Urging* the necessary implementation of ecotourism in developing nations and SIDS by the year 2019  
174 where the UNEP:  
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- 176 a. encourages local, regional, inter-regional, and international governments to create sustainable  
177 local, national, and international parks within SIDS,  
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179 b. emphasizes education initiatives within the parks, (such as the extension of Cuba's *Youth*  
180 *Education Brigade in the Pacific*) within the parks, to illuminate the plight of SIDS by:  
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182 i. recognizing that this global illumination can bring further aid to SIDS that can be  
183 invested in economic diversification,  
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185 ii. ensuring that this education and awareness would respect the present culture of the  
186 individual SIDS,  
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188 iii. recognizing the importance of maintaining current biodiversity levels in SIDS, and  
189 reinstating native species of flora and fauna that have been affected by climate change,  
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191 c. recommends the incorporation of NGOs and private enterprises including environmentally  
192 friendly or conscious transnational corporations (TNCs) to bring attention to the effects of rising  
193 sea levels that will continue to have devastating effects on SIDS and their peoples, including:  
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195 i. furthering this with the use of a UNEP initiated social media campaign starting January 1,  
196 2016, that will aim to reach more people worldwide, emphasizing reaching out to  
197 younger generations that will ultimately suffer from the consequences of the sea level rise,  
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199 ii. recognizing that the awareness resulting from the social media campaign will further the  
200 global discourse regarding SIDS that was initiated by rising sea levels,  
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- 202 13. *Calls for* nation-states, particularly SIDS, whose economies heavily rely on tourism to collaborate with *The*  
203 *International Ecotourism Society* (TIES) which provides guidelines and standards, training, technical  
204 assistance, and educational resources in preventing unsustainable tourism practices that furthers the  
205 degradation of SIDS environment, and particularly their coastal regions ;  
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- 207 14. *Calls for* the implementation of programs for education such as Cuba's *Youth Technical Brigade* which  
208 mobilizes youth to highlight the importance of environmental education, as well as India's *Women's*  
209 *Empowerment Project*, which recruits thousands of volunteers to provide access to education and  
210 alternative educational support to young women in impoverished communities by:  
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212 a. referring to the Youth Volunteers for the Environment of Ghana extending into other African  
213 nations, that serves to engage young adults alongside stakeholders and civil society organizations  
214 in climate change capacity building and dialogue,  
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216 b. emphasizing the promotion of youth in STEM fields for enhanced progress of environmental  
217 sustainability in agricultural and infrastructural sector in order to provide peremptory support for  
218 the mitigation of climate change, and

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- c. calling for the continual integration of youth education programs which model regional initiatives that engage and encourage the next generation to combat climate change especially in the instance of SIDS;
15. *Urges* member states to respect the sovereignty of individual member states by not impeding on the territorial, economic, environmental and political rights.