

Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on

**Addressing the Transport and Trade
Logistics Challenges of the
Small Island Developing States (SIDS):
Samoa Conference and Beyond**

11 July 2014

General remarks from the ACP Secretariat



**UNCTAD Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on
“Addressing the Transport and Trade
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Geneva, 11 July 2014

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of our Secretary General, Honorable Alhaji Muhammad MUMINI, I would like to first express our sincere thank to the UNCTAD Secretariat for inviting us to participate to this important meeting addressing the transport and trade logistics challenges of Small Island Developing States.

Small Island Developing States concerns stands as high priority in the ACP Group's Agenda of work.

The 99th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 18 June 2014, adopted **Decision** mandating the Ad-hoc Working Group (AWG) on the post-

2015 Development Agenda, to develop an ACP Declaration on the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

The ACP Council of Ministers **recognize** the special environmental and developmental challenges facing all ACP States particularly, Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS) and Landlocked States, in achieving Sustainable Development and **decided** to :

- **Approve** the ACP Declaration on the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS)
- **Commend** the ACP Committee of Ambassadors for its efforts in developing the ACP Declaration on the Third International Conferences on SIDS; and

- **Mandate** the ACP Committee Ambassadors to make the necessary arrangements to enable the Declaration to be delivered during the Third International Conference on SIDS in Apia, Samoa

As we are aware, Small Island Developing Countries are facing vulnerabilities and share common characteristics: small size with geographical isolation, facing severe natural and environmental disasters and sea-level rise among others.

For the SIDS countries, Maritime transport sector is playing a vital role for socio-economic development, promotion of regional integration and international trade, by constituting an excellent opportunity to

become the key factor in the supply chain, due to its positive effect from its economy of scale and the fact that many SIDS face poor quality land, maritime transport services.

As many developing countries, SIDS countries are lacking capacity to effectively implement international instruments namely IMO's instruments. Maritime Administration of most SIDS lack of adequate infrastructure and skilled human resources.

For this reason, there is need to enhance active cooperation in order to improve capacity building activities with dedicated training sessions on port efficiency and port security by assisting SIDS to implement international maritime safety and security provided by the IMO SOLAS/MARPOL

Convention and reducing negative marine environmental effects of maritime/port operations. Furthermore legal and regulatory national framework regarding implementation of regulations on maritime safety and security may be there but still far from acceptable standard and need to be addressed continuously. There is need to strengthen the legal capacity of national maritime authorities through the provision of technical assistance in order to assist the SIDS for the development of their national maritime policies and services.

We can understand that much more need to be done as regard to maritime transport sector in SIDS

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for your kind attention.