Resolution 20/9: Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the adoption of the Mauritius Declaration26 and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,27 which was adopted on 13 January 2005 at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005,

Recognizing that small island developing States experience specific problems arising from, among other things, their small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems and limited fresh water supply, 26 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), chap. I, annex I.

Noting with concern that the development of human settlements in small island developing States is impeded by annual natural disasters, which routinely destroy the housing stock and other human settlements infrastructure,

Noting the rapid rate of urbanization of small island developing States, which is accompanied by the growth of slums, poverty, and rising insecurity,

Emphasizing the importance of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States28 and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

1. Encourages Governments to support the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
2. Requests the Executive Director to assist in raising the awareness of the international community of the challenges related to sustainable human settlements development in small island developing States;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to assist small island developing States in areas relating to disaster preparedness, land registration, urban planning guidelines, hurricane-resistant housing and the development of a training programme for local authorities and community development groups on the administration and sustainable development of cities and other human settlements in small island developing States;

4. Invites the international community to provide financial support for the programmes and projects of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in small island developing States;

5. Requests the Executive Director further to strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes related to small island developing States to ensure the effective implementation of the human settlements elements contained in the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.


8th meeting
8 April 2005