

PS Presentation – Talking Points

Slide	Talking Points
3.	<p data-bbox="922 331 1433 436">Pacific SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting, Nadi, Fiji, 10-12 July 2013</p> <ul data-bbox="873 470 1433 1856" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="873 470 1433 894">• The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20), in recognition of the urgency for global partnerships towards coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS), called for a Third International Conference on SIDS which will be held in Apia, Samoa in September 2014.<li data-bbox="873 995 1433 1575">• The three regions of the SIDS: (i) Pacific; (ii) Caribbean; and (iii) Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and South China Sea (AIMS) have held their regional preparatory meetings in July, the outcomes of which will be presented at the SIDS Inter-regional conference in Barbados on 26 – 28 August 2013. This process will culminate in the 2014 International Conference on SIDS which will be held in Apia, Samoa in September 2014. For the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), their regional preparatory conference was successfully held in Nadi, Fiji on 10 - 12 July, 2013.<li data-bbox="873 1680 1433 1856">• Under the SIDS Guidelines for the regional preparatory meetings, there are four objectives that each region should strive to accomplish at the end of their respective meetings which will

	<p>be transposed into the outcomes of the SIDS Inter-regional conference in Barbados and ultimately the 2014 International Conference on SIDS in Samoa</p>
<p>4.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving the sustainable development goals of the Pacific region and the full implementation of the BPOA and MSI is only possible with urgent global action to reduce green house gas emissions to keep global average temperature increase well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and long-term stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at well below 350ppm CO₂-equivalent levels. The meeting notes with alarm that atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ exceeded 400 parts per million for sustained lengths of time throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere earlier this year. • lack of ambition and urgency to reduce greenhouse gasses under the UNFCCC, recognizing that without scaled up short term action by Parties, the chance to hold temperature increase to below 1.5°C may be lost. The steady increase in carbon emitting infrastructure locks Parties onto a high emission pathway, and positive feedbacks in the climate system, if triggered, could accelerate the anthropogenic greenhouse effect. Immediate mitigation actions and policies are needed before 2017 to prevent dangerous lock in of global fossil fuel infrastructure that will make achieving the 1.5 C goal exceedingly difficult. • Adaptation is a priority for the Pacific region, and the provision of sufficient, additional and predictable financial resources to SIDS to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and support national climate

	<p>change priorities remains a significant gap. Where funds exist, application procedures often preclude SIDS in the Pacific region from accessing those funds and capacity building efforts have not addressed this persistent problem.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>The meeting agreed that infrastructure for water and sanitation, waste management, energy, transportation, telecommunications and health is essential for sustainable development.</p> <p>In many instances sustainable energy has not always been considered a national priority for sustainable development, despite the fact that it lies at the heart of sustainable development. Renewable energy infrastructure has proven to be a powerful force in tackling poverty alleviation and improving living conditions for our remote and most isolated communities. It opens opportunities for the provision of basic human needs, improved health, education and economic opportunity in all our countries. It sits at the very heart of the advancement of our sustainable development agenda.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>At the end of the SIDS regional preparatory meetings in July, all three regions would have endorsed their respective Regional Synthesis Reports. These would be a culmination of their respective member states' National Assessment Reports on the achievements, challenges and perspectives on the way forward with regard to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), The Barbados Plan of Action (BPoA), The Mauritius Implementation Strategy (MIS) and the post-2015 development agenda (SDGs). The outcomes of all the three SIDS preparatory meetings for the Pacific, Caribbean and the AIMS regions that were held in July will be presented at the Inter-regional SIDS Conference in Barbados on 26 – 28 August 2013.</p> <p>From the Inter-regional Conference in</p>

	<p>Barbados, the inaugural meeting of the High level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development is expected to take place in New York on 23 September 2013. This will be the first formal meeting of the HLPF since a decision was taken to establish the forum at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20) in June 2012. The HLPF aims to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development, and to build on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and to replace the Commission.</p> <p>This will take place on the first day of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly which will be presided over by the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, Ambassador John. W. Ashe. The formal launching of the 2014 International Conference on SIDS by the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), Ambassador John. W. Ashe will take place in December 2013. The President-elect of the UNGA was a guest of the Fiji government during the regional meeting in Nadi.</p> <p>The Third International Conference on the SIDS would be held in Apia, Samoa in September 2014 with the theme, "<i>The Sustainable Development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships</i>". The outstanding key events leading towards September 2014 will continue to be a SIDS-led and SIDS-owned process.</p>
7.	<p>In March 2012, the MSG Leaders signed the MSG Declaration on Environment and Climate Change demonstrating the MSG's commitment to fighting climate change, a critical issue we will be facing in the coming years and whose effects are already being felt by our communities.</p> <p>In line with the Agreement Establishing the Melanesian Spearhead Group which focuses cooperation towards sustainable development centered on the human person (Article 5,</p>

	<p>paragraph 1), as well as key principles from the RIO+20 Outcome Documents and in particular paragraph 56, the MSG Green Growth Framework is intended to be a tool that assists MSG countries in pursuing integrated sustainable development, to restore a balance between the environmental, societal and economic pillars of sustainable development.</p>
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<p>9.</p>	<p>The Green Growth strategy is aimed at supporting sustainable development by promoting economic growth that aims to eradicate poverty, promote employment and income generating opportunities without adversely impacting on the environment. It is a shift of focus to the environmental (and social) quality of growth. . Our Green Growth Framework will also be based on the three pillars development - economic, social and sustainable development. It is therefore critical that in formulating our Green growth Framework, that emphasis must be centred on improving the social welfare and livelihoods of our people.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>The first Green growth goal is - Improving quality of growth and maximising net growth. This is shifting of focus from quantity of growth to quality of growth. While green</p>

	<p>growth cannot solve the root causes of poverty, improving the ecological quality of growth also improves several aspects of the economic and social qualities, given that economies and societies both depend on the goods and services provided by the natural environment.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>The second Goal is aimed at promoting innovative financing to re-examine how MSG countries can sustain and finance environmental activities at a scale required to ensure long term conservation and management of natural resources. Some of the key measures under this Goal include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal and Budgetary Reforms- this is to strengthen sustainable consumption patterns and finance green growth investment opportunities • MSG Blue Carbon Initiative - will develop a strategy as well as inform decision makers on the important roles of mangroves, wetlands, coastal swamps and sea grass beds • MSG Terrestrial Commitment - which aims both to sustainably manage terrestrial ecosystems in government decision-making, and strengthen local communities in sustainably managing their natural resources and with the economic benefits this can bring.
<p>12.</p>	<p>Boosting growth and development prospects while greening the growth trajectory at the same time will require increased investments flows into infrastructure. Governments will need to assess and remove barriers preventing/discouraging institutional investors from investing in infrastructure which will enable greener growth.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>The fourth goal of the MSG's Framework of Green Growth is to encourage MSG businesses to take a strategic approach to sustainability. Sustainable business is necessary for MSG because as other countries continue to develop sustainable business and place greater emphasis on it, MSG will be left behind and will be at competitive</p>

	<p>disadvantage if it does not keep up to speed by implementing sustainable business processes.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>The final Goal in the Green Growth Framework is about integration of Green growth and sustainable development into the national development plans strategic planning processes at the national level. Whilst the goal is to work towards setting our own MSG regional framework , we all know that implementation will take place at the national and stakeholder levels, and it is necessary that national issues are reflected in the MSG Green Growth framework.</p> <p>The integration of the green growth goals into the national development plans would also overcome the silos that exist around economic and environmental policy making.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>The MSG Green Growth Framework will require a transitional approach that focuses on integration into existing development planning and implementation frameworks. The following are the transitional measures that members have agreed to undertake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Green Growth Dialogues to anchor green growth at the national level - MSG countries together with its partners (ESCAP, SPC, GIZ and IUCN) have identified a number of initiatives aimed at creating greater ownership of development policies and priorities in the respective countries at their national levels. For many of the MSG countries, the focus is about creating a platform through which the policy discussions and clearer strategies can be agreed to, to begin the transition from a 'brown economy' towards a green economy. The transition process will clearly contribute to the goals of 'rebalancing the sustainable development pillars'. It is therefore envisaged that these platforms would draw down on the principles and policy discussions at the regional MSG level for greater coherence and relevance at the national level. This link would enable greater synergies and cross-

- fertilisation between processes at national and regional levels.
- ii. **Green Growth Framework and Knowledge Management (KM)** - The development of the KM approach can also be used as an opportunity for MSG member countries to further refine and develop ownership of the framework and goals to ensure that they fit with the MSG context. In this regard, the Secretariat has received funding from the Center for Trade in Agriculture (CTA) based in Brussels for the development of knowledge-sharing platform on GG. This work is progressing well. The e platform will facilitate knowledge acquisition and sharing, communication and exchange of best practices on green growth amongst the various stakeholders.
 - iii. **Green Growth Framework Matrix** - With regional partners, the MSG Secretariat is to develop a Green Growth Framework Matrix (including goals, indicators and possible milestones) that supports the implementation of the framework at the national level and is harmonised with the process of development of the post-2015 development agenda, including consideration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
 - iv. **Linkages to National and Regional Processes**- The Secretariat with the help of partners will engage with national and regional stakeholders on GG development to engender broad ownership of the Framework and ensure effective coordination at the national and regional levels.

Closing

Shaping sustainable economies is the fundamental challenge of our time. It requires outstanding leadership, new means of communication and innovative collaborations across borders. The MSG Leaders have provided the vision of building prosperous, green economies and communities - and a better tomorrow for the

	<p>citizens of Melanesia.</p> <p>In closing, although Melanesia has a very distinct and unique set of environment and climate change challenges, they are not insurmountable. The formulation of the Green Growth Framework provides for the preservation of the intrinsic value of our environment for our future generations and prosperity. Our Leaders are resolute in their commitment to finding a common destiny for our people, in living in harmony with nature, our environment and our culture, for this is the basic cornerstone for our long term sustainable and inclusive growth and development.</p>
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