



BARBADOS NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT:

**for
The Third International Conference on
Small Island Developing States**

**September 1-4, 2014
Apia, Samoa**

**Government of Barbados
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Acronyms

BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARISEC	CARICOM Secretariat
CBO	Community Based Organisations
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESS	Green Economy Scoping Study
GETSC	Green Economy Technical Steering Committee
GOB	Government of Barbados
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
ILAC	Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
NCDs	Non-communicable Diseases
NCSD	National Commission on Sustainable Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIS	National Insurance Scheme
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OWG-SDGs	Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
PAGE	Programme of Action for a Green Economy
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PV	Photovoltaic
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
RETIC	Resource Efficiency and Technology Innovation Centre
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEFB	Support for Sustainable Energy Framework for Barbados
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIDS-TAP	Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme

UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCO/IOC	International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UWI	University of the West Indies
VAT	Value Added Tax

1. Introduction

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) held in June 2012, it was agreed that the Third Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will be held in Apia, Samoa in 2014.

The proposed Third Global Conference on SIDS will mark the twenty year anniversary of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Barbados, from April 25th to May 6th 1994. That Conference was established under the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/189. The convening of the first Global Conference was as a result of the recognition of the special vulnerabilities of SIDS which were sequentially acknowledged by the international community. Firstly, the 44th session of the UNGA in 1989 passed Resolution 44/206 on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas. Secondly in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 the outcome of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (the first Rio Conference), included a programme area on the sustainable development of small islands and called for the convening of the first Global Conference of the Sustainable Development of SIDS.

This First Global Conference acknowledged that there were common issues affecting all SIDS and a Programme of Action was prepared in Barbados outlining actions in the areas of climate change and sea level rise, natural and environmental disasters, management of wastes, coastal and marine resources, freshwater resources, land resources, energy resources, tourism resources, biodiversity resources, national institutions and administrative capacity, regional institutions and technical cooperation, transport and communication, science and technology, human resource development, implementation, monitoring and review.

Following the 1994 First Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, the issues of particular concern to SIDS were discussed again at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and at the International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in January 2005 in Mauritius. In addition the sustainable development of SIDS was kept under review at successive sessions of the UNGA.

In paragraphs 178-180 of the Outcome Document to the 2012 Rio + 20 Conference, , the International community reaffirmed that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base,

and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks. These shocks included a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters.

It was noted with concern that the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy in 2010, concluded that small island developing States have made less progress than most other groupings, or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability. Sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continued to pose a significant risk to sustainable development of small island developing States and overall progress towards achieving internationally agreed goals including the Millennium Development Goals, among SIDS was uneven.

It is expected that as a major UN Conference on SIDS issues, the 2014 Samoa Conference, like the 1994 Barbados Conference will focus the world's attention on the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS, building on the outcomes of the Rio+ 20 Conference and make a lasting concrete contribution to the advancement of sustainable development with special attention on SIDS by:

- Assessing progress and gaps;
- Seeking a renewed political commitment;
- Identifying new and emerging challenges and opportunities;
- Identifying priorities for the Sustainable Development for SIDS for consideration in the post 2015-UN development agenda.

The First Edition of the Barbados National Assessment Report benefitted from the completion of the Draft Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) Monitoring Indicators Report: Barbados 2012, the Green Economy Scoping Study for Barbados (2012) and the Barbados National Assessment Report of Progress made in addressing vulnerabilities of SIDS through implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) (2010). The preparation of each of these reports involved the inclusion of a governance structure that ensured consultation and collaboration with the major sustainable development stakeholders. These stakeholders were again called upon to provide input into the First Edition Report.

The First Edition Report was circulated to a broad spectrum of agencies, organisations and individuals for review. A National Validation Workshop for the Barbados National Assessment Report was held on July 24th 2013. Over fifty-five persons drawn from government, private sector and civil society gathered to provide detailed input and feedback into the report. The Report of the National Validation Workshop was used to finalise the Barbados National Assessment Report.

2. Taking Stock: Assessing Progress and Gaps in the Implementation of the MSI

In charting a path to Sustainable Development, the Government of Barbados designs and incorporates policies and programmes that take into account special defining characteristics of a Small Island Developing State that makes this country especially vulnerable to external shocks. These vulnerabilities include:

- i. Natural disasters
- ii. Small domestic size
- iii. Limited resource base
- iv. Narrowness of output and exports
- v. Openness to trade
- vi. Remoteness
- vii. Dependence on the well being of other global economies

The country is also faced with an ageing population and a population growth rate of almost zero, is characterised as a Net Food Importing Developing country and is experiencing a loss of competitiveness in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

These characteristics impact structurally on the country's economic growth and level of employment, constrain its ability to compete and limits capacity and speed in undertaking adjustment and transformation of the economy.

More recently, since the onset of the global financial and economic crisis in late 2007, Barbados' vulnerabilities have been further brought into focus and even exacerbated in some cases. While it is recognised that the crisis has and continues to impact Barbados' inherently vulnerable economy, the crisis has the potential to erode the gains made socially and environmentally in the Post-independence era.

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