

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Roadmap for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Small Island Developing States

UN-OHRLLS SUPPORT

The UN-OHRLLS roadmap is geared to meet the following objectives:

I. ADVOCACY

Advocacy is undertaken by the UN-OHRLLS to keep the international community informed about Small Island Developing States (SIDS) issues, to generate support for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, and to put SIDS high on the global development agenda.

(i) Media

On behalf of SIDS, the UN-OHRLLS will generate media attention by keeping in constant contact with various media like newspapers, magazines, radio and television that influence opinion and decision-making at the international, regional and national levels, including the donor community. The objective will be achieved through press releases on SIDS issues and activities, articles and interviews given with a view to promoting awareness of the social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities of the SIDS, including details on the various goals and objectives of the Mauritius Strategy. The Office will work closely with the UN Department of Information.

(ii) Events

The UN-OHRLLS will organize or co-organize events, such as roundtables, on critical issues of interest to SIDS, facilitate interactions with international financial institutions, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to bring about greater awareness of, and support for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

(iii) Panels

In order to improve the understanding of SIDS issues, the UN-OHRLLS will organize discussions, dialogues and briefings, including within the framework of “Open Forums for Partnerships,” on a regular basis. Through these activities, concerned United Nations system organizations and other stakeholders can brief the international community and SIDS representatives in particular, on their respective activities relating to implementing the Mauritius Strategy. It will also give these organizations, as well as the SIDS, the opportunity to discuss the programmes and projects involved and help to bring about a convergence of views towards generating greater coherence of policies and activities of stakeholders.

(iv) Publications

The UN-OHRLLS will issue or promote publications on SIDS issues such as climate change, ecosystems, market access, renewable energy, information technology, tourism, HIV/AIDS, human security, etc. for the purposes of advocacy, and to highlight SIDS issues, and especially their social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

(v) Website

The UN-OHRLLS website on SIDS will include information useful to SIDS, stakeholders and others in the international community to raise awareness of SIDS issues and keep them high on the international agenda for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. It will also include up-to-date information on the activities of the UN-OHRLLS in respect of SIDS.

II. UNITED NATIONS

United Nations agencies and departments

Major responsibilities have been indicated in the Mauritius Strategy for the United Nations system, including its agencies, regional commissions and the Resident Coordinator system. The UN-OHRLLS will act in accordance with its General Assembly mandate 56/227 (2001) to advocate with concerned parts of the United Nations to take account of the Mauritius Strategy where relevant to their mandates and programmes of work. The UN-OHRLLS will work within the framework of the United Nations Development Group to highlight the role of the Resident Coordinator system in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

United Nations regional Commissions

The United Nations regional commissions view their respective regions as one integrated whole, instead of on a country-by-country basis. Along with intergovernmental regional organizations (IGOs) they play a critical role in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy from a regional perspective. In the case of the SIDS many development projects and schemes are not feasible in a national context in view of the smallness of the islands, limited range of resources, and in several cases, their small populations. Hence, regional programmes can be more economically viable or cost effective. The UN-OHRLLS will advocate with these regional organizations to place the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy high on their agendas.

III. INTER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGO)

The participation of UN-OHRLLS in intergovernmental dialogues has helped to highlight SIDS issues at the highest levels of the international community. The UN-OHRLLS will achieve this objective through participation and statements highlighting SIDS issues, dissemination of relevant written materials on SIDS issues at intergovernmental dialogues towards urging stakeholders concerned to promote the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. (List of upcoming intergovernmental meetings is attached)

IV. DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Along with several other constraints, including that of capacity, one of the shortfalls in the implementation of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action was the serious lack of financial resources and technology. The UN-OHRLLS will work closely with the donor community, including the European Union and other developed countries, international financial institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Global Environment Facility and other concerned agencies towards enhancing the flows of financial and other resources to the SIDS in their effort to implement the Mauritius Strategy.

V. TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES

The UN-OHRLLS will work with technical and professional bodies around the world with a view to bringing relevant information that would be applicable and helpful to SIDS in implementing the Mauritius Strategy.

VI. CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society is an important stakeholder for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. Civil society and community leaders have an important role to play in forging broad based partnerships for ensuring sustainable development for small island developing states. In this context, civil society is a powerful collective force that can set the international development agenda and shape world public opinion. The collective power of civil society can also have a serious influence on policy makers for their action. Civil society has also contributed enormously to the national development and policy dialogue.

The UN-OHRLLS will encourage the active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society in general to maintain and enhance their roles in the implementation of the process of the Mauritius Strategy.

VII. PRIVATE SECTOR

The UN-OHRLLS recognizes the great value of the private sector in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in all areas of sustainable development. The Office will continue to support the private and corporate sector to enhance their roles in this process.



List of intergovernmental meetings for 2005

1. 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan (18-22 January 2005)
2. Resumed 59th session of the UN General Assembly (February 2005)
3. 23rd UNEP Governing Council (21-25 Feb 2005)
4. 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (11-22 April 2005)
5. 61st session of UN ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand (May 2005)
6. World Tourism Organization: 75th session of the Executive Council, Sofia, Bulgaria (13-14 June 2005)
7. South Summit, Doha, Qatar, (12-16 June 2005)
8. UNDP Executive Board Annual Session (13-24 June 2005)
9. High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of UNGA on the Millennium Summit, New York (14-16 September 2005)
10. FAO special conference on SIDS – Meeting to follow-up on Mauritius recommendations (during FAO Governing Council meeting in Rome 19-26 November 2005)
11. The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, Hong Kong, China (13 - 18 December 2005)

Other forums with which UN-OHRLLS will work to pursue the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy

1. **CARICOM: Twenty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government** (Week of 4 July 2005), Saint Lucia
2. **Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting & Post Forum Dialogue Meeting** (25-30 August 2005), Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
3. **Indian Ocean Commission**
4. **Commonwealth**
5. **Non-aligned Movement**
6. **UNESCO**
7. **World Bank: Small States Forum**
8. **Global Environment Facility**