



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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DRAFT RESOLUTION

Submitted by **New Zealand and Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Co-sponsored by **Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cape Verde, Cook Islands, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mauritius, The Netherlands, Palau, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu**

Consideration and adoption of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4)

Reinforcing UNESCO's strategy on Small Island Developing States and contribution to implementation of the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Apia, Samoa, September 2014

The General Conference,

Welcoming the declaration by the United Nations of 2014 as the International Year of SIDS,

Acknowledging the distinctive contribution that UNESCO has made to the implementation of the follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Sustainable Development of Small Island States under the current Medium-Term Strategy in such areas as tangible and intangible cultural heritage, climate change and education for sustainable development, and communication and information amongst others,

Appreciative of the role that UNESCO is playing, particularly through the UNESCO Offices for the Pacific in Apia, the Caribbean in Kingston and for the Indian Ocean in Nairobi, as well as its SIDS Focal Point Unit in Headquarters and Liaison Office in New York, in preparation for, and contribution to, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Apia on 1-4 September 2014,

Anticipating that the Apia Conference will: assess progress to date in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1994), and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2005); seek a renewed political commitment by SIDS Member States and UNESCO by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation; identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post 2015 United Nations development agenda,

Seeking to actively contribute to, and build on, the priorities and opportunities for SIDS associated with the Apia International Conference, and ensure timely input to, and implementation of, the Organization's contribution to its outcomes before, and as soon as possible after, September 2014,

Considering the loss of the Organization's intersectoral platform on SIDS and the diminished human resources of the SIDS Focal Point Unit,

Seeking assurances as to the Organization's ability and resources to build on the principles of the Mauritius Strategy, aimed at deepening and renewing UNESCO's approach by developing cross-cutting and cross-scale approaches to reducing vulnerabilities and promoting resilience of Small Island Developing States in the face of global environmental and socio-cultural change as expressed in paragraphs 19 and 65 of the draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021,

Welcoming further the commitment in the implementation of each of the Major Programmes for 2014-2017 to a special emphasis on Small Island Developing States to address their unique and particular vulnerabilities,

Invites the Director-General:

- (a) to seize all relevant opportunities to associate UNESCO's activities for Small Island Developing States during 2014, with the United Nations International Year of SIDS, with the aim of raising awareness of the unique sustainable development challenges faced by this particular group of Member States;
- (b) to continue to provide support for the convening of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Apia, Samoa, in September 2014, in particular through the UNESCO Office for the Pacific in Apia, UNESCO's other SIDS field offices and the coordinating SIDS Focal Point Unit in Headquarters;
- (c) to ensure timely contribution from the SIDS Member States on the future priorities in the Organization's programme of work beyond 2014, in particular relating to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, climate change adaptation and mitigation, early-warning systems of impending storms, tsunamis, education for sustainable development, and building knowledge societies;
- (d) to reflect the outcomes of the Third International Conference on SIDS in the implementation of the Organization's programme and budget for 2014-2017 and provide a report to the 196th session of the Executive Board;

- (e) to develop an action plan for implementing the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in the areas relevant to UNESCO's mandate, and calls for this to be:
- (i) developed in consultation with the subregional offices concerned, in particular the UNESCO Offices for SIDS of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and the Caribbean, coordinated by the dedicated SIDS Focal Point Unit, and in consultation with all SIDS Member States;
 - (ii) prepared within six months of the Third International Conference in Apia;
 - (iii) inclusive of a package of strategic, highly visible, tangible actions and measurable indicators, addressing key issues within UNESCO's mandate including education for sustainable development, oceans, culture, youth, traditional knowledge and actions to address climate change, with quantifiable outcomes for SIDS;
 - (iv) adopted with a SIDS inter-regional focus, aimed at facilitating institutional capacity-building and the sharing of experience and best practices among SIDS of all regions;
- (f) to implement this action plan through highly decentralized activities in SIDS of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans and the Caribbean, taking full account of interdisciplinary connections between all Major Programmes and inter-regional linkages among SIDS world-wide;
- (g) To ensure as far as is possible within existing budgetary allocations that the field offices concerned, and the coordinating SIDS Focal Point Unit in Headquarters, are provided with the capacity and the human resources to begin delivering on this action plan from 2015;
- (h) To collaborate fully with the United Nations family of institutions and with other international and regional organizations, in contributing to the timely implementation to follow-up to the Conference, whilst at the same time, avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

Explanatory Note

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be convened in Apia, Samoa from 1 to 4 September 2014. The present Draft Resolution is designed to ensure that the outcomes of the Apia Conference are reflected in the implementation of UNESCO's programmes through the implementation of a cohesive action plan for SIDS, beginning in 2015.