

Provisional Agenda Item 3

CCGE(99)1

**OVERCOMING VULNERABILITY AND ACCELERATING
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SMALL STATES**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SIDS Programme of Action

There is a substantial agenda of key issues and problems affecting small states that must be addressed in the UN General Assembly Special Session's (UNGASS) review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), that was adopted by the 1994 UN Global Conference in Barbados. Under the Programme, some progress has been made at the national, regional and international levels in laying the foundation for sustainable development in these countries. However, the impacts of globalisation of trade and financial markets threaten to further marginalise small states, which combined with exposure to persistent environmental threats, renders them more vulnerable and their transition to sustainable development more problematic.

Small States' Vulnerability

(ii) There is incontrovertible evidence that developing small states are more vulnerable than their larger counterparts. The Commonwealth report, *A Future for Small States: Overcoming Vulnerability*, identified four dimensions of threat which led to their particular vulnerability - economic, environmental, political and social. Vulnerability results from a combination of the impact of countries' exposure to these threats and their ability to resist such impacts and recover from their consequences.

(iii) For small states, with small domestic markets, undiversified economies, high dependence on exports and the inability to capture scale economies in industry, education, health, public utilities and other infrastructure, it remains difficult to attract investment for development. This problem is made worse by the risks associated with their greater susceptibility to natural disasters. Vulnerability is exacerbated by factors in three main areas: economic exposure; remoteness and insularity; and environmental hazards. In their present economic and physical environments, the problem of vulnerability persists for many small states.

(iv) A Commonwealth Vulnerability Index has been estimated for 111 large and small developing countries. It provides quantitative evidence that small states are more vulnerable: of the 25 most vulnerable countries in the world, 24 are small. It is important to recognise that vulnerability is different from Least Developed Country (LDC) status; it reflects the inability of countries to withstand the effects of events over which they have little, if any, control, rather than being an indicator of abject poverty, poor health, or illiteracy.

An Agenda for Action

(v) Thirty two of the Commonwealth's 54 members are small states (of these, 25 are SIDS) and since 1994, it has undertaken many activities that support the implementation of the Barbados Programme. At present, about three-fifths of assistance provided by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) is directed to serve the needs and priorities of small states. The Secretariat should maintain these programmes of assistance, ensuring that they continue to respond to the priorities and needs of these countries.

(vi) The Commonwealth has recently launched a major new initiative to address the priority issues and problems of these countries, establishing a Commonwealth/World Bank Joint Task Force on Small States. The Task Force is developing practical ways to reduce small states' vulnerability and promote their sustainable development. Work already undertaken by the Task Force has revealed the need for a strategy for action, which the Commonwealth should promote preparatory to the UNGASS, in order to achieve a number of key objectives:

- (a) **Improve the policies of multilateral organisations towards small states.** There is an urgent need for all multilateral, regional and bilateral development organisations to take account of vulnerability in the design of their programmes of assistance for small states. The Commonwealth Vulnerability Index provides a useful basis for assessing the treatment of small states by the international community. This would augment the narrowly applied GDP per head and other structural criteria that are presently applied by the major regional and multilateral organisations. What is required is the more flexible application of a broader set of criteria which will ensure that small states qualify for special and differential treatment in trade, finance and development assistance until they are able to sustainably accommodate their vulnerability without it creating threats to their long-term growth.
- (b) **Scrutinise and broaden criteria for the graduation of countries from special treatment.** It is important that vulnerability indicators are applied and developed operationally. They should be influential in determining the operational policies of the major multilateral organisations. The graduation policy of the UN, in terms of LDC and non-LDC status, needs to be carefully scrutinised if the premature graduation of more vulnerable small states is to be avoided. The graduation policy of the international financial institutions, as it relates to small states' access to their various lending windows, also should be changed to allow longer time periods for transition and adjustment to a sustainable plateau of economic achievement from which countries will continue to develop.
- (c) **Recognise the vulnerability of small states and accommodate the transitional costs of their adjustment to new trade regimes in the international trading system.** Within the context of recent changes in the international trade regime, small states face major challenges of transition. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) already recognises the particular problems of LDCs; but the organisation should extend its application of special and differential treatment to more vulnerable small states. The WTO should also accelerate and streamline its accession procedures. Membership fees should reflect the trade shares of members, which will result in sharp reductions in contributions from small states which, as an entire group, account for less than one-quarter of one percent of world trade. Arrangements are needed to assist small states in their use of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism. While the Mechanism potentially allows small states to challenge their larger trading partners, the high costs associated with its use can put it beyond the reach of these countries. Assistance also should be provided to ensure that small states fully participate in the work of the WTO and negotiations on new agreements.

Similarly, in a successor agreement to the Lomé IV Convention, the treatment of countries as LDC (as currently defined by the UN) or non-LDC needs to be scrutinised. More vulnerable, non-LDC small states are likely to suffer if they lose preferential market access on the basis of such a crude discrimination.

- (d) **Develop partnerships with the private sector and implement schemes to reduce the economic costs of natural disasters.** In addition to improved access to finance and markets, vulnerable small states require assistance in disaster preparedness and mitigation. This means adequate financing for disaster-proof infrastructure. Secondly, it means rapid and effective post-disaster response by the international community, especially for the repair or replacement of physical infrastructure. Thirdly, it means developing practical, workable and effective insurance arrangements and financial instruments. This must involve the private sector and be based on multilateral bank guarantees in order to reduce costs. An example is the scheme proposed by the World Bank for implementation on a pilot basis in the Caribbean.
- (e) **Improve the effectiveness of international assistance to small states.** The World Bank is developing a strategy, for approval by its Executive Board, to re-orient its assistance for small states based on a strategic assessment of their vulnerability, constraints and needs. Other international financial and development institutions should be encouraged to adopt similar initiatives. The Bank has also offered to co-ordinate the assistance provided by various donor institutions to small states, with a view to reducing duplication of effort and promoting a division of labour based on the comparative advantage of different organisations. This should be welcomed and supported. Greater resources should be directed to those areas of the Barbados Programme that are relatively under-funded (e.g. climate change and sea-level rise, natural disasters and biodiversity).
- (f) **Mitigate serious environmental threats.** The 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change should enter into force as soon as possible. Technical assistance and capacity-building programmes are needed to help the more vulnerable small states to develop and implement plans for adapting to climate change and sea-level rise. Small states also need assistance to develop effective policies for managing and conserving scarce freshwater resources; reducing pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources; sustainably exploiting resources in their Exclusive Economic Zones; and reducing the adverse environmental and social impacts of tourism development.
- (g) **Design and implement new initiatives to build capacity in small states.** All institutions presently involved in supporting capacity building in small states, should develop a coherent and properly co-ordinated strategy to support human resources development and institutional strengthening in those small states that continue to lack a critical mass of indigenous expertise and institutions in key areas of economic and environmental management and planning. Such a strategy should include the strengthening of regional and sub-regional institutions, take

advantage of new technologies in the field of communications and involve knowledge building and its greater application.

Introduction

The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) adopted by the 1994 UN Global Conference in Barbados, two years after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, was intended to address the sustainable development of SIDS in a holistic and comprehensive manner.¹ It was also widely seen as providing a coherent framework for concerted national, regional and international efforts to reduce vulnerability and promote the sustainable development of SIDS.

2. At its 1999 session, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will, *inter alia*, serve as a preparatory committee for a comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme which is to be undertaken by the UN General Assembly's Special Session (UNGASS) in September this year. Thirty-two of the Commonwealth's 54 members are small states (of these, 25 are SIDS). The association, which has always played a strong role in supporting the development of small states and promoting their concerns, can influence the preparations for the UNGASS in order to ensure a successful review which will help to accelerate the implementation of the Barbados Programme.

3. This review is taking place at a time when the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank have launched a major initiative to address the concerns of small states. The highly successful Commonwealth Ministerial Mission on Small States, undertaken at the request of Heads of Government in July 1998, secured agreement on the establishment of a Commonwealth/World Bank Joint Task Force. This body is undertaking a detailed examination of how to better address a number of issues that are relevant to the Barbados Programme and are of particular concern to small states: recognition of their vulnerability; the criteria used to determine their development assistance requirements and economic status; the opportunities and challenges posed by globalisation; transitional costs of their integration in the world economy; effectiveness of aid to small states; and the economic impact of natural disasters.

4. A meeting of the Task Force and its Advisory Board in St Lucia in February this year, which was attended by high-level representatives of several small states, international donor agencies and regional organisations, helped to advance its work. The Task Force's report is expected to be finalised at a meeting in Washington DC on 11-13 April and will eventually be submitted to the Development Committee of the World Bank in October this year, as well as to the meetings of Commonwealth Finance Ministers, the Ministerial Group on Small States and Heads of Government.

5. This paper, which is intended to assist the CCGE's discussions on item 3 of the Provisional Agenda, consists of two sections. The first provides a brief overview of progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme. The second focuses on key issues and constraints that continue to be of concern to small states and suggests priorities for further

¹The Programme of Action consists of a Preamble and 15 Chapters. They cover several sectoral and cross-sectoral areas: climate change and sea-level rise; natural and environmental disasters; management of wastes; coastal and marine resources; freshwater; land resources; energy; tourism; biodiversity; national institutions and administrative capacity; regional institutions and technical co-operation; transport and communications; science and technology; human resource development; trade; and financial resources.

action. An overview of the many ways in which the Secretariat has helped to promote the sustainable development of small states since 1994 is at the Annex.

I OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

6. Since 1994, considerable efforts have been made at the national level by small states to advance the implementation of the Barbados Programme. In general, most Commonwealth and other small states have developed national environmental strategies as well as sectoral strategies and action plans (e.g. for tourism, coastal areas, freshwater). Considerable energy has also been invested in establishing national planning and policy-making institutions in order to achieve better environmental management. Furthermore, environmental legislation and regulations have been introduced and/or strengthened in several countries, and some have begun to explore the use of market-based economic instruments in environmental management. Greater efforts in environmental education have increased public awareness of environmental issues in most countries.

7. These are all positive achievements, although it is hard to gauge the extent to which they have helped to reduce vulnerability and make economic development more environmentally sustainable in small states. In a quantitative sense, the inadequacy of baseline data on economic indicators in small states makes it particularly difficult to assess the impacts various policy measures have had on the environment. This is a major gap that needs to be addressed in the review of the Barbados Programme.

8. Significant developments have also taken place at regional levels, involving efforts to strengthen existing institutions or create new ones to support the implementation of the Programme and improve co-ordination of national and regional initiatives. For instance, in the Pacific region, the South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee has been established in order to co-ordinate the activities of the several regional organisations that are supporting the Barbados Programme. At the international level, several international organisations (including the Commonwealth Secretariat) as well as multilateral and bilateral donor agencies have supported various projects to assist the implementation of the Barbados Programme. Although progressive efforts have been made to improve co-ordination among these bodies and reduce duplication of effort, this is clearly an area where there is scope for considerable improvement.

9. International assistance appears to have been concentrated on the following areas of the Barbados Programme: human resources development; transport and communications; freshwater resources; land resources; coastal and marine resources; and energy resources. However, major gaps exist. In particular, areas that have not received adequate attention from the international community include climate change and sea-level rise; biodiversity resources; natural disasters; and management of wastes.

10. After initial 'teething problems' which were partly related to uncertainty about financial resources, two major initiatives launched under the Barbados Programme have started generating concrete results. The Small Island Developing States Information Network (SIDSNET), which aims to link SIDS with the rest of the world and one another through the Internet, has been created and connectivity established for all states except Niue and Tuvalu. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has also set up a SIDSNET Website to promote information-sharing among SIDS and is holding workshops on training in the use

of SIDSNET in 30 SIDS. The second initiative involved the establishment of a Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme (SIDSTAP) with the aims of promoting exchange of experience and knowledge among SIDS, as well as between SIDS and other countries, in order to improve the quality and broaden the choice of expertise on sustainable development in SIDS. Both SIDSNET and SIDSTAP need continued external funding and support in order to build on these achievements.

II KEY ISSUES AND PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

11. There continue to be a number of constraints which prevent small states from reducing their vulnerability and making a smoother and swifter transition to sustainable development. Sustainable development will remain an elusive goal for many of these countries as long as:

- their vulnerability is not sufficiently recognised and narrow criterion like GDP per capita continue to be used to assess their economic status, including graduation from the loan windows of international financial institutions, as well as their development assistance requirements;
- they continue to face high transitional costs and are unable to benefit from the progressive globalisation of trade and finance;
- they are unable to reduce the heavy economic burden of rehabilitation and reconstruction after suffering major natural disasters whose frequency and intensity may increase as a result of global warming and climate change;
- they remain seriously vulnerable to other threats to their security such as drug trafficking and money laundering;
- they face serious environmental threats such as growing pressures on freshwater resources and the deterioration of coastal and marine environments; and
- they continue to experience serious deficits in skilled human resources and institutional capacity.

There is therefore a substantial agenda of issues affecting small states – most of which are being examined by the Commonwealth/World Bank Joint Task Force – that needs to be addressed in the review of the Barbados Programme by UNGASS. These are discussed below.

Vulnerability

12. The Barbados Programme of Action called for further work on the development of a vulnerability index and other indicators that reflect the status of SIDS and integrate ecological fragility and economic vulnerability. It invited relevant international organisations to contribute to the development of a vulnerability index. Small states continue to believe that the exclusive use of a narrow criterion like per capita GDP to determine their eligibility for concessional assistance and graduation from the loan windows of international financial institutions, ignores major factors like vulnerability and the various constraints associated

with small size which adversely affect their development. Some small states (e.g. Vanuatu, Maldives and Samoa) now face the prospect of being graduated out of the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the UN.

13. At the request of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Small States, the Secretariat has since developed a composite Vulnerability Index which is nearing completion. The Index incorporates measures of economic exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters and adverse environmental trends. A measure of resistance and resilience (i.e. the ability to withstand exogenous shocks and to 'bounce back' from their impact) is also incorporated in the Index. Work on the Index has shown that, while the GDP growth rates of small and larger developing countries are not very different, the variability/volatility of GDP growth rates is much greater for small states. The statistically significant factors which partly explain this are: lack of export diversification; a higher incidence and intensity of natural disasters; and greater export dependence (the ratio of exports to GDP). As measured by the Commonwealth Vulnerability Index, 29 of the 30 most vulnerable developing countries in the world are small states.

14. The St Lucia meeting of the Commonwealth/World Bank Task Force agreed it is now important to promote the operational use of indices of vulnerability like the Commonwealth's Vulnerability Index by international financial and development organisations, the UN's Committee on Development Planning and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Improving Effectiveness of International Assistance

15. There remains a need to strengthen resource mobilisation from all sources to support the implementation of the Barbados Programme. At the same time, the effectiveness of assistance to small states should be improved with better co-ordination among various donor agencies. The World Bank is developing a strategy, for approval by its Executive Board, to re-orient its assistance for small states based on a strategic assessment of their vulnerability, constraints and needs. Other international financial and development institutions should be encouraged to adopt similar initiatives. The Bank has also offered to co-ordinate the assistance provided by various donor institutions to small states, with a view to reducing duplication of effort and promoting a division of labour based on the comparative advantage of different organisations. This should be welcomed and supported. Greater resources should be directed to those areas of the Barbados Programme that are relatively under-funded (e.g. climate change and sea-level rise, natural disasters and biodiversity).

Transitional Problems in the Context of Globalisation

16. Trade liberalisation under the Uruguay Round Agreements poses transitional problems for many small states. The European Commission's revised banana protocol - which is vital to the economic survival of several small states - continues to be the subject of a major dispute between the United States and the European Commission. In the context of the ongoing negotiations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries and the European Commission on a successor arrangement to the Lomé IV Convention (which expires in the year 2000), a key issue is the length of the transition period for ACP small states.

Another issue is whether some of the more vulnerable small states could qualify for special and differential treatment in the WTO. The Commonwealth should:

- (i) Promote agreement on a transition period for small economies that would give them adequate time to be integrated into the global economy and adjust to the new international trading regime, and on financing mechanisms to meet the transitional costs of their adjustment.
- (ii) Hold further consultations with the WTO and its membership to secure agreement for the case for extending special and differential treatment to the more vulnerable small states in the international trading system; this would not require creating a new category of countries in the WTO.
- (iii) Continue to assist small states with their technical preparations for important WTO negotiations, as well as in the ACP-European Commission negotiations on a successor arrangement to the Lomé IV Convention, through the provision of policy advice, expert studies and technical assistance.

17. Many small states continue to lack the capacity to participate effectively in WTO negotiations on existing as well as new trade issues (e.g. trade and environment) which affect their interests. Those seeking to accede to the WTO are finding it difficult to follow the organisation's accession procedures, and WTO membership fees are high for the poorer and more vulnerable small states. The Commonwealth should:

- (i) Encourage the WTO to streamline its accession procedures for small states, reduce their membership fees and facilitate their use of its dispute settlement mechanism.
- (ii) Promote arrangements to support the effective participation of small states in WTO negotiations. The Commonwealth/World Bank Task Force should expedite its examination of the feasibility of establishing a small states facility in Geneva and arranging its funding on a multilateral basis.

Reducing the Economic Impact of Natural Disasters²

18. Several Commonwealth SIDS and other small states continue to be extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. Both the Pacific and Caribbean regions have suffered from several hurricanes in recent years. In addition to the loss of human lives, these have caused serious damage to infrastructure and have also adversely affected key economic sectors such as agriculture and tourism. In St Kitts and Nevis, the total damage due to hurricane George was estimated to be over \$ 450 million. Hurricane Gavin caused economic damage estimated at \$ 18 million in Fiji. The extreme weather patterns (flooding and drought) caused by the El Niño-La Niña phenomenon have also hurt several small states ranging from Guyana to Papua New Guinea. In the latter, drought conditions affected more than half a million people.

² The paper, CCGE(99)2, which is relevant to item 4 of the Provisional Agenda, discusses the adequacy of existing international disaster assistance mechanisms, in the context of the needs of all vulnerable Commonwealth countries, small and large.

19. As the frequency, intensity and economic costs of such natural disasters has increased in recent years, claims for insured losses have also soared. In 1995, for instance, hurricanes caused more than \$1 billion in insured losses for Caribbean countries. Consequently, insurance companies have either withdrawn completely from the Caribbean and Pacific regions or have hiked up premiums for insurance to cover damages caused by tropical storms. The volatility of premiums can have perverse consequences. For instance, after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, reinsurance premiums increased dramatically world-wide, thus affecting Caribbean small states, even though they had not suffered extensive damage on that occasion.

20. Another major problem for small states is difficulty in accessing adequate funding for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure that is damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. As noted earlier, the costs can be enormous. When sufficient grant financing is not forthcoming, the alternative of loans from multilateral and regional financial institutions can help, but at a price, since such loans are debt-creating which ultimately aggravates the disaster-affected country's overall economic burden. In many disaster-prone small states, the public sector is presently absorbing too much risk, partly because large sections of their populations do not have adequate catastrophe insurance.

21. Action is needed in the following areas:

- (i) Improving, where necessary, national, regional and global warning systems. Governments and regional organisations also need to adopt and implement plans which integrate risk reduction, disaster management and emergency response. Technical assistance and capacity building can strengthen their ability to do this.
- (ii) Developing, in partnership with the private sector, insurance arrangements and financial instruments which will reduce the level and volatility of catastrophe insurance premiums and increase coverage. The World Bank has made interesting proposals, initially to be implemented on a pilot basis in the Caribbean region, to develop and implement risk-sharing and risk transfer instruments that would adapt the latest risk financing and risk transfer strategies to the needs of small states. This will involve: (a) implementing optimal risk transfer and institutional mechanisms to improve the efficiency and operation of insurance markets; (b) provide liquidity for more rapid post-disaster reconstruction of damaged infrastructure (especially for the low-income housing sector); and (c) reduce the vulnerability of infrastructure, e.g., through the improvement and enforcement of building code standards and careful land use/construction planning. If it is successful, this approach could be replicated for disaster-prone small states in other regions.
- (iii) Improving the co-ordination of post-disaster assistance provided by the various UN organisations; bilateral donors; international and regional financial institutions; and NGOs. In determining assistance for rehabilitation, assessments of the economic impacts of natural disasters should include a valuation of the damage done to environmental assets (e.g. primary forests, freshwater resources, biodiversity, fisheries). Such damage often tends to be neglected in impact assessments.

Mitigating Environmental Threats

Climate Change and Sea-level Rise

22. Climate change, sea-level rise and an increase in the frequency and intensity of tropical storms expected as a result of global warming, are of major concern to several Commonwealth small islands and other small low-lying states. Most of their populations, agricultural lands and infrastructure are located in coastal zones. The impacts will be severe on the marine environment with possible damage to coral reefs and fisheries. There is also the danger of inundation of outlying atolls and damage to vegetation and freshwater through the intrusion of saline water.

23. At Edinburgh in October 1997, Commonwealth Heads of Government called unanimously for reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) beyond the year 2000. Their consensus contributed to international agreement in Japan in December 1997 on a Protocol (the Kyoto Protocol) to the 1992 UN Convention on Climate Change. This establishes a legally binding obligation for industrial nations and countries with economies in transition to reduce, through differentiated targets, their emissions of six GHGs in total by about 5 per cent below 1990 levels by the years 2008-2012. These countries are required to make 'demonstrable' progress towards this commitment by the year 2005. It is important to:

- (i) Promote the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries so that it enters into force as soon as possible. (The Protocol will enter into force only after its ratification by at least 55 Parties to the Convention. These 55 Parties must include industrial countries that accounted for at least 55 per cent of the total carbon dioxide emissions of industrial nations in 1990).
- (ii) Secure early agreement on mechanisms to monitor emissions and verify compliance with commitments to reduce them, as well as on the three mechanisms for co-operative implementation of commitments envisaged in the Protocol.³ The Commonwealth can help to ensure that the interests and special concerns of small member states that are most vulnerable to climate change and sea-level rise are taken into account in the negotiations.
- (iii) Assist the relatively more vulnerable small states to develop detailed plans for adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise, as part of their long-term sustainable development planning processes. Such programmes can be developed both at national and regional levels. A good example of the latter is the four-year Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change project which is being supported by the Global Environment Facility. Similar projects could be considered for the South Pacific, Indian Ocean and African regions.

Pressures on Freshwater Resources

³ These mechanisms are: joint implementation among industrial nations, whereby one country can finance emissions reductions projects in another and get credit for the ensuing reduction in emissions; emissions trading among Parties included in Annex B to the Protocol; and a 'Clean Development Mechanism' which is intended to assist developing countries in achieving sustainable development.

24. Several small states continue to face serious vulnerabilities and constraints in relation to freshwater. Many SIDS rely either on single aquifers or on a limited number of watersheds, and inadequate action to safeguard these sources poses a significant threat. Pressure for land and forest resources are causing deforestation and degradation of catchment areas. Over-abstraction of ground water increases the possibility of saline intrusion into aquifers. Urban population growth, changes in economic strategies and a growing per-capita use of water are significant challenges, and water supply and sanitation are high priorities. Tourism, which is a key sector in the economic development of many SIDS, has become an increasingly intensive user of water resources. It is important to:

- (i) Develop effective policy and regulatory frameworks for the integrated management of freshwater resources.
- (ii) Design and implement market-based economic instruments to promote conservation and sustainable use of freshwater as well as to prevent and control pollution of freshwater resources.
- (iii) Facilitate the access of small states to information and expertise on different facets of freshwater management. The Commonwealth Secretariat's Small Islands Water Information Network (SIWIN), which links professionals and institutions concerned with water management in SIDS in all regions of the Commonwealth, can continue to play a valuable role in this area.

Pollution of Coastal and Marine Resources

25. There is growing concern about the deterioration of marine and coastal environments and their management in several small states. A wide range of problems needs to be tackled. These include: the erosion of beaches mainly due to the mining of sand and coral, the degradation of coral reefs and mangroves (which, in addition to their rich biodiversity, are important natural defences against sea-level rise); increasing pollution of marine and coastal resources from land-based sources (e.g. domestic sewage, industrial effluents); difficulties in managing vast Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), which are an important potential resource for many SIDS; and illegal fishing by foreign fishing fleets. The problems of managing large EEZs are especially acute - for instance, in an archipelago like Kiribati, the EEZ is 3.6 million square kilometres whereas the country's total land area is less than 1,000 square kilometres. It is important to:

- (i) Assist small states in reducing pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, and in developing and implementing plans for the integrated management of coastal areas and the protection of vital environmental assets like coral reefs and mangroves.
- (ii) Enhance the capacity of small states to monitor and better manage their fisheries as well as develop management plans for assessing, monitoring and exploiting both living and non-living resources in their EEZs.
- (iii) Assist small states in implementing the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. One area which deserves increasing attention is technical preparation for the possible extension of EEZs under the Convention.

Other Environmental Threats

26. Several SIDS continue to be concerned about the potential danger posed by the passage of ships carrying nuclear and other toxic wastes through the high seas that surround them. The adoption of the Waigani Convention covering the South Pacific region and the statement issued by the Heads of Government of CARICOM in 1995 on this subject attest to the importance SIDS attach to the problem. Questions concerning the transboundary movement of nuclear and other hazardous wastes are under active consideration in other fora such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Basle Convention. Since the present state of international law - especially in the context of transboundary movements of nuclear wastes - is unclear, and there are divergent views and practices among different countries, the international community needs to develop more effective instruments and arrangements which address the concerns of small states.

27. In small states whose economies are heavily dependent on tourism, there is a danger that further tourism development, without the necessary environmental and social safeguards, will be destabilising. The principal environmental problems that need to be addressed include increasing pressures on land resources and wildlife; limited facilities to deal with solid and liquid waste generated on land and at sea; degradation of coastal areas which affects beaches, mangroves and coral reefs; and unsustainable use of scarce freshwater resources. The main social problems include the dangers of social and cultural tensions when the number of tourist visitors during peak seasons exceeds the local population. It is therefore vital for small states to develop and implement long-term plans for sustainable tourism development that maximise economic benefits and minimise adverse social and environmental impacts.

Capacity Building

28. Because of their relatively small populations and labour forces, many small states have been unable to develop the range of specialist skills required to manage their transition to environmentally sustainable development. Institutional and administrative capacities are also too weak to monitor environmental and economic trends, implement national environmental plans and strategies and enforce environmental legislation effectively. The pooling of resources among small states to strengthen or create new regional institutions has helped to mitigate this constraint partially. However, some of these institutions are themselves in need of strengthening in order to fulfil their sustainable development mandates.

29. It is therefore important for all institutions presently involved in supporting capacity building in small states to develop jointly a coherent and properly co-ordinated strategy to support human resources development and institutional strengthening in those small states that continue to lack a critical mass of indigenous expertise and institutions in key areas of economic and environmental management and planning. Such a strategy should include the strengthening of regional and sub-regional institutions and take advantage of new technologies in the field of communications. The Commonwealth, which has been particularly active in supporting capacity building in small states, can help to promote such a co-ordinated strategy.

Commonwealth Secretariat Support for the Implementation of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action

This Annex provides an overview of the activities of the Commonwealth Secretariat since 1994 which have helped to promote the sustainable development of Commonwealth small states, within the framework of the Barbados Programme. These activities included initiatives to build international consensus on issues affecting small states, policy development, capacity building and various projects in the areas of natural resources management, finance and trade. It is significant that, at present, as much as 60 per cent of overall assistance provided by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) is directed to meet the needs of small states.

Consensus Building and Policy Development

Consensus Building

2. Consensus building on policies conducive to the sustainable development of small states has long been an important preoccupation of the biennial meetings of Commonwealth Heads of Government. To facilitate the process, and at the request of member governments, the Commonwealth Secretary-General established a Ministerial Group on Small States (MGSS) to provide a higher political profile for problems which are of particular concern to small states, as well as a Consultative Group of Senior Officials to examine the related technical issues. In 1997, the MGSS recognised that although several environmental problems were of a global nature, many small states suffered disproportionately from their adverse consequences. They called for the implementation of strategies which address small states' most urgent environmental problems and integrate environmental considerations into the earliest stages of economic policy-making. They also called for support in the international community for accelerating the implementation of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action, with the Commonwealth playing an active role in the 1999 review of the Programme.

3. An important contribution to increasing awareness of the special problems of small states has been the 1997 report by a Commonwealth Advisory Group of Experts on '*A Future for Small States: Overcoming Vulnerability*'. On the basis of the discussions of the MGSS on this Report, and at the request of the 1997 Edinburgh Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, a Ministerial Mission visited major multilateral agencies to discuss the concerns of small states and was successful in securing agreement on the establishment of a Commonwealth/World Bank Joint Task Force. This body is undertaking a detailed examination of how issues of particular concern to small states could be addressed more effectively through better targeted and designed assistance programmes. Another important contribution has been the development of a Vulnerability Index, which is nearing completion. It includes both economic and environmental indicators of vulnerability, as well as a measure of resilience. The Index is intended to provide a robust and widely acceptable method for assessing the vulnerability of countries. It is proposed that the Index be used practically, as an additional criterion to assist in determining the development assistance requirements of small states.

4. Meetings of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment (CCGE) have helped to build consensus and promote co-operation on major issues related to the sustainable development of small states, including forests, fisheries, climate change and freshwater resources. For instance, the 1997 CCGE meeting's discussions on climate change facilitated the adoption of a Commonwealth position on climate change, which was embodied in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Economic Declaration. This contributed to the attainment of agreement at the Kyoto Conference later that year on a Protocol for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions after the year 2000.

Policy Development

5. The 1997 MGSS meeting emphasised the importance of implementing strategies which address small states' most urgent environmental problems and integrate environmental considerations into the earliest stages of economic policy-making. The Secretariat is implementing a series of workshops for senior economic and environmental planners on the conceptual and practical aspects of integrating economic and environmental policies. A workshop, held in Trinidad and Tobago in 1998, helped small states in the Caribbean region to gain a better understanding of the linkages between the economy and the environment and identify priority areas where market-based economic instruments (MBIs) could be designed and implemented to promote environmentally sustainable development. The workshop was also able to contribute to the initiation of a strategy for the wider use of MBIs in environmental management, as called for by the 1997 Caribbean Ministerial meeting on the implementation of the Barbados Programme. Plans are currently being developed for a similar workshop for small states in the South Pacific region in the year 2000.

6. The Secretariat keeps small states and other developing countries informed of major policy developments and international negotiations on environmental issues through its quarterly publication, *International Development Policies*. It also provides information and analysis on trends in socio-economic indicators in electronic form and through an annual publication entitled, *Small States: Economic Review & Basic Statistics*.

Capacity Building

Technical Assistance

7. There has been a continuing demand from small states for technical assistance in building and consolidating domestic and regional institutional capacity and promoting self-reliance. Examples of assistance provided include:

- waste management and pollution control projects in Montserrat, Namibia, and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and a training workshop in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS);
- development and implementation of soil and water resource management strategies (a regional project implemented through the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute);
- planning and development of tourism resources (in St Vincent and Seychelles);

- assisting with the mitigation of existing and potential public environmental health hazards in St Lucia;
- technical assistance for the sustainable exploitation of coastal and marine resources in several SIDS (e.g. Trinidad and Tobago, Tonga) and for regional organisations supporting projects in these areas (e.g. the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission); and
- national capacity building through the provision of environmental advisers to support key economic planning ministries (e.g. in Jamaica).

Training

8. Training-oriented workshops have helped to build capacities in several areas in small states. For instance, in 1998, a workshop organised jointly by the Secretariat, the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, the South Pacific Forum and SPREP, helped South Pacific small states with their implementation of various provisions of the 1982 *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*. Another workshop organised in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and SPREP, focused on ways of strengthening the enforcement of international environmental conventions affecting South Pacific Commonwealth countries, with particular emphasis on criminal law. A third workshop focused on the supervision and analysis of environmental impact assessment exercises in small states in the Indian Ocean region. A training workshop for the Caribbean region will be held in the year 2000 to identify ways of reducing the impact of pollution on marine ecosystems.

9. In the area of climate change, a regional workshop was held in the Caribbean region in 1998 to clarify the implications, for small states, of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. A workshop on managing the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in the Caribbean region is planned for the year 2001 to assist with the implementation of obligations under the 1987 Montreal Protocol. The Secretariat has also established long-term training programmes for small states, e.g. an MSc course in Environmental Engineering at the Centre for Environmental Studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad and Tobago.

Education

10. Support has been provided to several small states to strengthen their education systems at various levels. Since the sustainability of many schools depends on successful adaptation of multi-grade teaching techniques (where one teacher instructs students of different grade levels in a single classroom), the Secretariat has worked with resource persons in the Caribbean region, for instance, to develop training modules for multi-grade teaching. The materials are already in use in Guyana, where the need was acute, and have been converted to a distance learning format in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning. There are plans to transfer and adapt these materials for other small states in the African region.

11. In collaboration with UNESCO, a series of workshops was conducted on the management of tertiary institutions that led to the formation of a network for information exchange and collaborative problem-solving. The network has a pan-Commonwealth representation of institutions, including all members of the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions.

12. The Secretariat is the lead agency for the Association for Development of Education in Africa's Working Group on the Teaching Profession. In this role, it has spearheaded the development of training modules for school-heads and supervisors, as an input to improvements in the quality of basic education. Several small states in Africa (The Gambia, Swaziland, Lesotho and Seychelles) have benefited from high quality materials developed to meet their needs, and training of their trainers in the use of these materials for school improvement. These materials were also transferred to the Caribbean region, where they have been used as a major training resource in countries like Belize. There are also plans for the UWI to use these materials in new training programmes that it is devising for school-heads.

Industrial Development

13. Assistance has been concentrated on the basic needs of populations in small states: agro-industries; food processing; textiles and clothing; and building materials and housing. The Secretariat has also been supporting projects for the development of premium quality functional craft products in the Caribbean region (e.g. in Dominica, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines and The Bahamas) which utilise both recycled and naturally occurring materials. The products provide a valuable source of income for grassroots community organisations which employ women, and in some cases, disabled people. Another project in The Bahamas is focusing on the manufacture of eco-souvenirs with validated product designs. In Guyana, the Secretariat's assistance has helped to upgrade skills and product designs in an industry making furniture from indigenous non-timber forest products which are being harvested sustainably by local communities. It is envisaged that the product range can be made attractive to the ecotourism trade now developing in the country.

14. The use of fossil fuels for electricity generation poses both economic and environmental problems in many small states. The Secretariat has therefore promoted the use of solar technology (e.g. to dry agricultural produce in Guyana and for water heaters in Dominica). Small states are also often faced with the problem of industrial waste management. In 1995, the Secretariat carried out an environmental audit of a rum distillery in Jamaica which made specific recommendations for the treatment of effluents and more efficient use of energy. In the building industry sector, technical assistance has been provided to some countries (e.g. St Lucia) to reduce or eliminate the use of beach-sand. In the area of tourism, assistance is being provided for a Tourism Master Plan for Jamaica, due for completion in June 2000, which will include health and environmental issues.

Natural Resources Management

Agriculture

15. Projects such as those implemented in Jamaica, Guyana, and the Solomon Islands, have strengthened planning and skills in the dairy and livestock sectors. In the area of land

management, following a successful series of publications on soil conservation and bio-engineering in the Caribbean region, consultations were held among key staff from agricultural extension services in a number of countries in the region to discuss new approaches to encourage farmer participation in preventing soil erosion. This led to the publication of a handbook on the subject. Projects for integrated pest management are promoting the use of biological control methods to combat invasive species in the Caribbean, particularly the pink mealy bug.

Fisheries

16. A recent pan-Commonwealth study assessed human resource and capacity-building requirements in the fisheries sector and evaluated the effectiveness of existing programmes in meeting these requirements as well as the constraints faced in project implementation. The study covered small states in the Caribbean (Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, St. Vincent and St. Lucia) and the South Pacific (Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu) regions. The Secretariat has prepared country reports for the Seychelles and Mauritius which review the policy framework for fisheries management and infrastructure for fish processing, research and training in each country. In 1996, the Ministry of Fisheries in Tonga was assisted in developing a comprehensive human resource training plan and reports were published on fisheries management and development policy in the context of Tonga's culture and traditions. These reports were reproduced in the Tongan language in order to develop the communication skills of fisheries extension staff. In Jamaica, the Secretariat advised on the development of a new export-oriented shrimp industry which is now in production.

Maritime Boundaries and Resources

17. The Secretariat has a programme of assistance for Commonwealth states seeking to maximise their maritime areas and to benefit from the sovereign rights accorded to them over the resources they contain. Such assistance covers the preparation of hydrographic and technical reports, the updating of legislation in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the preparation of negotiating briefs and assistance with the negotiation of maritime boundary agreements. The proper delimitation of maritime boundaries is important since this has major implications for the exploitation of living and non-living marine resources (e.g. fisheries, petroleum, manganese nodules) as well as for the preservation of the marine environment. The governments of Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Samoa and Seychelles and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), on behalf of its membership, have all received assistance in this area since 1994. Dominica has also received assistance in negotiating a fisheries agreement with the European Union.

Biological Diversity

18. The Secretariat has been helping small states to conserve their biological diversity. For instance, in the Caribbean region, assistance is being provided for the establishment of an *ex situ* collection of economically important plant genetic resources for the region, and a national herbarium in St Lucia. In the South Pacific region, the Secretariat is promoting the use of under-utilised crops to secure their conservation. Other planned activities on biodiversity which will be of benefit to small states include the documentation and evaluation of effective policies on access to genetic resources and intellectual property rights regimes; development of guidelines for protocols on bio-prospecting at regional and national levels;

training for community-based biodiversity management; and training in the safe use, handling and transfer of living modified organisms.

Forest Resources

19. The Secretariat has continue to support the development of the Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme in Guyana, which was launched under the Commonwealth's auspices in 1990, as an international initiative to demonstrate that tropical forest resources can be both conserved and used in environmentally sustainable ways to promote human development. Half of the 360,000 hectares of forest, generously set aside by Guyana, is maintained as a Wilderness Preserve for scientific research. The remainder will be utilised to generate economic benefits in accordance with sound environmental practices. With the signing of an agreement by the Government of Guyana and the Secretariat in 1995 and the enactment of legislation by Guyana's Parliament in 1996, the Iwokrama Programme now has a solid legal foundation and effective arrangements for its governance and management. In 1998, the Secretariat also successfully mobilised US\$8 million of new funding for the Programme from Commonwealth (e.g. Britain) and non-Commonwealth donors (e.g. Japan, the European Commission). This has helped to expand the Programme's activities in key areas such as sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, capacity building, research and communication. The knowledge and insights gained from Iwokrama's experience will be disseminated to other small states that face the challenge of managing their forest resources sustainably.

Water Resources

20. A major activity since 1994 has been the establishment of a Small Island Water Information Network (SIWIN) to help managers and specialists to exchange information and experience in water resources management. In 1997, a series of workshops were conducted to identify user needs in the South Pacific (Fiji), Mediterranean (Cyprus), Caribbean (Trinidad & Tobago), and Indian Ocean (Mauritius) regions. Information products that are being developed include databases, a website and CD-ROMS. Regional implementation workshops will be conducted in 1999-2000, concluding with a global conference focusing on the expansion of SIWIN into a problem-solving network. Workshops on water demand management and integrated water resources management in small islands will be conducted in Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago in 1999.

Mineral and Petroleum Resources

21. Since 1994, twelve small states (Botswana, Cook Islands, The Gambia, Grenada, Guyana, Lesotho, Maldives, Malta, Namibia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands and Trinidad & Tobago) have received assistance in exploring and developing their mineral and petroleum resources. This has included: helping to create an appropriate enabling environment for foreign investment in these sectors; advice on strategies for attracting foreign investment on the best terms and conditions; preparation of draft legislation and model agreements or licences; participation in negotiations with multinational companies; help in drafting agreements; and assistance for the commercialisation of known deposits. The advice provided to governments includes the consideration of environmental issues as they relate to petroleum

and mining activities and the inclusion of suitable environmental safeguards in legislation and agreements.

Finance

Debt Management

22. Small states have benefited from the Secretariat's advisory services in debt management. Assistance has included:

- provision of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Debt Recording and Management System (CS-DRMS) to 31 small states and dependent territories;
- strengthening the institutional arrangements for effective debt and development resources management;
- building local capacity in core areas of debt management, through in-country and regional training programmes; and
- providing policy advice to Central Banks and Ministries of Finance on various aspects of debt management, including developing debt strategies, reviewing debt portfolios and proposing options for debt restructuring.

23. The CS-DRMS, which runs on low-cost personal computers, is being used by many small states to capture and monitor both external and domestic debt. It has helped countries with different economic circumstances (those with a large debt burden as well as those that are less indebted) in managing their debt more efficiently. A critical component of the debt management programme is capacity building. Examples of recent training courses include courses in the use of CS-DRMS in the Cayman Islands (1996), St Kitts (1997), Tonga (1997) and Seychelles (1998), and a workshop on domestic debt in St Kitts (1997).

24. A number of small states are among the poorest and severely indebted countries. The Commonwealth took the lead in promoting a broader consensus which facilitated the launch of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative by the World Bank and IMF in 1996. It has since continued to play a significant role in helping to accelerate the implementation of the Initiative.

Private Sector and Capital Market Development

25. The Secretariat has been active in the development of the private sector in a number of countries and has developed regional funds to promote investment in small states.

26. Examples of the assistance provided for private sector development include: two privatisation projects in Barbados; securities legislation and legislation on non-bank financial institutions in Mauritius; and the development of a regulatory framework for capital markets in the Maldives. A policy options paper was prepared for Botswana on the regulation of its proposed international financial services centre. A diagnostic report was prepared for

Bermuda on the state of its intellectual property law and a recommendation made for its updating. A report was prepared for Brunei Darussalam on its insurance legislation and assistance was provided for the drafting of regulations to be promulgated under the new legislation as well as manuals to accompany the legislation. Other projects include: a regional workshop for Caribbean countries on the privatisation and regulation of utilities, and a study, undertaken at the request of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, on ways of improving the payments system in the OECS.

27. In 1995, the Secretariat launched the Commonwealth Private Investment Initiative (CPII) to attract private capital for commercial investment in small projects in Commonwealth developing countries. Two of the four regional investment funds established under this initiative, the Kula Fund for the Pacific region and the Tiona Fund for the Caribbean region, are specifically targeted at small states. The former was established in August 1997 and closed its subscription with commitments of \$17 million in total. In addition to the development finance institutions active in the region, the list of investors includes the National Provident Fund of Fiji. The Kula Fund can consider investments in the range of \$ 200,000 to \$ 2 million. It has already received enquiries for nearly 100 projects spread throughout the region in sectors including fisheries and aquaculture, shipping, agribusiness, property development, manufacturing, infrastructure and tourism. The first investments include a coconut palmwood furniture business and a fisheries company in Fiji, and a regional retailing network. The latter project has just been floated, with the assistance of the fund managers, on the United States Nasdaq market.

28. The Tiona Fund was launched at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in September 1998 and closed in early March 1999 with investment commitments of nearly \$20 million. The Fund's investment programme will begin shortly. Potential opportunities have been identified in agribusiness, oil and natural gas, light manufacturing, financial services, telecommunications, tourism and privately funded infrastructure.

Money Laundering

29. Combating money laundering - which can be particularly destabilising for small economies - has been accorded high priority by Commonwealth Heads of Government and Finance and Law Ministers. The Secretariat's activities in this area have included: the organisation of a joint meeting of finance and law officials in June 1998; two Senior Finance Officials meetings; preparation of Commonwealth Guidance Notes for the financial sector to combat money laundering; self-evaluation exercises in the financial and legal sectors; preparation of a model law criminalising money laundering to assist member countries in the preparation of their national laws; and the delivery of awareness-raising workshops for small states in the Pacific and Caribbean regions.

International Trade

30. The Secretariat is advising and assisting a number of small states (e.g. through workshops) on various aspects of the application of World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements: their legislative requirements; implications for protection of plant variety and other intellectual property; their bearing on environmental measures; and general implications for trade policies. An adviser based in Geneva has been assigned to the Commonwealth developing country delegations to provide technical advice on WTO issues. A long-term

adviser has also been assigned to the South Pacific Forum Secretariat in Fiji to advise and assist member countries on multilateral trade issues. The Secretariat's guide to WTO agreements is being updated, and a guide to the General Agreement on Trade in Services is being prepared, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC). These guides will assist small states in developing their trade policies.

31. The African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries are being supported in their negotiation of post-Lomé IV arrangements with the European Commission. The Secretariat has published reports on two core areas of the negotiations: trade issues and private sector development. Workshops have been held in Brussels (September 1998) and Suva (March 1999) to consider the recommendations of these reports. Further workshops are planned for the Southern African and Caribbean regions in 1999/2000.

Political Development

32. The Secretariat has been active in supporting good governance and democracy in small states which are essential in maintaining an environment conducive to their sustainable development. For instance, technical assistance has been provided to a number of small states in the electoral field, and since 1994, Commonwealth Observer Groups have observed elections in Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Lesotho, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles and St Kitts and Nevis, at the request of these countries. In 1998, the Secretariat organised a meeting of Commonwealth Chief Election Officers and a workshop on the role of the opposition in democracies. Small states were well represented at both events. Fiji, Guyana and Jamaica will be participating in a meeting, to be held in Bangladesh later this year, which will discuss the role of national election observers. The Secretariat proposes to hold a workshop on democracy in small states in the year 2000.

33. The Secretariat has also continued to administer and strengthen (with support from several Commonwealth donors) the Joint Office for Commonwealth Permanent Missions to the United Nations, whose facilities are used by nine Commonwealth small states. The Joint Office enables these countries to maintain diplomatic representation in New York and is critical for the conduct of their international relations, including environmental diplomacy, at the UN.

Gender and Sustainable Development

34. A programme on environment and health in the Caribbean (1993-1995) developed a report on solid waste management which was widely distributed and used as resource material for a training-of-trainers workshop in Guyana, organised by the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. This enabled women to learn about ways in which local communities can ensure safe drinking water and sanitation. Under the auspices of the Women's Affairs Bureau in Guyana, the Secretariat also sponsored a regional workshop on "Improving Water Quality for Rural Women". It introduced women to the use of plants and seeds as coagulating agents for the treatment of turbid water, and the use of ultra-violet rays from natural sunshine for disinfecting water. The workshop also provided training to trainers in methods of improving rural water quality.

35. A pan-Commonwealth training module on women and natural resources management, published in 1996, has been disseminated widely in the Caribbean and South Pacific regions.

The Secretariat is currently promoting gender mainstreaming throughout the public sector in member countries in partnership with other stakeholders, using Gender Management Systems. These activities include the publication of a guide on gender mainstreaming for government and the preparation of another on environmental issues, which will be published in 1999/2000.

Media and Communications

36. Through the Commonwealth Media Development Fund (CMDf), the Secretariat has assisted a number of small states to strengthen their broadcast and print media. Recently, the CMDf has funded courses in: management skills for editors (Jamaica, Solomon Islands); on-line journalism in the Caribbean (Barbados); community radio for the Pacific (Samoa); gender issues and radio production skills (Malawi, Seychelles); and selling newspaper and radio advertising in the Pacific (Fiji).