



Climate Vulnerable Forum  
Foro de Vulnerabilidad Climática  
Forum de la Vulnérabilité Climatique



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## MEETING REPORT

# The Post-2015 Climate Change Regime We Need: SIDS working together with other vulnerable groups

Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Side Event at the Third UN Conference on Small Island Developing States

09:00AM – 10:30AM

02 SEPTEMBER 2014

CONFERENCE MARQUEE FIVE (CM5), FALEATA SPORTS COMPLEX, APIA, SAMOA

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## SPEAKERS

- MR. WILLIAM CALVO, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF COSTA RICA TO THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SIDS, PERMANENT MISSION OF COSTA RICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
  - H.E. MR. MOHAMED HUSSAIN SHAREEF, HON. MINISTER AT THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, REPUBLIC OF THE MALDIVES
  - DR. KENDRICK LESLIE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE
  - MR. JO SCHEUER, COORDINATOR, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)
  - MS. SUSANNE MELDE, GLOBAL PROJECT COORDINATOR, MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE: EVIDENCE FOR POLICY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
  - MODERATOR: MR. MATTHEW MCKINNON, SPECIALIST, CVF SUPPORT, UNDP
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## SUMMARY

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Side Event at the Third International Conference on Small Island States (SIDS) explored cooperation among diverse groups of countries vulnerable to climate change supporting the enhanced sustainable development of SIDS.

Costa Rica as CVF Chair announced the Forum Trust Fund's sponsoring of a series of expert regional events in Africa, Asia and the Pacific to promote cooperation between SIDS and other groups of vulnerable countries. The workshops will help to build the collective voice, exchange knowledge on responding to climate change, and enhance collaboration for vulnerable countries as a contribution to successfully securing a new international climate change regime for the post-2015 period.

The Maldives government stressed how much different island and non-island vulnerable countries had in common despite strong geographical, cultural and other differences. SIDS and other vulnerable countries should build on their affinities and gain from partnerships and each other's smart ideas. Maldives and a number of SIDS face existential threats and other vulnerable countries are facing very serious challenges, including infringements of international human rights. But the fate of the most vulnerable is the fate of all tomorrow. SIDS can look in particular to transcend these concerns through smart ideas, moral leadership and active steps toward accelerated low-carbon development. Maldives called on the rest of the world to "walk with us" and expressed its strong ongoing commitment to CVF processes.

The CARICOM Climate Change Centre pointed to capacities – human, knowledge, financial – as the main constraints to effective responses to climate change within SIDS and vulnerable countries. While North-North collaboration was important, much broader support for increasing capacity can be brought behind national responses to climate change through South-South cooperation. Sharing knowledge and collaborating among experts in the Caribbean, for example, will soon generate one of the highest-resolution regional models of climate change with a level of definition as high as 3km. Furthermore, Belize, for instance, has directly based its ecosystem management tools on Costa Rica's experience in biological and conservation area management. The CARICOM Centre sees South-South cooperation as a key mode of its forward work, as exemplified by the newly created SIDS Dock international organization focused on renewable energy in collaboration with the Centre.

UNDP emphasized the significant scale of the economic and human impact of disasters globally, and the importance of ensuring that disaster and climate risks are adequately accounted for in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "Disasters happen because development went wrong" and yet in their last draft form the proposed SDGs can be considered "risk blind" to a degree. The series of four parallel international processes concluding in 2015 (climate change regime, development agenda, Hyogo II, World Humanitarian Summit) require an integrated approach to ensure good policies. In UNDP's experience, South-South cooperation is an excellent but challenging mode of cooperation and implementation, and has been the subject of criticism both fair and unfair. A number of lessons guide forward South-South work in UNDP, for instance, the absolute necessity for South-South activities to be country-driven and not overlooking non-programme factors, such as political will, financial resources and other key implementation conditions. UNDP's support work in assistance to the CVF is an example of a "light-touch" facilitating role where governments are taking the lead in driving activities.

IOM explained its current program of work addressing environmental and climate change influences on migration with a particular focus on its capacity building, knowledge, policy dialogue and operational approaches. IOM capacity building training workshops and modules were enabling countries to systematically mainstream migration into national adaptation planning and strategies. IOM knowledge activities and policy dialogue work were additionally assisting the translation of latest research and experiences into policy development, including, for instance, the potential of migration as an adaptation strategy, such as when emigrant remittances bolster the economic development of vulnerable origin communities. IOM was also active in operational responses to environmental migration and displacement concerns, including support to affected groups on community stabilization, disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

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## ABOUT THE CVF

### THE CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM (CVF)

The CVF is an international partnership of countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet that serves as a South-South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change. The Forum was founded by 11 governments at the initiative of the Maldives in 2009 to enable a stronger voice for vulnerable groups at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit (UNFCCC COP15). The Forum has continued to serve as a climate change focused cooperation platform for developing countries from all key regions of the world. Major CVF meetings in Maldives, Kiribati and Bangladesh have helped to build consensus, highlight needs and concerns, and advocate on shared interest areas. The CVF has also commissioned research (the "Climate Vulnerability Monitor" series), convened expert panels and conducted multi-lateral dialogues.

### THE CVF TRUST FUND

CVF activities are primarily funded by the CVF Trust Fund that benefits from generous contributions from Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland. The Forum's work has been supported by a range of partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that hosts a dedicated CVF Support Unit and, via its Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, administers the CVF Trust Fund. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) are also participating agencies in the CVF Trust Fund.

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CVFOO>

### CVF FUND PARTNERS



### MORE INFORMATION

[www.thecvf.org](http://www.thecvf.org)  
[info@thecvf.org](mailto:info@thecvf.org)