

CSD - SIDS Discussion – February 28, 2011

Statement delivered on behalf of Farmer's Major Group By Robynne Anderson

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to focus attention on the great vulnerability of farmers, fisherfolk and animal owners in the Small Island Developing States.

Building resilience to the challenges of changing climate and emergency preparedness is essential. There should be support to establish and strengthen existing disaster management capacities at all levels, including information and early warning systems that allow effective management of the risks associated with drought, desertification, land degradation and the adverse impacts of climate change.

In this regard, we encourage CSD-19 to consider reiterating some of the key elements of the CSD-17 outcomes including the need for information sharing, weather monitoring, and risk reduction measures such as crop insurance.

Fostering techniques in sustainable SYSTEM management rather than specific management projects is also important. For farmers, this includes integrated crop and pest management and best practices in livestock production that support an eco-system approach. In the case of SIDS, it is particularly important to emphasize soil conservation and rehabilitation of vegetation cover.

To further this, there should be support for developing countries in the **development, deployment and diffusion of technologies** on mutually agreed terms.

The farmers' major group remains concerned about the mechanisms to improve the lives, livelihoods, and sustainable output of smallholder farmers. The engagement of farmer organizations in the discussions on sustainable development is essential.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.