



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Andris PIEBALGS

European Commissioner for Development

Engaging with vulnerable countries through better adaptation and resilience action

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European Union actively supports Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDC) in addressing climate change and in disaster risk reduction, thus building their resilience. That support comes from flagship initiatives such as the Global Climate Change Alliance, or GCCA, and from several disaster risk reduction and resilience programmes.

The GCCA supports policy dialogue on climate change, regional and national strategies for disaster and climate resilience, community-level adaptation plans and capacity-building. Since 2007 it has provided almost 300 million euros in support for programmes in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Their vulnerability makes SIDS and LDCs priority partners. They will remain so under the new GCCA+, under which 370 million euros will be allocated until 2020.

Recently, we have also substantially increased our support for disaster resilience in African, Caribbean, and Pacific – or ACP – countries to 180 million euros.

Building on this solid experience, the EU is increasingly engaging in vulnerable countries. We are bringing a more integrated approach to our aid by mainstreaming resilience and climate change in our interventions. And we are committed to making at least 20 percent of our external spending climate-relevant.

Moreover, the EU recently launched its Resilience Action Plan, pooling a wide array of initiatives on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and food security. One priority is to combine disaster risk management and adaptation in ACP countries. This joined-up approach has already taken shape in the joint action plans for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific.

Another example is the Post-Disaster Need Assessment and the Disaster Recovery Framework guide, which we have produced with the World Bank and United Nations. It provides guidance for governments on how to build back better, design and implement disaster recovery and incorporate strategic interventions.

At the recent, successful SIDS Conference I outlined the EU's commitment to strengthening its support to adaptation and resilience action in vulnerable countries. I can confirm that commitment to you today.

Thank you.