

Regional Cooperation & Approaches: Policies, Practice, Prospects

Time: Saturday, October 11, 2008, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Venue: World Bank, JB1-080

Chair: The Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi
Director General, National Planning Commission, Republic of Namibia

9:30–9:40 **Forum Opening**

Welcome: Mr. Jeffrey Gutman, Vice President and Network Head
Operations Policy and Country Services, World Bank

Opening Remarks: Small States Forum Chair

9:40-10:00

Session I. Small States Network for Economic Development

9:40-9:50 **Presentation by Prof. Lino Briguglio**, Chair, Board of Trustees, Small States
Network for Economic Development. Report on 2008 activities

9:50-10:00 **Presentation by Mr. Allan Bell**, Treasury Minister, Isle of Man. The Isle of
Man and the Small States Network for Economic Development

10:00-11:00

Session II. The Caribbean Experience

Among the challenges faced by small states is adapting to the swiftly changing global economy and the erosion of trade preferences. Often this process involves negotiation with more powerful blocs of states and with international organizations that set the road map of international trade—negotiations in which small states face a disparity of power. In response, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments created the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM). What are other regional challenges and responses?

10:00-10:10 **Presentation by Mr. Carl B. Greenidge**, Deputy Senior Director, CRNM

10:10-10:20 **Presentation by H.E. Edwin W. Carrington**, Secretary-General, CARICOM

10:20- 11:00 Discussion

11:00-12:00

Session III. Prospects/Challenges for Regional Cooperation in Southern Africa

Southern Africa presents an unusual configuration among small states: four non-island MICs with more challenging socio-economic indicators than most of their MIC counterparts, and all bordering the region's political and economic powerhouse, South Africa. In this context, what are the prospects and challenges for small state regional cooperation? Can economies of scale be achieved by strategically using *small state capacity* outside of a country's borders (e.g., specialized higher education, higher court systems) rather than duplicating functions across all small states in the neighborhood?

11:00-11:10 **Presentation by Mr. Dumisani Masilela**, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Swaziland

11:10-11:20 **Observations by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi**, Chair, 2008 SSF

11:20-12:00 **Discussion**

12:00-12:15 Refreshments Break

12:15-1:05

Session IV. Telecommunications in the Pacific

Appropriate regulation and management of the liberalization of the telecommunications sector are essential to ensure that the economic and social benefits from increased competition can be sustained. Regional collaboration in providing quality technical support to Pacific small states on these matters is critical as the current sponsors/donors for the reforms phase out. At least two countries have advanced notably along this road, and at least another two are looking toward their experiences.

12:15-12:25 **Presentation by Ms. Hinauri Petana**, CEO, Finance Ministry, Samoa

12:25-1:00 Discussion

1:00-1:20

Conclusion of 2008 Small States Forum: Pointing the Way Forward

1:00-1:05 **Concluding Remarks by Mr. Jeffrey Gutman**, Vice President and Network Head, Operations Policy and Country Services, World Bank

1:05-1:15 **Observations by Mr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy**, Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat

1:15-1:20 **Chairman's Conclusion**