

# Preface

Millennium Development Goal 8 calls for a global partnership for development. This goal sets targets around an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system, addressing the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states (SIDS), as well as dealing comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries. This goal recognises the importance of a global effort to achieve development and also that developing countries such as small states cannot achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) without the assistance of the additional community.

The indicators which define MDG 8 fall into categories relating to official development assistance, market access, debt sustainability, access to affordable essential drugs and availability of information and communication technology. Absent from these indicators are the national, regional and international frameworks which are necessary to make an international development partnership possible and successful. This publication on partnerships for small states development explores how such a framework should operate.

The Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action remains the blueprint through which small island developing states pursue sustainable development. Owing to the inherent vulnerability that is a corollary of their size, small states lack the capacity to pursue the sustainable development agenda on their own. For this reason, the Mauritius Strategy called for ‘strengthened co-operation and partnership in support of sustainable development of small island developing states at the national, regional and international levels. Such partnership should be broad-based and ensure the involvement and participation of relevant stakeholders’.

This publication, designed for policy-makers in small states, suggests a number of options on how this partnership should work. The options presented in this publication include an integrated approach linking social, environmental and economic dimensions and a participatory process involving civil society, the private sector and the public sector at the national level. The regional dimension involves working with some well-established and some developing regional processes and engaging them in the pursuit of sustainable development at the regional and inter-regional level. Managing development assistance – including aid architecture – forms a major part of the international dimension of partnerships for development. The publication also sets forth a number of solutions to the various challenges experienced in forming partnerships for development.