



PRESS RELEASE

Small States in Transition: From Vulnerability to Resilience

Announcing Commonwealth Secretariat/Organisation of American States High Level Seminar on Economic Resilience in Small States

September 18, 2007

Strategies for accelerating the transition of small island developing states (SIDS) from vulnerability to resilience will be addressed during a High Level seminar to be jointly hosted by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (Department of Sustainable Development) and the Commonwealth Secretariat (Economic Affairs Division).

The Seminar will take place on September 18, 2007 at the Headquarters of the OAS in Washington D.C and will be held under the banner of the OAS' Seminar Series on Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.

The Seminar is set against the backdrop of a request from the *Mauritius International Meeting to Review the Implementation of The Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, held in January 2005, for the international community to continue supporting SIDS in their efforts at strengthening their economic resilience in order to withstand the effects of adverse economic shocks.

The centrepiece of the Seminar will be the presentation of an Economic Resilience Index which was adopted at an International Conference on Small States and Economic Resilience, organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the University of Malta, in April 2007. At that conference it was agreed that follow-up work was required to test the practical relevance of the Resilience Index for policy formulation at the national, regional and international levels, including its applicability to donor relationships and to the functions of international organisations.

The Seminar will feature presentations shown in the Table below.

PRESENTATION	PRESENTERS
Macroeconomic Stability and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lawrence Schembri – Bank of Canada
Social Development and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naren Prasad – UN Research Institute for Social Development – Geneva
Resilience: Conceptual and Technical Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical Issues in Constructing Composite Indices • The Economic Resilience Index Resilience • Market Adjustment and Resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Lino Briguglio – University of Malta • Nadia Farrugia – University of Malta • Dr. Gordon Cordina – University of Malta
Governance and Resilience in Small States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Governance and Resilience in Small States • Environmental Governance and Economic Resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paul Sutton – University of Hull, U.K. • Dr. John L. Roberts – Indian Ocean Commission – Mauritius

Persons wishing to attend the Seminar are invited to contact Ms. Charlene Solozano at the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organisation of American States, at Tel: 202-458-3912; or E-mail: csolozano@oas.org no later than August 20, 2007.



Indrajit Coomaraswamy
 Director
 Economic Affairs
 Commonwealth Secretariat



Scott Vaughan
 Director
 Department of Sustainable Development
 Organisation of American States