

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR DANNY FAURE,  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP  
BREAKFAST MEETING HOSTED BY THE  
ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES  
22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010, NEW YORK**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The journey for a Global Island Partnership which today spans all the continents started with the vision of two leaders – President James Michel of the Republic of Seychelles and President Remengesau, Former President of the Republic of Palau. The two leaders had one common goal – that conserving the world’s last remaining biodiversity treasures would take a global effort by the world’s leaders.

In the process they brought together leaders of other island nations, leaders of countries with overseas island territories, international organizations and even local institutions working on islands.

Today, the Global Island Partnership has contributed to achieving the 2010 targets and is recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity as a credible mechanism for advancing conservation of island biodiversity.

While each and every island is unique, all islands – regardless to their size or political status – face similar challenges. Nobody knows this better than the people in this room. GLISPA, the Global Island Partnership, was born out of that desire for greater collaboration.

Then it set a truly ambitious mission: to promote actions for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership and catalysing commitments.

To date, more than 60 national and sub-national governments, agencies and organisations have worked with GLISPA to advance high-level commitments and on the ground action.

Those include:

- Fiji's bold commitment to the conservation of 30% of its marine resources by 2020.
- Kiribati's establishment of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, the world's largest marine protected area and recently announced World Heritage Site
- Seychelles' launch of the Sea Level Rise Foundation and a commitment to develop a "Western Indian Ocean Challenge" involving the islands of the Western Indian Ocean and the coastal areas of East Africa.
- The "Micronesia Challenge" – a commitment by Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands to effectively conserve at least 30% of the marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.
- The "Caribbean Challenge" – a commitment by Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and St Kitts and Nevis to conserve and manage at least 20% of the Caribbean's marine habitat by 2020.
- And, the "Coral Triangle Initiative" – a multilateral partnership by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and East Timor to safeguard that region's extraordinary marine and coastal resources.

And may I also add with pride the announcement by the Seychelles of a new protected area – the Silhouette National Park established on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010– which brings the total area under protection by the Seychelles to more than 47 % of its land territory.

Seychelles therefore stands today as the country with the highest percentage of its land territory declared as protected areas for nature conservation. The second country after Seychelles is New Zealand which has 30 percent of its land area protected under law. The Seychelles has shown that the 2010 target can be achieved and calls on all leaders to make the bold commitment to preserve our planet for the future of humanity.

When those commitments become action, they sustain the livelihoods of island communities, contribute to a healthy future for island people, and help protect island cultures. But they do more. Each commitment strengthens our confidence and inspires others. It strengthens the resolve of families, communities, mothers, fathers, children, around the world– not just fellow islanders – to do more.

While a great deal remains to be done and the task ahead feels often daunting, we should not forget to celebrate our achievements.

As we approach the beginning of the Mauritius Review on Friday, I invite all of you to enter that plenary keeping in mind what island countries have accomplished in those five years, whether individually or with the support of alliances and partnerships like AOSIS, GLISPA and many others.

Seychelles will continue to pursue at the international level its active diplomacy through sound leadership and by example. We believe it can be done and call on all world leaders to halt global biodiversity loss and address the threat of climate change. Our islands are fragile and our planet is even more fragile. Let our conscience speak to the world; speak to the hearts of those who today have the power to change the course of humanity, to change the course towards a sustainable future.

Thank you.