



Many Strong Voices Planning Workshop

**31 March-3 April, 2009
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.**

The second Many Strong Voices Planning Workshop will be held from 31 March – 3 April 2009 in Washington, D.C. The workshop is being co-hosted by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo and the UNEP Regional Office for North America, with support from the Organization of American States, the Climate Law and Policy Project and the World Bank Institute.

The workshop is another step in building the MSV network and programme, which began at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Montréal in December 2005. Its vision is *to ensure the well-being, security and sustainability of coastal communities in the Arctic and SIDS in response to ongoing and anticipated climate change.*

It seeks to build a consortium of researchers, policy-makers, and organizations to advance mutual learning and exchange of knowledge, research, and expertise on climate change adaptation within and between the Arctic and the SIDS.

This workshop is funded by the Government of Norway and has financial support from the World Bank Institute and the Climate Law and Policy Programme. Its four main goals are to:

1. Report on the accomplishments and activities of MSV since the 2007 Belize workshop;
2. Share information on regional adaptation efforts and continue building the relationship between MSV partners;
3. Confirm 5-year plan priorities and focussed outreach strategy for the UNFCCC negotiations and other key international and regional meetings leading up to Copenhagen COP XV; and
4. Develop the next steps in the SIDS vulnerability assessment.

The Climate Law & Policy Project is also organizing an important public event as part of the MSV workshop. Called “The Arctic Imperative: Protecting the World’s Vulnerable Communities,” the event’s focus is the need for much more aggressive targets if we are to preserve lives and cultures of peoples residing in the Arctic, low-lying island states, and other vulnerable areas. Speakers include Sheila Watt-Cloutier, a well-known Inuit advocate and

former head of the Inuit Circumpolar Council and 2007 Nobel Peace Prize nominee; Dr. Rolph Payet, Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Seychelles who shared the Nobel Peace Prize as a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report; and Lester Brown, a well-known author of more than 50 books on the environment and founder of the Worldwatch Institute and Earth Policy Institute.

The workshop presents another opportunity for the participants in *Many Strong Voices* to come together, share their knowledge, identify opportunities to get their message into key international fora and to build relationships between these geographically distant but similar regions.