Fourth Session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK

ECOSOC Chamber

United Nations Headquarters

New York, NY 10017

29 September 2018

Agenda Item: 7e.ii.

**Decision on the**

**SIDS DOCK IWON Pilot Initiative for the Development of a**

**Global Sustainable Botanical/Herbal Supplier Market**

**from SIDS DOCK Member States**

*The Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the objective of the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) to promote the advancement and empowerment of women and girls of SIDS at the community and grassroot levels in the area of renewable energy and sustainable development through capacity building, education and awareness and entrepreneurships;

*Noting* that women comprise roughly half of the world’s population, and slightly over half of the SIDS population, and their full inclusion is vital to ensuring that the new energy economy is based on the largest pool of talent, knowledge, and skills;

*Noting further* with concern that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise, natural disasters, and other weather-related events;

*Recognizing* the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture, fisheries and availability of fresh water, which are key sectors for women’s employment and livelihoods, and the urgent need for alternatives;

*Recognizing further*that SIDS, due to geography, are endowed with rich biodiversity which represents a vast untapped renewable natural resource that can provide new opportunities for rural employment and livelihoods;

*Noting* the estimated global market for plant derived dietary supplements is expected to reach some USD 300 Billion, by 2024;

*Noting further* that SIDS, through small-scale/community-based production, provides small quantities of plant derived raw products with high value to the global market primarily through transactions that accrue limited economic value to producer and country;

*Stressing* the need to urgently heighten the awareness of the value of botanical and herbal supplements within SIDS, and the need to increase protection of plant biodiversity;

*Recognizing* the opportunity for SIDS to have significant presence as a reliable supplier of high value components into the global botanical/herbal market;

*Welcoming* the initiative to develop a successful natural products industry, with particular emphasis on high value, quality, accompanied by claims, cyber and intellectual property protection;

*Acting within its authority, decides to:*

1. Adopt the proposal for *A SIDS DOCK IWON Pilot Initiative on Developing a Successful Natural Products Industry: Quality, Claims, Cyber and Intellectual Property*, as contained in Document Number A/4/8;
2. Mandate the Secretariat to work closely with the IWON to solidify its partnership with the Law Firm of Rivkin Radler LLP, Ullman, Shapiro and Ullman, LLP, and to begin the implementation of the initiative, and;
3. Further mandates the IWON to continue to consult with, and seek guidance from the Executive Council, and through the Secretary-General update the Assembly at it fifth session.