

investment to developing countries. Heads of Government expressed deep concern at the declining trend in Official Development Assistance in relation to national income, having regard to the internationally agreed 0.7 per cent target. They called for further improvement in the terms and conditions of aid, particularly for poor countries. In this connection, they noted with satisfaction the improvement effected by major Commonwealth donor countries in the terms of their aid to developing countries.

53. Heads of Government welcomed the opportunity to discuss for the first time the special disadvantages that beset the growing number of smaller member countries, particularly the island developing countries and certain other specially disadvantaged member countries. They agreed that in order to offset the disadvantages of small size, isolation and scarce resources which severely limit the capacity of such countries to achieve their development objectives or to pursue their national interests in a wider international context, special measures of support were required. They noted in particular the growing needs of small island states for specialised assistance to enable them to take effective advantage of the resources within their 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones. In order to facilitate the exploitation of such resources, they hoped for early completion of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in a manner which would reflect in a balanced way the interests of all countries.

54. Heads of Government considered a memorandum by the Secretary-General analysing the problems of island developing and other specially disadvantaged countries, and proposing a wide range of measures designed to supplement existing bilateral and multilateral assistance to these countries. They commended the memorandum as a constructive basis for practical action. They requested the Secretary-General to pursue the programme of action recommended for the Secretariat, as resources permit and recipient countries request, and urged member Governments carefully to consider implementing those measures recommended. Heads of Government believed that the Commonwealth could thus respond both multilaterally and bilaterally to the special needs of smaller and specially disadvantaged members. They requested the Secretary-General, acting in close consultation with the countries concerned, to convene as necessary a committee to make recommendations on additional or improved programmes of assistance for consideration by Commonwealth Governments.