

Statement (Plenary)

Fourth International Conference on Small Island
Developing States (SIDS 4)

“Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity”

**His Excellency Gaston Alphonso Browne,
President of the Conference**

**His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-
General of the United Nations**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

I would like to express the gratitude of the people of
Seychelles to the Government and people of Antigua and

**Barbuda for your warm welcome and for hosting the
Fourth Small Island Developing States Conference.**

**At the outset I would like to present our solidarity and
condolences to the President and People of Papua New
Guinea following the tragic event yesterday that saw
unbearable loss of life.**

**Today, as we convene, our shared commitment is to
confront the distinctive challenges confronting small**

island nations. Despite three decades of recognition of the special considerations deserved by SIDS, we face a complex web of interlinked issues, from climate change and rising sea levels to environmental degradation, devastating pandemics, geopolitical tensions, economic vulnerability, and sustainable development. The outcomes have spiraled into mounting debt levels and a dearth of capacity to invest in resilience and climate action, making the pursuit of enduring prosperity a daunting and seemingly unending endeavour.

In the face of these formidable challenges, I wish to make 5 points under the theme that unites us ‘***Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity***’

1. We need to be united as SIDS. We represent the island states of the world, whether we are in the Atlantic, Pacific, Africa or Asia. We have let ourselves down in the past for we have been unable to present a united voice, but rather each region has

been defending its turf. For example, at COP28 we failed to present a SIDS agreed position. Can we agree to work together at this summit and stick together as one?

2. Island states are unique. We are insular and not attached to any continent by any road network. We all face the same issues and vulnerabilities. When there is war on the continent, we are the first ones to suffer increases in the cost of living. Industrialisation,

however good for the planet, affects us as rise in sea level, the climate crisis and related disasters touch us first. Continental pollution ends up on our shores. Storms that originate thousands of miles away from our islands reach our coasts. Therefore, let us stand united in solidarity.

3. The climate crisis will destroy all of us. Already, we are being hit by coastal erosion, coral bleaching, rise in sea level, stronger storm surges, destruction of

our biodiversity and sea life in general. Tourism forms an important part of our economy and this is closely linked to the beauty of our environment. Speaking with one voice will ensure we protect our economic gains and thus allow us to continue giving our children and people good education, appropriate health services and a good standard of living.

4. SIDS have been standing firm for the adoption of the Multi-dimentional Vulnerability Index. The world is

taking its time while we suffer. It is unfair. We are labelled by the very ones who are destroying our very existence. There is always an excuse. SIDS must be understood: Our intention is not to beg or rob others, but rather we simply want access to concessionary financing for us to be able to face the future and survive. That is why we believe in an MVI.

5. Finally, again I want to call on my fellow SIDS to unite as far as the Loss and Damage Fund is concerned. Let us not start differentiating among ourselves as to who should have access. Whether it be islands that are hit by cyclones or other disasters, all islands are affected with what happen in the oceans through climate change or environment disasters. The Seychelles, for example has not been hit by any cyclones, but our rainy season which should have ended at the end of January is still hitting hard

causing flooding, landslides and other disasters. So, can we once again be united so that all our islands and other countries that are affected may have access to that climate fund in order to preserve our very survival without regressing financially.

Our resolve must remain unwavering as we chart a course towards a more resilient, prosperous and sustainable future. We have embraced innovative

solutions, nurtured international partnerships, and advocated for environmental conservation. However, tackling these challenges demands collective global action, not least being united.

Excellencies,

In concluding, I stress that Small Island Developing States have consistently played a constructive role in promoting harmony, peace, and environmental stewardship.

Success hinges on the collective efforts of governments, the multilateral system, civil society, the private sector and youth, who deserve meaningful involvement in shaping their countries' futures. Collaboration, sharing best practices, and innovation are key to overcoming adversity and creating a brighter future and prosperity for all.

Let us seize this moment to establish fresh collaborations, share best practices, and chart a path towards a more sustainable and prosperous future for small island developing states. Let us draw inspiration from the resilience and resourcefulness of our people. Despite the daunting challenges ahead, I am confident that together, through collaborative efforts and a commitment to

**innovation, we can overcome adversity and create a
brighter future for all.**

Thank you.

Statement by His Excellency Dr Mohamed Muizzu

President of the Republic of Maldives

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

Your Excellency Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and President of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States,
His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General
Mr. Li Junhua, Undersecretary General of UNDESA and Secretary-General of the Conference.

1. I wish to express solidarity with a member of our family – Papua New Guinea – following the landslide that has devastated the country. I send condolences to the victims and their families. And I hope, in the coming

hours, more survivors will be rescued, and families will be reunited.

2. With your permission, I would like to draw attention to the most worrying of developments in the Middle East.

As we speak, Israel is defying the ICJ's order to immediately halt its attack on the Palestinian people in Rafah. We, the world leaders at this Conference, must unite in calling on Israel to stop the war. Stop the apartheid. And stop the genocide immediately.

It is time for Israeli leaders to face justice and be held accountable for their crimes.

As Small Island Developing States, we know all too well
the feeling of being helpless.

Being vulnerable.

Feeling like the international system does not care about
us.

Let us express our collective solidarity with the people
of Palestine.

Mr. President

3. I wish to thank you and the people and the Government
of Antigua and Barbuda, for the warm Caribbean
hospitality – we feel very much at home.

4. The International Summit on SIDS in Barbados in 1994 adopted the first Programme of Action for SIDS.

5. And today, we gather to adopt the fourth such Programme.

6. Thirty years is NOT a short time. And it begs the question – What have we achieved over the past three decades?

7. Poverty still exists.

The climate crisis is devastating.

The natural environment is dying.

External debt is rising.

Injustice and inequality are rampant.

We are losing faith – *and hope* - in the global mechanisms.

8. I could go on and on.

9. I took office as President of the Maldives last November.

And perhaps my novelty allows me to say this.

10. I believe it is time that SIDS start believing in their own ability to navigate the perils of development. Our vulnerabilities should not be our downfall. They should be our armour. Our rallying call.

11. At the same time, we will continue to look to the international community – not to dictate to us, but for support.

12. Let me highlight *three ways* in which such support could be deployed.

13. *First*, the international community must provide SIDS with credit enhancement measures and reduce costs of borrowing.

14. Bilateral partners must employ more innovative solutions including retractive financing, especially at times of shocks.

15. Private sector lenders must partner with official creditors in lowering borrowing costs and higher maturities.

16. Our experience with global climate funds is that they are insufficient, failing to align with the scale of the impacts.

17. What we ask today is for increased ambition.

18. *Ambition* in formulating our next set of NDCs, to course correct to the rapidly narrowing pathway to 1.5-degree target.

19. *Ambition* in finalising the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, which must include adequate finance for adaptation.

20. *Second*, it is high time that the UN system, the global development institutions, and the private sector

financiers, adopt a shared and synergistic approach to support SIDS.

21. The Maldives was proud to have led the formulation of *The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS* with New Zealand.

22. This Agenda requires coordinated, strengthened, and effective support from the international community. It needs to be integrated into the Cooperation Frameworks at the national level. And most importantly we need to overcome silos in implementation.

23. At the same time, we need to ask ourselves whether a ten-year programme is able to take into account the rapid changes that transform SIDS.

Wouldn't it be wise to have a five-year programme and make it closely aligned with other global development agendas?

24. *Third*, SIDS should take the lead.

25. We insist for investment in our state and productive capacities.

26. We should leverage the private sector. Make our institutions stronger.

27. We should transform the delivery of public service, improve transparency and accountability.

28. We should demand a seat at the global centres of power if we want the decisions by these bodies to reflect our realities.

29. This is why the Maldives is seeking membership of the UN Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other UN bodies.

30. We should stand stronger. Be more vocal.

Mr President:

31. The future is intelligence driven.

32. This is why my government is investing in digital infrastructure and leveraging digital technologies to enhance information, education, healthcare, and financial services – and ensuring they are smart, safe, and resilient.

33. These will also be the inherent features of our biggest-ever new eco city, Ras Malé.

34. Ras Malé aims to alleviate our housing crisis, utilising modular housing for the first time in the Maldives.

35. It will be more climate friendly and energy efficient - ultimately reaching net-zero emissions.

36. It will be connected digitally as well as through a state-of-the-art transportation system, accessible for all.

37. Ras Male' will open an era of prosperity and development in the Maldives.

Mr President:

38. SIDS can, and SIDS must lead!

39. We may be small but size DOES NOT dictate our destiny.

We can shape *and* steer our future.

40. SIDS must stand as beacons of resilience and innovation. Setting examples for the world to follow

41. The future begins with the choices we make today.

42. Together, we can protect our world—a world that is as resilient, interconnected, and as beautiful as the islands that urge us to act.

I thank you.

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, Excellencies,

I am proud to bring the warm greetings of Yokwe to SIDS4.

In particular, I wish to thank the host country, the government and people of Antigua & Barbuda, for their warm hospitality.

Mr. President,

There was a time at the UN where as small island developing states we were questioned, misunderstood or unacknowledged by our partners and the international system.

And that time is done, for the pages of political history. As small island nations, we will no longer be sidelined. Our island peoples, and our island leaders, have made our voice known, loud and clear. And on sustainable oceans and fisheries, as SIDS and large ocean nations, we have joined together to help rewrite the fate of global oceans.

For the Marshall Islands and many small island developing states - human rights cannot be a distant ideal. The basic dignity and core social development - the fundamental freedoms which all must be able to enjoy - remain out of reach for some. We know from our own history and experience that larger politics cannot be allowed to drown out the voices of the most vulnerable.

That is why the Marshall Islands has declared our candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council elections later this year.

Mr. President,

We know that some have been listening - large multinational banks are prepared to spend \$400 billion on SIDS over the next decade. But what will change on our shores in 10 years? We may realize a flood of consultants and reports, to match the rising seas. But it is vital that there be a major step-change in - and indeed much of our national future rests upon this. We know

what is needed - and we know the hard task at home to build a national and government that will meet these challenges, to ensure we not just survive - but thrive.

We can point to the new UN Multi-Country office in Micronesia as a strong example of how management reforms, and increased agency presence, can play a vital role in tackling the SDGs with island-tailored strategies. It is an urgent priority to boost our data capacity, including in line ministries.

But across all key sectors - it is well past time that our development partners and the UN system sharply upscale efforts to adjust your large systems to small island state structures and scales. Until that happens as a needed step-change, our aspirations will remain out of reach. It is what AOSIS has been telling you for decades, and we are now at the breaking point.

Mr. President,

As Small Island Developing States, we can't afford continued inaction on climate, and to ignore what the scientists are telling us, with ever-growing despair and frustration.

At the UNFCCC COP28, we collectively made a commitment that we would transition away from fossil fuels. And yet, we are watching countries – even those that celebrated the deal in Dubai – continue to expand the exploration and use of fossil fuels. Promises of \$100 billion per year and to double adaptation finance have gone unmet. The result is devastating loss and damage.

In just the first weeks of office, our government had to approve \$1.8 million, a significant hit to our small economy, to help our people facing severe drought and inundation – a direct result of the climate crisis. In turn, we have less money for health, for education, and for development.

This year we have the potential to transform our approach to climate finance. And we need to. The costs of the climate crisis are about to rise exponentially, and a half-hearted approach and unmet promises won't work.

We need to see a new finance goal that drastically increases the amount of finance available to SIDS, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage.

To give a sense of the scale of challenge, our National Adaptation Plan says that to protect only two major population centers will cost \$9 billion. \$9 billion will cover the hard infrastructure protection. It won't cover the other things to adapt – like strengthening health or education systems, or preserving our local cultures. And it won't be enough to address the implications of populations being forced to leave their homes, as sea levels rise and the impacts make life in some parts of our country untenable.

We also need to treat the search for finance with the gravity it deserves. Again, SIDS have led the charge. In the Pacific, we have come together with our allies to develop a proposal for a levy on maritime shipping, to ensure this industry finally takes responsibility for its climate pollution. This levy would speed the transformation to a greener industry, while also providing billions of dollars to ensure that transition is equitable for the most impacted. This is a proposal led by some of the most vulnerable countries, whose economies are heavily reliant on shipping. We urgently need to reduce emissions and fund climate action within and beyond the shipping sector. This levy should be a no-brainer.

We must also reform the international financial system. My fellow leader, Barbados Prime Minister Mottley, has led the charge with the Bridgetown Agenda. Let's turn the discussions on this into reality.

The money exists, but it's not being spent wisely. In 2022, subsidies for fossil fuel consumption topped one trillion dollars. Imagine the impact that money could have if it went to adaptation, or renewable energy, or to the world's most needy. The costs will only rise, and will be paid in more and more human lives, if we fail to deal with the root cause: fossil fuels.

This is why we are proud to announce today that we are joining the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. This Treaty is a vital step to halting the expansion of fossil fuels and ensuring that there is an equitable, urgent transition to renewables.

My country has stood strong through a challenging history, including a legacy of nuclear testing that continues to affect our population to this day. The world has recognized, though not fully addressed, the peril of nuclear weapons. We must treat the root of the climate crisis, fossil fuels, with similar gravity. We cannot pretend that the continued development of fossil fuels is not a danger to us all.

Dubai set us on the course for this transition away from fossil fuels. We won't stay within the 1.5 degree temperature limit without it. We need every country – but particularly the G20, which makes up 80% of global emissions – to deliver on that commitment. And we need them to say how they'll do so in updated NDCs next year.

The climate crisis puts the human rights of all countries and people at risk, but SIDS are being hit hardest and fastest. We must stay united in our commitment to ambition, and to justice and safety for our people and future generations.

**DISCURSO DEL VICEPRESIDENTE SALVADOR VALDÉS MESA
EN EL DEBATE GENERAL DE LA IV CONFERENCIA DE LOS
PEQUEÑOS ESTADOS INSULARES EN DESARROLLO, Antigua
y Barbuda, 27 al 30 de mayo**

Presidente,

Excelencias,

Distinguidos delegados e invitados,

Me honra asistir a esta histórica cita, en la tierra de la hermana nación caribeña de Antigua y Barbuda, a la que nos unen lazos perdurables de amistad.

Desde la adopción hace diez años de la *Trayectoria de Samoa*, nuevos y mayores retos han emergido.

Nuestras naciones enfrentan un panorama económico internacional adverso y desafiante, caracterizado por altos niveles de endeudamiento, inflación, crisis alimentaria, energética, climática y limitado acceso a financiamiento por nuestra condición de países de renta media.

Concentran las mayores pérdidas producto del cambio climático y los desastres naturales, los que generan costos anuales equivalentes al 8% de nuestra renta nacional.

Los persistentes retos de desarrollo que enfrentan nuestros países requieren una adecuada provisión y movilización de todos los medios de implementación,

cooperación y solidaridad urgentes para alcanzar los objetivos acordados internacionalmente.

Cualquier empeño en ese sentido será limitado sin una reforma profunda e integral de la arquitectura financiera internacional, que brinde un tratamiento justo a los países en desarrollo, tanto en el proceso de toma de decisiones como en el acceso a financiamiento.

En este esfuerzo, damos la bienvenida al nuevo programa de acción que considera el establecimiento de un servicio específico de apoyo a la sostenibilidad de la deuda de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo.

Reiteramos, asimismo, la necesidad de establecer un conjunto de medidas que vayan más allá del Producto Interno Bruto para acceder a la financiación en condiciones favorables y de elaborar normas comerciales que tengan en cuenta nuestras circunstancias especiales.

Excelencias:

Para nuestros países, el costo de la adaptación climática se sitúa entre los 22 mil y los 26 mil millones de dólares anuales. En este sentido, apoyamos el acuerdo de duplicar las finanzas para la adaptación y la puesta en marcha oportuna del Objetivo Global de Adaptación.

Llamamos a movilizar recursos internacionales nuevos, adicionales, predecibles y adecuados para capitalizar el fondo de pérdidas y daños derivados del cambio climático, garantizando que nuestras prioridades y necesidades se tengan en cuenta.

Bajo esta visión, abogamos por el avance del proceso para el establecimiento de una nueva meta global cuantificada de finanzas climáticas en la COP29.

Al respecto, reconocemos la relevancia de la Iniciativa de Bridgetown.

Excelencias,

Agradecemos las valiosas expresiones de solidaridad de los pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, al reclamar el cese del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto a mi país hace más de 60 años por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos, recrudecido sin precedentes en el contexto de la pandemia de COVID-19, y rechazar la arbitraria e injusta inclusión de Cuba en la unilateral lista de Estados supuestamente patrocinadores del terrorismo.

A pesar de este cerco ilegal, Cuba se ha fijado metas claras en materia económica y social, que se reflejan en el acceso universal y gratuito a la salud y educación; un robusto sistema de ciencia, tecnología

e innovación; y un ambicioso Plan Nacional de Enfrentamiento al Cambio Climático.

En correspondencia con nuestra permanente vocación solidaria, reiteramos la voluntad de poner a disposición, los 17 proyectos de cooperación impulsados por Cuba durante su Presidencia del G77 y China el pasado año.

Asimismo, apoyamos los esfuerzos para establecer un Centro de Excelencia de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo en Antigua y Barbuda.

Excelencias,

Para avanzar en el ejercicio de nuestro derecho al desarrollo, que es también el derecho a existir de nuestras naciones, se requiere del cumplimiento de los compromisos contemplados en la Agenda 2030, la Agenda de Acción de Addis Abeba, la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático y su Acuerdo de París. Solo así podremos implementar la hoja de ruta común que nos hemos fijado, sin que pese sobre nuestros sueños la amenaza permanente de desaparecer.

Muchas gracias



**Statement by the Honourable Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the
Opening Ceremony for the Fourth International Conference on SIDS
27 May 2024. St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda**

As Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, and host of the last SIDS Conference, it is an honour for me to address this august assembly, and to hand the helm to Antigua and Barbuda.

SIDS set out on this journey with high aspirations and ambitious ideas which according to media personality Naman Mishra, “are the seeds of innovation, the catalysts of change, and the driving forces behind progress. Ideas have the remarkable capacity to inspire action, to challenge the status quo, and to push the boundaries of what is possible.”

They have the power to change the world. Their impact can change the course of history.

And often, they have.

We arrived here, in the beautiful islands of Antigua and Barbuda determined to right our sails. As we did in Samoa a decade ago, and in Mauritius and Barbados two decades prior, we as SIDS have held fast to the conviction that our sustainable development is not a wistful notion, but a belief grounded in absolute possibility.

Hope belies our resilience. We hold on to the idea of our resilient nations even during what can often seem like an impossibility. Any cursory look at the world we live in reveals a space of conflict, want and inequality.

Our future seems precariously perched.

The seas rise, our debts mushroom , our people struggle, and we are told to keep heart, to bear up. It's a story that predates the First International Conference on SIDS.

But a better world is possible. It is our intrinsic belief that we can in fact right our sails and create a world where the idea of our resilient development is not farfetched.

Perhaps the difficulty, as economist Keynes puts it, "lies not so much in developing new ideas but escaping from old ones". The path to real change can seem almost hopeless, especially when this intractable system seems so fixated on maintaining itself. Even when the socio-economic imperative to act seems certain, we hesitate on political expediencies.

The decades long approach of the multilateral system was perhaps more acceptable years ago, but the same cannot be said today. We know well that the layered crises we are observing across the world leave little room and time to manouver. Working in silos is not the answer. We know that SIDS are facing unenviable decisions - the choice between the recovery of today or the development of tomorrow.

Throughout this week leaders from across the SIDS regions will petition for greater equity, for the international community to see us today, as they did in 1994, as a group of countries whose unique vulnerability warrants treatment as a special case for sustainable development.

I do not doubt that our leaders will speak about a world where economic growth and well-being ought to be sustained and our economies are robust, diversified, adaptable and able to withstand shocks, ensuring social equity, and promoting environmental sustainability.

There is also no doubt that they will remind us that the next ten years are critical for SIDS. They might note that a new context is emerging where the economic, social, and environmental as well as geopolitical threats to SIDS development are so great that they can only be diminished by a reinvigorated enabling environment that gives meaningful effect to our sustainable development.

My call to you then is simple - remain focused: recollect SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development; reaffirm that action costs little but inaction can cost much; and recommit to grand ideas where countries, small or large, are all deserving.

In 1994 we set out on a noble path. We agreed that small islands and low-lying coastal developing States deserved special treatment. We formed partnerships and enabled action. But friends, it has not been enough. Often, we were too slow to act, or failed to act.

This week we are gathered in a unity of purpose. We are assembled to be bold, to create ideas with the power to change the world, and to confirm our commitment to SIDS through the ideas espoused in two Samoan proverbs: “E soso’o le fau ma le fau” – Unity is strength and resilience; “O I tatou ole fogavaa e tasi.” – Our common destiny is within sight when bound to partnership.

Let us not leave these shores with anything less.

I wish to thank our wonderful hosts, the honourable Gaston Browne and the warm people of Antigua and Barbuda for that distinctive island hospitality. Prime Minister, you and your team have gone above and beyond to ensure a successful SIDS4 and a time well-remembered, and we are grateful.

I also wish to thank the co-chairs of the SIDS4 Preparatory Committee, the Permanent Representatives of Maldives, and New Zealand to the United Nations, for leading us through what was not an easy, but wholly important process towards the completion of the outcome document for this Conference. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is our renewed declaration for our resilient prosperity. It is our guiding beacon for the next decade of action.

I wish us all well.

Soifua.

President of the Conference, PM Gaston Brown

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure to be in this friendly and beautiful country, Antigua and Barbuda.

Thank you for the warm welcome.

It is with great interest that Cabo Verde participates in this International Conference on SIDS.

We hope that this Conference will be a decisive milestone for our shared future, in this complicated world.

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The world is formatted for countries with large territories and large populations.

And here, our problems as SIDS begin.

But here, are also opportunities to position ourselves with economic and geo-strategic relevance in the concert of nations.

We increase our relevance and our ability to influence in the concert of nations, positioning ourselves with one voice, as we do now, African, Pacific and Carabbeans SIDS, and Partners.

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Excellencies,

It is necessary to break the traps that the small territory and small population pose.

We need to break the per capita trap.

The volume of investments and financing depending on the population, strongly limits the development of small island states.

The best criterion is to determine financing based on the transformative results, that investments produce in increasing structural resilience and increasing economic growth potential.

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We need to go beyond middle-income.

Graduation to a middle-income country is not an end point.

The arrival point, is sustainable development.

Financing conditions should push countries to reach upper middle income, instead of the worsening that is seen when the country graduates.

In this sense, we call for the urgency of adopting and operationalizing the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index to enable access to concessional financing.

—***—

We need to overcome the conditionalities of small internal marketing, strengthening our ability to attract capital, investments, knowledge, technology, and export goods and services to the regional and global markets.

—***—

Now and to conclude,

Get out of the debt trap.

The high weight of external debt and severe financing conditions, block opportunities for development.

For our SIDS countries faced with the need to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience, transforming debt into climate investment has virtuous effects:

- it frees up resources for investments that can make countries more resilient and;
- frees up resources for investments that can increase the potential for economic growth, and increase future debt capacity.

With Portugal, Cabo Verde signed an agreement to convert bilateral debt into climate and environmental financing.

Three things were needed to conclude the agreement: political will, trust and joint work.
And we did it!

This is what we need at a more global level to take action: political will, trust and joint work.

Thank you very much.



TUVALU STATEMENT

At the

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS4)

Delivered by the

PRIME MINISTER OF TUVALU

HON. FELETI PENITALA TEO, OBE

Antigua and Barbuda

27 – 30 May 2024

Theme:

CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD RESILIENT PROSPERITY

President of the SIDS4 Conference - Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Hon. Gaston Browne

Secretary General of the Conference - Mr. Li Jinhua

Esteemed Heads of State and Government

Distinguished Heads of Delegation

Honored Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Introductory remarks and commendations

1. I am indeed personally honored and privileged, as the newly elected Prime Minister of Tuvalu, to address this distinguished and august international gathering, so soon after my election in February of this year.
2. I bring with me the very warm greetings and best wishes of my people and the government of Tuvalu.
3. I express sincere gratitude and appreciation to our host, the people and the government of Antigua and Barbuda for the generosity and largess of their hospitality and for the exceptional organisation of this decadal conference.

Message of condolences

Mr President.

1. We gather here in Antigua and Barbuda at a time the global community is experiencing multiple and interconnected crises.
2. There are civil and military conflicts, severe inflation, health pandemics, energy security crisis, natural disasters and climate and environmental degradation.
3. To those affected, Tuvalu expresses its profound condolences and sympathies.

4. My government and my people and I pay our tributes and pray for peace in these turbulent times within our UN family.

SIDS4 Theme and Outcome Documents

Mr. President

5. As we assemble here this week, we find ourselves at a critical juncture in the collective efforts of the international community to achieve sustainable development and resilient prosperity for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
6. Tuvalu expresses its strongest supports for the theme for the conference - “Charting the Course toward Resilient Prosperity”.
7. A theme that resonates and aligns well with Tuvalu’s commitment to sustainable development as documented in Tuvalu’s National Strategy for Sustainable Development titled - *Te Kete*.
8. The theme also holds a profound cultural and indigenous significance, as it is rooted in Tuvalu’s navigational traditions, symbolising the necessity of learning from the past as we steady and paddle our canoe forward.
9. As the global community prepares to transition from the SAMOA Pathway towards the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), we must reflect seriously on the past decade’s experience of challenges and achievements, so that we can smartly chart a new way forward that would strengthen and foster the resilience and prosperity of SIDS.
10. While the recognition of SIDS by our multilateral systems is deeply appreciated, the special case and unique vulnerabilities of SIDS further exposes the raging challenges that SIDS must contemplate.

11. Therefore, the ABAS underscores the special case and unique challenges of SIDS and emphasises the importance of heightened international collaboration, strong and smart partnerships, and transparent governance to tackle SIDS unique environmental and developmental challenges.

Tuvalu climate change related sea level rise Priorities and Initiatives

Mr. President.

12. Sea level rise is the single greatest threat to Tuvalu's future survivability as a nation and as a people.
13. Therefore, my government is committed to a long-term adaptation plan to reclaim and elevate land and fortify Tuvalu's resilience against climate change induced sea level rise.
14. Sea level rise poses a direct threat to our way of life and sovereignty.
15. Tuvalu continues to experience intense land erosion, wave surges, and coastal inundation with the worst flooding experienced during the high tide season in February and March of this year.
16. We urge SIDS to unite in addressing the issue of sea level rise at the High-Level Meeting during the UNGA79 on September 25, 2024.
17. And I commend the leadership of the UNGA President and the UNSG for getting this issue on the UNGA agenda.
18. Tuvalu expresses the wish that this issue remains as permanent agenda of the UNGA.
19. In February of this year, my government announced 21 immediate strategic priorities, with eight of those priorities aligning well with the "*What do SIDS want?*" goal in the ABAS.

20. As a SIDS nation and one that is highly vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise, Tuvalu is committed to strengthened mitigation and adaptation efforts in collaboration with SIDS, the UN, and development partners.
21. I recall my conversation with the UNSG last week on Thursday in New York when I paid a courtesy call on his excellency.
22. The UNSG, who had visited Tuvalu in 2019, rightly observed that although Tuvalu is one of the countries in the frontline of the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, it is certainly a country that is in the frontline of the frontline countries impacted by climate change and sea level rise.
23. Mr President, Ladies and gentlemen. That quote from the UNSG aptly embodies the extent of the vulnerability of that particular place on earth that I and my people call home.
24. It is, therefore, my contention that it is neither just nor equitable for a country like mine to bear the highest burdens of living with a deteriorating climate system that we do not contribute to its cause.
25. As a result, our fiscal margins and physical shorelines are further narrowed by every storm surge and every natural disaster.
26. Tuvalu has therefore embarked on transformative adaptive solutions such as the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project, the Rising Nations Initiative, and the Future Now project to name a few.
27. I draw the attention of the conference to the joint initiative of Tuvalu and Antigua and Barbuda in establishing the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS) in 2021.

28. COSIS recently secured an advisory opinion of ITLOS to clarify States' legal obligations in respect to countries affected by climate change.
29. The ITLOS Advisory Opinion is a significant achievement bringing the conversation in terms of states obligations in respect of climate change out of political commitments to binding legal obligations.
30. SIDS must, therefore, utilise the Advisory Opinion of ITLOS to hold to account those responsible for the deteriorating climate system we live in.
31. Armed with the same objective, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are spearheading a coalition of countries advocating for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty with the objectives to phase out fossil fuels, promote sustainable development and a just transition to renewable energy, which are critical for climate justice and a sustainable future.

Tuvalu and SDGs

Mr. President.

32. In terms of the progress of the UN-SDGs, the recent UNDP regional human development report determines that the Pacific region is not on track to deliver any of the SDGs.
33. The report forecasted that those SDGs are certainly not achievable by 2030 but possibly by 2065.
34. The forecast comes as no surprise, as Tuvalu and other similarly vulnerable Pacific SIDS faces unique challenges in achieving SDGs.
35. Tuvalu's capacity to achieve the SDGs is severely compromised by our exposure to climate risks, limited resources, geographical isolation, and underdeveloped infrastructure.

36. But Tuvalu is nevertheless committed to the ABAS vision for resilient economies and call on international development partners to provide new, additional, predictable, and increased financial flows to address those challenges.
37. Tuvalu joins other SIDS in calling for changes to the international financial system to close funding gaps and improve access to climate finance.
38. It is critical at this point that consideration of a multilateral indices is established, one that better articulate and reflective of the needs of SIDS in leveraging development efforts to achieve their SDGs.

Concluding remarks

Mr. President

39. In closing, Tuvalu is dedicated to fostering a SIDS international development and cooperation framework that is action-oriented, realistic, achievable and fits for purpose to create a just world where progress protects the vulnerable.
40. An international development framework that facilitates and delivers sustainable and inclusive prosperity for SIDS.
41. The global collective and cooperative efforts must be timely, smart, and efficient, that assures sustainable and inclusive development for all.
42. Let us work together to build a resilient, just, and equitable future, securing a sustainable legacy for the future.
43. The ABAS has been charted, we must act now.
44. I thank you Mr President.

45. Tuvalu mote Atua, Tuvalu for God.

END

**Statement By Hon. Terrence Drew
Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis
Fourth International Conference on SIDS
Theme: "Charting the Course Toward Resilient
Prosperity"**

Antigua and Barbuda

May 27, 2024

My brother Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Brown, Distinguished Prime Ministers and Presidents all, CARICOM Brothers and sisters, I greet you as we gather for this global engagement on the course which small island developing states must chart to attain prosperity.

And make no mistake, the path to prosperity is a virtual obstacle course, magnified by a world in turmoil, facing apocalyptic environmental conditions, war, scarcity, supply chain disruptions, course of inherent risks, external shocks, capital constraints, high inflation and unemployment.

It reads like the script for a dystopian movie and yet, the world's most vulnerable micro-states must navigate this landscape if they are to give their citizens a better quality of life and a sense of hope that is tangible in a world of growing uncertainty. That we have made it this

far, is a tribute to the resilience of island-people everywhere.

What is now required is that we build resilience that will protect us from the external shocks which threaten to push SIDS to the precipice of collapse.

Let me suggest some critical elements on which the development and prosperity of SIDS hang:

- Available, accessible, adequate capital. The cost of capital is too high for SIDS and our fiscal space far too circumscribed. This is why the Bridgetown Initiative's call for the reform of the international financial architecture is imperative this year, which marks the eightieth anniversary of the Bretton Woods Institutions. On this note, permit me to congratulate Prime Minister Brown for his work with the United Nations High Level Panel on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index in its effort to go beyond GDP as a measure of economic wellbeing.
- Technology is creating a new global elite of those who use it for innovation, the democratisation of government and commercial systems, to spur social equity and economic growth. I link technology to education and the need for young citizens of SIDS

to master the technology that now defines and drives social and economic activity.

- Infrastructure that is resilient, particularly in relation to physical development, water, energy and climate smart hospitals, are of utmost importance. Infrastructure is a crosscutting issue. Many SIDS are water scarce, yet they are tourism destinations. We are food importers and need to boost our agricultural sectors for food and nutrition security. The Caribbean is projected to face a 10-20% decline in crop yields by 2050, due to climate change. We cannot have resilient health systems without resilient food systems. This is why CARICOM's 25x25 initiative is of such importance.
- The climate crisis has wrapped its tentacles around CARICOM member states and unless we find the mix of policy, finance and adaptation measures to address the impacts of the climate crisis, our dreams of development and prosperity will come to naught.
- Health and wellbeing is another lynchpin in the fight for prosperity. As CARICOM's Lead Prime Minister on health issues, and as a physician, I cannot help but draw attention to the link between

the climate crisis and a growing incidence of vector borne diseases such as dengue and Lyme disease. It is also to be noted that extreme weather events delay or disrupt healthcare services resulting in poor treatment outcomes or death, as happened in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria in 2017.

- The growing number and intensity of extreme weather events in all SIDS threatens our development trajectories. When this is added to the high burden of chronic noncommunicable diseases and their sequelae, as the single largest cost and cause of morbidity and mortality in the Caribbean, the script is written for disaster. We already saw from COVID-19 how a health crisis can decimate our islands. Further, at a time of rising mental health challenges in the region, it is noteworthy that for the first time in the history of its reporting, the IPCC has included mental health impacts among the negative impacts caused by climate change.

Against this background, SIDS-SDIS, South-South and triangular cooperation on the major development challenges require our solidarity and action to safeguard the health and future of small island developing states and their people. We the children of

the world's nation states, have come together in pursuit of prosperity for SIDS, we must not let it escape us.



STATEMENT BY THE HON. MARK PHILLIPS, PRIME
MINISTER OF THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA,
DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES

Antigua and Barbuda

May 27-30, 2024

His Excellency Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda
His Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

His Excellency Dennis Francis, President of General Assembly

Distinguished Heads of State and Government

Honorable Ministers

Distinguished guests

I begin by thanking Prime Minister Browne, the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the warm hospitality extended to the Guyana delegation since our arrival. We wish our CARICOM Sister-State every success in hosting this Fourth International

Conference on Small Island Developing States under the theme ‘*Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity*’.

We applaud Antigua and Barbuda for being in the forefront of championing global issues facing small island developing states. We also **welcome the adoption of the ‘Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS’ and** pledge our commitment to continue working with our fellow SIDS and the international community in advancing a resilient prosperity.

Excellencies

It was in this very region, exactly three decades ago that the first global conference on SIDS was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, when countries from around the world met to discuss possible solutions to address the unique environmental and economic challenges facing sustainable development for SIDS. Since then, we have adopted several programmes of action.

Today, although immense strides have been made, SIDS continue to face these challenges which have been exacerbated by the residual impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, escalating global geo-political tensions, supply chain disruptions, the digital divide and global inflation.

The impact of climate change on global security is increasingly receiving recognition and small island developing States are not immune. Our collective and urgent attention is required. Guyana is, therefore, pleased that the climate, peace, and security nexus is reflected in the SIDS outcome document.

The energy security of SIDS is also intricately linked to our sustainable development and the achievement of the global net-zero targets. Therefore, our consistent calls to accelerate the clean energy transition, primarily through financing, technology transfer, and other relevant means of implementation, are even more relevant today, if we are to strengthen our resilience.

In CARICOM, we have been making some humble strides, as the hydrocarbon production potential in Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, offers opportunities for enhanced regional energy security, including by investing in transitions toward clean and renewable sources of energy. But we have a far way to go.

SIDS are not alone in facing challenges to sustainable development. However, these adversities are undoubtedly amplified in SIDS due to their small size, remoteness, spatial isolation, and heavy dependence on trade and external markets.

We meet here today not only to underscore the challenges but also because we believe that these are not insurmountable. The solutions will require us to take decisive action which must be guided by an action-oriented agenda along with the means of implementation, and meaningful partnerships.

Excellencies

Guyana is doing its part in the sustainable and responsible management of its resources. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of our forest cover is still intact, which solidifies our status as a High Forest Low Deforestation state. We welcome, in the outcome document, the reference of the important role of forests in the

context of mitigating the effects of climate change. We have also developed a Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, which promotes a new growth trajectory in a non-polluting way consistent with the 2030 agenda and other international commitments.

LCDS 2030 aims to **diversify Guyana's economy** by promoting the enhancement of sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and fisheries to reduce reliance on the oil sector and lower greenhouse gas emissions. These actions taken by my Government represent some of our efforts at the national level, even as we continue to call for a just transition.

Guyana is also working to transform our agriculture sector to ensure food security at home and in this region. We aim, under **CARICOM's** twenty-five-by-twenty-five initiative, to reduce reliance on imported food through improving food availability and affordability in the region.

Excellencies

If SIDS are to chart a new course towards resilient prosperity, our national and regional efforts alone will not suffice. Significant reforms in global governance are necessary. The global financial architecture must address the issue of concessional financing, going beyond the use of Gross National Income. It must take into account the high vulnerability of SIDS including to external shocks and the issues of debt and the escalating climate emergencies, to name a few. In this regard, Guyana calls for the implementation of the Bridgetown Initiative to enable adequate and timely resource mobilization.

We call for the international community to continue to support efforts for the urgent finalization and implementation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).

Additionally, we remind our developed country partners of their commitments and call for them to deliver on these commitments, including on climate finance which was reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement and the longstanding target of 0.7% of GNI to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). We also call for the swift activation of the Loss and Damage Fund. The fulfillment of these commitments, will aid SIDS and, indeed, other developing countries, in building the resilience needed at this critical juncture.

To conclude, I urge that we optimize cooperation within the spirit of South-South and Triangular cooperation while developing new and innovative solutions to address the unique set of challenges facing SIDS. **Guided by the ‘Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS’**, we can enjoy a resilient and prosperous existence through our collective actions to address the interconnected and underlying challenges that threaten sustainable development for small island developing states.

As we prepare for the Summit of the Future in September, let us commit to address the here and now, so that we will leave for our future generations a legacy we can all be proud of.

Thank you.

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



PRIME MINISTER

**Statement by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister
Dr. Ngirante Edouard**

**At the 4th International Conference on Small
Island Developing States (SIDS4)**

St John's, Antigua and Barbuda |

27th May 2024

- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Delegates,**

1. It is a pleasure to be here representing Rwanda and have the opportunity to address this 4th International Conference on Small Islands Developing States.
2. I wish to begin by thanking the Government and people of the Antigua and Barbuda for hosting this important conference, and for their warm welcome and generous hospitality to this beautiful island nation.
3. I would like also to express Rwanda's solidarity to Papua New Guinea after the loss of lives of several people due to the recent devastating landslides.
 - **Excellencies,**
4. I commend the regularity of this conference and the commitment of all member states to

address the urgent and most pressing challenges that nations like ours face today.

- 5.** As we chart course towards a resilient prosperity, Rwanda believes that that Small Islands and Developing State deserves a special attention as they are most vulnerable to climate effects.
- 6.** In this context, I would like to highlight few important points to reflect on as collectively move to concrete actions.
- 7.** First, with regard to prosperity, we all agree that the potential for prosperity for all is huge and very much untapped. The natural wealth of our planet, especially of the small islands developing states, is evident. We only need action to realize this huge potential into real prosperity.
- 8.** Equally important, our nations need to build the right and strong partnerships to ensure that our populations, particularly the most

vulnerable ones enjoy better lives and prosperity.

- 9.** Second, with regard to resilience, it is true that our nations keep losing years of efforts, and sometimes decades of development to shocks of various types. In particular, for small islands developing states, climate shocks, have become, in many instances, an existential threat.
- 10.** For us to win the battle towards resilience, we need to scale up and consolidate our resilience investments efforts.
- 11.** To achieve this, our countries must foster innovative solutions and knowledge sharing in designing and building infrastructure that can withstand climate change-driven threats.
- 12.** I was happy to learn that small islands developing states host 40% of the world's coral reefs, which are among the most biodiverse ecosystems globally, and support 20% of the

earth's terrestrial biodiversity, with many unique species.

13. This constitutes a natural wealth of the earth that we are all entrusted with protecting and benefiting from. This also is resilient prosperity.

- **Excellencies,**

14. The development priorities and goals of small islands developing states are clearly articulated in major global frameworks. Therefore, if climate agenda and finance are to work for the world, it is a necessary condition that they work first for the most vulnerable small islands developing states.

15. If the global financial architecture is to work for inclusive and sustainable development, it needs to work for all, again starting with the most vulnerable, including small islands developing states. There is no way around that.

- 16.** In the face of climate shocks, Small islands developing states have often assumed a leading role in global agendas, even outpacing many other countries.
- 17.** This has been obvious not only in advancing the climate agenda but also in advocating for the reform of the financial architecture and development financing to cite only those. We acknowledge and thank you for this leadership.
- 18.** We want to assure you that this leadership is not lost on us. In Rwanda, we believe in solidarity and in partnership that are mutually beneficial.
- 19.** In fact, in terms of climate vulnerability and financing needs, there are similarities between landlocked countries and small island states. We can work together to advocate for a more responsive and inclusive international financial architecture.

- 20.** As I conclude, I wish to underscore that there is a lot more potential today than ever before. Much efforts are needed to leverage the potential return of investing in people, especially the youth as well as the potential return of fairer global trade and the technological progress to advance our economies.
- 21.** With bold commitment and sense of urgency, let us strengthen our partnerships and cooperation for the better future of our islands and planet.

Thank you for your kind attention.



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations
New York**

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

General Debate Statement

by

**His Excellency Hon. David W.R. Adeang, MP
President of the Republic of Nauru
Antigua & Barbuda, 27 May 2024**

Check against delivery

Mr President,

Ekamawir omo and I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of Nauru.

At the outset, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for their warm welcome and hospitality. I also convey my deep appreciation to Hon. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa and her team as the Chair of our AOSIS family for their exceptional stewardship in the lead up to this 4th International Conference for Small Island Developing States.

I am honoured to join you and be here in this warm and beautiful Caribbean country to adopt *The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)* and speak on ‘Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity’ for the next 10 years. [As we gather here today, allow me to quote the young Marshallese poet, Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, “We deserve to do more than just survive. We deserve to thrive.”]

Mr President,

In the 30 years since the recognition of the special case of SIDS for sustainable development, the world has drastically changed and “resilient prosperity” feels even further from our grasp. Today, we convene amidst multiple crises: climate emergency, conflicts, and repercussions of the COVID pandemic. 2030 is a mere 7 years away and yet our collective progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is disheartening. So how can we enable resilient prosperity for ourselves and future generations? For Nauru, the way forward is through climate action, sustainable development of the ocean and financing.

Mr President,

There is no resilient prosperity for Nauru, or any of us, without climate action. Climate change poses the gravest of threats to my people. We need to accelerate our efforts to mitigate climate change. We need to reduce emissions, phase out fossil fuels and move towards a just energy transition to keep the 1.5 Celsius limit to temperature rise within reach and maintainable. We are already experiencing effects of sea-level rise around our low-lying coastal areas with erosion threatening the homes and livelihoods of our

communities. We have been building sea walls to safeguard our coastlines and communities but this is not a long-term sustainable solution.

Nauru has a visionary project called the Higher Ground Initiative, which is a pilot project that aims to relocate displaced communities from low-lying areas to higher ground for survival. This is not a choice, it is a necessity. We call upon the international community to support this initiative and others like it across SIDS. We also continue to call on the Secretary General to appoint a Special Representative on Climate and Security to improve the United Nations' ability to address climate-related security risk.

Moreover, we must address the global vulnerability in the sourcing and supply of critical metals required to power our transition to a low-carbon society. This supply risk is steeped in geological, geopolitical, and governance challenges. In a land-based context, not all mineral reserves are technically or economically extractable, with a foreseeable increase in global energy requirements to extract them. We must resolve this – collectively.

The sustainable use of our oceans includes the responsible recovery and extraction of critical metals housed in polymetallic nodules. We consider the recovery of these nodules from the ocean floor a critical mix in the vulnerable metals supply chain, and in expediting our transition to clean renewable energy sources as well as creating the foundations for a circular economy.

Nauru is investing in the development of world class, robust regulations for responsible sourcing of critical metals from the Area. We call upon ISA members *[and a unified and collective approach by the SIDS community]* to complete the draft exploitation regulations with robust environmental standards within its regulatory framework. We also urge the international community to support SIDS in developing their blue economies sustainably, through technology transfer, capacity building, and financial assistance.

Mr President,

Nauru will not be able to achieve our national sustainable development aspirations – the Higher Ground Initiative, building our resilience and meeting the SDGs -- on our own. The potential of improved and increased access to sustainable financing cannot be understated; and the urgent need to reform the global financial architecture starting with the establishment of measures that go beyond GDP is long overdue. The means of implementation include financing, technology transfer and capacity building, must consider our priorities, vulnerabilities and national context. We call for the early adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and the establishment of an interim secretariat. We reiterate the need to make climate and development finance more accessible, effective and better positioned towards a resilient prosperity for our people, our children and future generations.

Mr. President,

Small Islands are almost synonymous with the ocean and the need for a healthy, productive and resilient ocean. We made great strides this past year with the completion of our BBNJ negotiations. This treaty breaks new ground on sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources and new provisions on capacity building and transfer of technology. It also paves the way for new area based management tools and environmental impact statements. Nauru was proudly active during the negotiations and hopes for its early entry into force. If properly and fully implemented it will move us closer to the intra and intergenerational equity which Nauru and other SIDS aspire to see and which is a needed bedrock to allow us to build resilient prosperity.

Mr President,

In closing, Nauru recognizes that our sustainable development aspirations and goals are not possible without strong partnerships hence we call on the international community, our partners and friends to continue to support the SIDS and our efforts to chart our course towards a resilient and prosperous future, where no one is left behind. Let us be bold and make every effort to implement the ABAS. We have 10 years, let's not waste it and instead make haste towards an inspired resilient prosperity for all.

As we embark on this journey together, let us draw strength from the resilience and wisdom of our ancestors, who have navigated the vast Pacific Ocean for generations. With their guidance and our united efforts, I am confident that we can steer towards a brighter, more sustainable future for all SIDS.

Tubwa kor, I thank you.



Office of the
Prime Minister

NO MORE CLIMATE MARTYRS: REMARKS AT THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

**HON. PHILIP DAVIS, KC, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE BAHAMAS**

MONDAY 27TH MAY 2024

Distinguished colleagues,

The Bahamas is burning.

Bushfires stubbornly burn throughout our islands in the heat of the Bahamian dry season.

The flames have scorched our coppice and pine forests, unleashing an ashy haze that has spread across our communities.

Bahamians living near these fires have been forced to breathe smoke-filled air and endure these hazardous conditions.

At one point, the bushfires seriously compromised our visibility, forcing the Lynden

Pindling International Airport - the airport of our capital - to temporarily halt all incoming and outgoing air traffic for several hours¹.

Our fear is that this new, fiery reality will become the norm, and April showers will now be replaced by May blazes.

Bushfires are but the latest disaster in an escalating climate crisis.

And this problem is not unique to The Bahamas – it is an issue for the region at large.

¹ <http://www.tribune242.com/news/2024/may/15/aviation-didnt-cut-our-nose-spite-face-fire/>

In the past five years, every island in the Caribbean has experienced some degree of water scarcity².

The people of the Caribbean live in one of the most water-stressed regions in the entire world.

Short-term droughts have developed in Suriname, Tobago, Guyana and Grenada.

Meanwhile, long-term droughts continue to afflict Trinidad, Belize, Cuba, and Dominica.

Jamaica and Barbados have been compelled to implement policies limiting water usage.

²

<https://umbc.edu/stories/water-crises-across-the-caribbean-islands/#:~:text=Caribbean%20islands%20are%20in%20a,some%20sort%20of%20water%20scarcity.>

The region is more water-insecure than it has ever been, and we, the people of the Caribbean, are thirsty for change.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to be clear.

I have no intention of becoming a climate martyr.

Our islands, which have contributed so little to global carbon emissions, do not deserve to bear the worst consequences of a climate crisis created by global superpowers. Urgent upheaval is needed to confront this cruel irony.

We must now take swift and drastic action to empower Small Island Developing States around the world to thrive in our new climate reality.

The deadline for climate reform is long gone.

The time has come for climate revolution.

Human action caused this crisis, and only humane actions can fix it.

To empower SIDS, we need sustainable, long-term solutions, not quick fixes or gimmicks.

Take for example the recent focus on carbon capture and storage. This is one of the latest examples of wealthy corporations distorting science to spread disinformation.

Rather than support practical energy transitions, rich countries³ and oil companies⁴ would circumvent the biological systems that are already in place to maintain climatic equilibrium.

³

<https://energyfocus.the-eic.com/power/five-countries-leading-way-carbon-capture-and-storage?&redirectcounter=1#:~:text=The%20momentum%20behind%20carbon%20capture,Norway%2C%20the%20Netherlands%20and%20Indonesia.>

⁴

<https://www.chevron.com/newsroom/2024/q2/chevron-invests-in-carbon-capture-and-removal-technology-company-ion-clean-energy>

This so-called solution is lacking in scientific substance and threatens to derail more effective adaptation initiatives⁵.

Continuing this trend of band-aid solutions without addressing the root of the problem will, quite frankly, kill us.

If we keep kicking the can down the road, eventually we will run out of road.

We, as small island developing states, cannot afford to wait any longer.

Every year, severe droughts, raging fires, and extreme storms claim more lives.

⁵ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1462901121002100>

We are past the point when platitudes about corporate responsibility are enough to excite us. We need far more than the empty promises and policy paralysis currently offered by the global north.

Colleagues, another significant challenge we face as small island nations pertains to the financial systems that govern our recovery efforts. Recently, we have seen how blacklisting in international finance disproportionately affects our nations, particularly when it comes

to insurance claims in the aftermath of disasters. Such punitive measures, often imposed without adequate representation or input from SIDS, only exacerbate our vulnerabilities and hinder our recovery processes.

This is not just a matter of financial policy but of justice and equity. Therefore, I call upon the OECD and the EU to join forces with the United Nations to formulate a global tax treaty that truly represents the interests of all nations, particularly those of us who are often left out of

the conversation. This treaty should aim to provide a voice for SIDS, ensuring that our unique challenges and perspectives are acknowledged and addressed in global financial regulations. The OECD cannot give with one hand and take back with the other; true partnership requires consistent and fair support.

Furthermore, the unfair financial practices imposed on Small Island Developing States by global institutions can be likened to a knee on our necks—restricting our growth and

suffocating our recovery efforts. These practices are not merely bureaucratic hurdles; they are existential threats that impede our ability to breathe freely in the wake of disasters. Again I call on behalf of all SIDS to 'Take your knees off our necks!' We seek not just survival but the opportunity to thrive without these oppressive constraints.

If we want to secure a safe and just future for small island developing states, we must lead

the discussions and drive the changes ourselves.

It will take a serious reckoning with the fact that the major polluters have reaped economic benefits while disproportionately offloading environmental costs onto vulnerable nations like ours.

It was encouraging to see the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea deem greenhouse gases a form of marine pollution.

The court not only set a significant legal precedent, it affirmed that countries must go

beyond the 2015 Paris Agreement to protect the marine environment and the states that depend on it⁶.

This ruling offers us yet another avenue to hold uncooperative countries accountable.

Accountability mechanisms will also be key in operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP 28. We have secured less than 1% of the estimated \$400 billion per year needed to assist the most severely impacted societies.

6

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/international-ocean-tribunal-issue-climate-opinion-david-goliath-precedent-case-2024-05-21/>

Colleagues, it is more important than ever that we work together to operationalise this Fund. No SID can do it alone.

The need for inter-regional partnerships is pressing. Increased collaboration across small island developing states can facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building, and present a unified front for change to the world.

Establishing trade agreements, forging strategic alliances, and sharing data collection systems will bolster our resilience and capacity to adapt.

We must unite – because unity will be the key in unlocking concessional finance from the very creators of this most dire emergency.

Climate and debt are twin crises, which we in the Caribbean know all too well. My nation has incurred billions in debt due to recovery efforts from climate-driven disasters and billions more are needed to meet climate change targets. We cannot and should not take this tremendous burden on alone while those who created this problem do the bare minimum to take

accountability for the impact they have had on our nations.

Of course, as we forge new pathways here at SIDS4, it is important to not just point fingers but to take a good look at what is going on inside our own countries. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing global conflicts have underscored the need to strengthen our health systems, invest in social protection, and address food insecurity. Economic diversification will be the key to increasing our resilience to external shocks. And investments in clean

energy and digital transformation remain vital for the sustainable development of all small island developing states.

As we look ahead to the next ten years, let us commit to holding major polluters accountable, securing the financing we need, and developing the best future we can for our people.

Thank you.



PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH BY
**HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
**4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING
STATES (SIDS)**

“CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD RESILIENT PROSPERITY”

St. John's , Antigua and Barbuda
27 May 2024



Palácio do Governo
Avenida Marginal
Dili, Timor-Leste

Your Excellency, Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Your Excellency, António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Your Excellency, Dennis Francis, President of UN General Assembly

Your Excellency, Paula Narváez, President of the UN Economic and Social Council

Your Excellency, Fiamē Naomi Mata‘afa, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States

Your Excellency, President of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government

Distinguishes delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to be in Antigua and Barbuda at this pivotal moment.

I would like to thank the people and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for their wonderful hospitality.

Our presence here demonstrates our collective commitment to addressing the challenges facing Small Island Developing States.

I believe that together we are not “small”. Together, with a shared vision and ambition, we are “Big Ocean States” working for the resilient prosperity of our people.

Our list of challenges is long but this conference provides the opportunity to speak with one voice to chart a development agenda for the next 10 years.

SIDS have much in common; but we must also be firm in what sets us apart. We have our own history, culture and context which means that one solution does not fit all.

Timor-Leste is a small country, with only 1.3 million people. It was only 25 years ago that the Timorese people voted for independence after a long period of occupation and colonialism.

Since then we have overcome daily challenges to build a peaceful and democratic State, brick by brick, from the ashes of war.

We know that we are not alone in our struggle. We are only one of the many SIDS that face the overwhelming task of sustainable development.

*

We work to develop our countries in fraught and challenging times.

Entrenched inequality between nations is preventing many SIDS from making progress.

Global conflicts threaten our peace and security.

And climate change - that was caused by the industrialised world - has created a global emergency that threatens the existence of poor and vulnerable nations the most.

Everyday we hear the developed world talk about the importance of a 'rules based global order' governed by international law. But it is this same global order that perpetuates inequity and exploitation.

And then we watch as the developed world ignores international law whenever it suits them – and it suits them a lot.

This includes promises that have been made to support developing countries, particularly commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and achieving sustainable development.

The 2023 Special Report of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals reveals that half of the SDGs are not on track to meet their implementation targets, with 30 per cent either stalled or in reserve. This includes critical issues such as poverty, hunger eradication, and climate change.

*

Three decades ago, the United Nations recognised the unique challenges faced by SIDS and committed to assisting their sustainable development.

Since then, we have adopted three frameworks for action: the Barbados Programme, the Mauritius Strategy, and the Samoa Pathway. This week, we will adopt a new blueprint to complement the previous commitments.

Timor-Leste supports these instruments and welcomes the new blueprint's adoption.

However, these commitments are meaningless without effective implementation and the necessary financial allocations. I call on all States to deliver on their commitments to support SIDS to achieve sustainable development.

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Allow me to finish by talking about our ocean's potential.

For SIDS, the ocean is an inseparable part of their identity.

Timor-Leste is developing a Blue Economy Policy and Action Plan, with concrete actions to address marine pollution, conservation of the marine environment and biodiversity, while developing a sustainable blue economy.

These initiatives require cooperation and support from our international friends and partners. Support that aligns with national priorities.

Timor-Leste aligns our position with the statement made by G77+ China that SIDS should lead on and own their development and should not be asked to compromise our ambition.

To conclude, let us move forward and leave this beautiful island of Antigua and Barbuda with a sense of urgency and a spirit of cooperation to ensure our commitments are translated into practical and tangible actions.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão



Hon. Hu‘akavameiliku – Prime Minister of Tonga

National Statement

**Fourth International Conference on Small Island
Developing States (SIDS4)**

Theme: Charting the course toward resilient prosperity

**American University of Antigua
Antigua and Barbuda**

Monday 27 – Thursday 30, May 2024

Check Against Delivery

Distinguished Co-Chairs

Excellencies and Esteemed Delegates

We come to you from the Kingdom of Tonga. We are a small island nation exposed to the frontlines of climate change. We face a crisis - this crisis due largely to inaction for too long will be felt by all nations.

We stand here not just for Tonga. We stand here for all small island nations and future generations.

Our statement is aligned with those delivered by Vanuatu on behalf of the Pacific SIDS, Cook Islands on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Samoa on behalf of AOSIS, and Uganda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

This Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4), hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, bears hope as promulgated in the first decennial United Nations conference on SIDS in 1994 and subsequent ones.

The Kingdom of Tonga extends our congratulations to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for hosting SIDS4 despite the challenging circumstances. We are grateful for the kind hospitality you have shown us.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Allow me to acknowledge and applaud the efforts made under your competent guidance in successfully concluding the Preparatory Committee. I also thank the dedicated experts and the Secretariat's team.

We also thank Member States, specifically our development partners, for their part of the work so that we now can have the new SIDS development programme of action - the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).

This can only strengthen our initiatives in implementing the globally recognized sustainable development priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which has really build on the Barbados Programme of Action (PPOA), the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI), and the SAMOA Pathway.

SIDS continue to be a somewhat unique and complex situation in terms of sustainable development. We live with unique vulnerabilities such as being remote, small, fragmented, surrounded by vast ocean spaces and being acutely vulnerable to climate change.

Indeed, we, our people are highly exposed to the multifaceted challenges presented by the ever more escalating impacts of climate change and high levels of debt.

The small size of our economies brings with it that global events have disproportionate impacts on us. Just take the last several years disruption of supply chains. With the cost of imported goods ever rising, with energy costs spiraling, and it all triggering growing inflation, more and more families are pushed into poverty.

Our coastlines are at high risk with continuously rising sea levels. Extreme weather events are ever more frequent. In turn, this destroys costly

infrastructure and precious agricultural lands are ruined by saltwater intrusion.

This is the reality of day-to-day of our island nation and people and the reality of all other SIDS.

We in Tonga, and across the Pacific, will not passively wait for more disasters to strike us.

We all know that the impacts of climate change disproportionately burden the most vulnerable members of our societies, particularly women, youth, elderly and those living in poverty.

We are committed to ensuring that climate solutions must address these social vulnerabilities. They must be inclusive and empower all members of our communities to build resilience.

In my role as the Pacific Islands Forum Climate Finance Champion, I have championed the regional funding facility – the Pacific Resilient Facility (PRF) and the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity.

The PRF facility will specifically target adaptation measures to strengthen our resilience to climate shocks. The Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) is being developed to address the challenges and opportunities facing our vast ocean territories. This fund would focus on sustainable ocean management, access to finance for ocean-based industries, and fostering a Blue Economy.

Co-Chairs,

Climate change is indeed the biggest threat to our Blue Pacific.

We know the risks to both the environment and the economy. In our efforts and those of our partners, it is important to protect rights, privileges, and responsibilities outlined in international law, particularly in relation to rising sea levels caused by climate change.

We support the Chair of PSIDS in urging the world to take immediate and intensified action to combat climate change. This should include substantial funding for both adaptation and mitigation, considering the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and their vulnerability to climate impacts. Tonga and other small island developing states need increased and expeditious access to concessional finance to support our development efforts and enhance our ability to withstand external shocks. Tonga fully supports the review of the International Financial architecture.

With the responsibility and stewardship over nearly one third of the world's ocean, SIDS have a significant role and responsibility in preserving our ocean.

These zones are a fundamental part of the Earth's ecosystem. They are both an essential part of and a driver for sustainable development.

This implies that SIDS have a great responsibility to maintain the health, productivity, and resilience of the oceans and coasts. The pursuit of

sustainable practices in fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture, marine and coastal tourism, and development and use of ocean-based renewable energy are key towards developing sustainable ocean-based economies. Such pursuit is crucial to the well-being, traditions, and sense of self of our communities.

One of our key priorities should be the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). The index is a practical instrument for acquiring a more thorough understanding of vulnerability. We need a tool that can provide meaningful and effective assistance where and when needed.

We call for the adoption of the MVI and its operationalization.

Furthermore, establishing a regional funding mechanism alongside instruments like the MVI can streamline access to critical financing for SIDS priorities. Such mechanism could harness the combined resources and expertise of our Pacific Island nations. It would contribute to ensuring the efficient allocation of funds towards adaptation, mitigation, and ocean-based development.

We also call for concrete steps to establish a timeframe for operationalizing the MVI and develop clear criteria for SIDS access to financing. Such comprehensive approach would ensure that the most vulnerable receive the support they urgently need.

Co-Chairs,

While we have made considerable progress, hurdles remain and new challenges confront us. Action is demanded.

Inequalities resulting from trade imbalances are magnified when vulnerability such as we experience is present. We have therefore prioritized trade and investment, striving to boost economic diversification by improving trade regulations.

Tonga, as host of the Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting this year, will play a key role in advancing regional priorities on climate change, ocean health, and social development.

We are fully committed to ensure that the voices of the Pacific, particularly those of women, youth, and vulnerable communities, are heard and addressed in these discussions. Furthermore, we believe that sustainable development can only be achieved by investing in the education and skills development of our youth, and by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women.

Co-Chairs,

Our commitment is to the collective wisdom of our Small Island Developing States as we strive to create strong economies through trade, investment, and ocean-based activities. We aim to ensure the safety and prosperity of our societies, prioritize urgent climate action, and safeguard our environment. A genuine partnership but also appropriate methods and tools to evaluate our progress are vital in successfully implementing ABAS with the goal to achieve sustainable and resilient prosperity in the next 10 years.

The future of our islands, and the health of our planet, depend on immediate and decisive action.

We urge all nations to join us in building a resilient future for all.

I look forward to a productive week ahead.

Thank you.



Government of the Cook Islands

Cook Islands Remarks at the Opening & First Plenary

Theme: *Charting the course toward resilient prosperity*

Honourable Prime Minister Mark Brown

12:10pm – 12:20pm-Monday 27 May 2024

Mr President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Kia Orana and Warm Greetings from the Cook Islands

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for the successful hosting of the 4th SIDS Conference.

I am honoured to make this intervention both as the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and as the current Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum. Our Pacific countries cover 20% of the world's Ocean. We are the Blue Pacific Continent.

Last year in November, I hosted my fellow Pacific Leaders at our annual Leaders meeting to discuss matters critical to our region, framed by our 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific. We left the meeting sharing a deeper appreciation and understanding of what it truly means to speak as a region, unified in our voices, our choices, our Pacific Way.

Excellencies and Delegates,

Our gathering here today gives us the immense opportunity to join our Pacific voice to that of all our SIDS brothers and sister across the globe.



Government of the Cook Islands

Despite facing disproportionate vulnerabilities, we must continue to lead the way, trailblazing in areas where we can no longer wait for others to take action: climate action, climate justice, oceans management, MVIIs and the urgency for greater equitable access to climate financing.

Excellencies and Delegates,

As proud stewards of a 2 million square kilometres of EEZ, the Cook Islands have strived for sustainable management of our marine resources through centuries. Like all Pacific peoples, we have an imbedded culture of conservation and sustainable environmental management of our marine resources, practices we have sustained through generations.

We know that this approach is not unfamiliar to any of you in the room. In fact, the Pacific region leads the way in the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas. Our regional management framework on tuna fisheries ensures sustainability, better economic returns and effective monitoring and surveillance to protect this resource. Many of us have passed legislation to reduce single use plastics in our countries – even though we did not put plastic in the ocean. We have also created model regional laws that protect the wealth of pacific genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Our Pacific Leaders recently endorsed the creation of a regional pacific centre of Excellence and Deep Ocean Science, PCEDOS as we call it. This collaborative centre will work with all interested stakeholders to further leverage knowledge, innovation and empowerment. We recognise that implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable management of



Government of the Cook Islands

our global commons cannot be done without strong scientific knowledge of our ocean, in all its vastness.

Excellencies and Delegates,

Beyond our shared ties to our Oceans, other areas require our collaborative and united approach.

As we continue to build from the SAMOA Pathway, we need to continue to advocate for greater investments in our nations, increasing our resilience in a world where we are paying for the actions of others or rather lack of action of others.

The key to these efforts lies in finance – in wealth, and for many of us here today, access to finance remains a critical barrier to our sustainable development pursuits.

In November last year Pacific Leaders approved the operationalisation of the Pacific Resilience Facility - a transformative regional financing mechanism, created by the Pacific for the Pacific.

We are aiming for a starting target of \$500M to address part of the critical climate finance disaster risk resilience needs of the Pacific through high impact projects being supported at the community level. Initial seeding contributions by the US and China were boosted by Saudi Arabia of \$50M and Australia of \$100M. We invite other countries to consider supporting this innovative financing facility to help the Pacific build its resilience.

Excellencies and Delegates,



Government of the Cook Islands

The total combined carbon emissions of SIDS represent less than 1% of global emissions. If we SIDS reduced all of our emissions it would not even shift the dial – it would in fact make NO impact on total carbon reductions.

On the other hand, the G20 countries represent 80% of all carbon emissions.

They in fact are the only ones that can effectively shift the dial on reducing carbon. The most recent IPCC report on achieving 1.5% makes for grim reading especially for SIDS countries.

Given the dismal emissions reductions by G20 countries to date, they must shift the dial on their financial contributions. According to the World Bank, the Pacific countries alone require \$1B per year for the next 10 years to build resilience against the impacts of climate change.

This is a burden that we cannot and should not shoulder.

G20 countries must also shift the dial through their key positions on the boards of MDBs – We must collectively change the rules on debt management and debt restructuring, access to concessional finance allowing for longer terms, lower interest, greater concessions, to alleviate the burden unfairly keeping SIDS countries from prospering.

One natural disaster for SIDS can wipe out years of prosperity – we all know this – we have all experienced this – and unfortunately, we continue to experience it in an increasingly regular manner.



Government of the Cook Islands

Therefore, we cannot afford to waste any more time. There is no more time for empty promises. The People and local communities of SIDS need bold and determined actions for transformative meaningful change.

We must deliver.

Meitaki ma'ata.

{ENDS}



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



LLDC3
3rd United Nations
Conference on the
Landlocked Developing
Countries

STATEMENT

BY

**HON. DUMEZWENI M. MTHIMKHULU
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

ON BEHALF OF

THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs)

**DURING THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS4);
“CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD RESILIENT PROSPERITY”**

MONDAY, 27 MAY 2024 (TBC)

TIME: TBC

**THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ANTIGUA
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Please check against delivery

- **President of the Conference;**
- **Secretary-General of the United Nations;**
- **President of the United Nations General Assembly;**
- **President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council;**
- **Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States;**
- **Secretary-General of the Conference;**
- **Special Adviser of the Fourth United Nations Conference of the SIDS;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

- 1.** It is with profound honour that I address you today at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), standing on behalf of the 32 Members of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).
- 2.** At the outset, allow me to commend the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its gracious offer to host this Conference.
- 3.** I further wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, for the excellent and warm hospitality provided to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful Island.

Excellencies,

- 4.** It goes without saying that both SIDS and LLDCs share common challenges. The geographic distinctiveness of SIDS presents barriers to trade, digital connectivity, and sustainable development pathways. Similarly, LLDCs encounter impediments in accessing global markets and resources due to their landlocked nature.
- 5.** Moreover, amidst these challenges lies immense potential for synergy and collaboration in overcoming our shared obstacles.
- 6.** Therefore, we are of the view that through harnessing synergies, LLDCs and SIDS can amplify their collective voice on the global stage, advocate for their shared interests, and galvanize support for the implementation of their respective agendas.

Excellencies,

- 7.** I wish to extend the LLDCs' unwavering support for the objectives of the SIDS4 Conference and emphasize the importance of amplifying its outcomes to garner international attention and mobilize resources for SIDS.
- 8.** Collaboration and Partnerships lie at the heart of this endeavor. In this connection, we believe that multi-stakeholder collaboration is paramount in supporting SIDS initiatives like the SIDS Data Hub, Technology and Innovation Mechanisms, and Investment Forums.

9. In the same vein, Development Partners, Civil Society, the Private Sector, have pivotal roles to play in providing the necessary resources and expertise to drive these initiatives forward.

10. We therefore, reiterate the call for sustained political commitment, adequate financing, and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to ensure the effective implementation and tangible results for SIDS in the next 10 years.

11. The LLDCs wishes to reaffirm their solidarity with SIDS and commitment to supporting the objectives of SIDS4 and beyond.

Excellencies,

12. As you may be aware; the Government of the Republic of Botswana has offered to host the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) in December, 2024. We look forward to this unique opportunity for Stakeholders to come together and chart a path towards a more prosperous and resilient future for our Group of Countries.

13. We also look forward to welcoming you all in Gaborone, as we pave this new journey for LLDCs, in the next decade.

Thank you for your attention.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SAINT LUCIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

THE HONOURABLE SHAWN EDWARD

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION,
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND VOCATIONAL

TO THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING
STATES

ST JOHNS, ANTIGUA

MONDAY, 27TH MAY, 2024

Please check against delivery.

Mr. President,
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

We arrive at this Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States against the backdrop of the unprecedented confluence of crises facing the international community. We have gathered to reaffirm the international community's commitment to the special circumstances of SIDS, and to our inalienable right to develop and exist.

This week, surrounded by the cultural, natural and human wealth of Antigua and Barbuda, SIDS will state with clarity and confidence that the time has long passed for episodic, once-per-decade engagement.

The time is now for a sustained and sincere restructuring of outmoded approaches that hamstring and retard our developmental aspirations. The time is now for a renewed affirmation and intensified actions for the resilient prosperity of SIDS.

Mr. President,

The time is now to conclude our global ambivalence on climate change. It has become far too common for global and regional news headlines to be filled with the tragic consequences of natural disasters in SIDS. Saint Lucia wishes to express its solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea following Friday's tragic landslide.

Last Tuesday's unanimous Advisory Opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), not only concluded that greenhouse gases constitute marine pollution, it also made clear that compliance with the Paris Agreement alone will not be enough to arrest the climate crisis. The ITLOS opinion will inform future legal and diplomatic work in putting an end to the inaction that has brought us to the brink of and irreversible disaster.

Mr. President,

The time is now to end the practice of using per capita GDP as an obstacle to any form of developmental assistance or relief to SIDS. Stripped of context, per capita GDP fails to capture the obvious vulnerabilities and developmental hurdles that confront us on a daily basis.

It is imperative that we move to operationalize and implement the Multidimensional vulnerability Index (MVI), including its use as criterion for access to low-cost and long term financing, debt relief and official development assistance.

Mr. President,

The time is now to focus corrective attention to the debt burdens of SIDS. Our developmental aspirations and manoeuvres are straight jacketed by an acute access of fiscal space. How can we address all the climate challenges, the transition to modern modes of production, and renewable energy, the strengthening of our social safety nets, or the equipping of our citizens to meet future challenges, while managing a debt burden that is among the highest in the world?

We call for the support of the establishment of a dedicated SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service to enable sound debt management, and devise effective solutions for SIDS in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term.

Mr. President

Four decades removed from the defining moment in Barbados when the international community acknowledged and committed support to the unique case for SIDS in the context of sustainable development; and within a geopolitical and financial architecture designed before our decolonization; SIDS continue to contend with the difficult circumstances that limit our ability to navigate this rapidly globalizing world.

A world where many remain trapped in the belief that more debt is the answer to poverty, that more weapons are the answer to conflict or that more time is the answer to urgent climate crisis.

This conference is wisely convened under the theme of *charting the course toward resilient prosperity*. The theme explicitly recognizes another set of beliefs. That the pathway to meaningful sustainable development lies in solidarity, in genuine cooperation and full understanding of the needs, peculiarities and contributions of each member of our global family.

Our challenges are many but they are not insurmountable. They require only a willingness to understand our unique characteristics and consequent vulnerabilities, to understand our limitless possibilities; while working together to maintain a strong commitment to implement collaborative actions in line with those understandings.

Let us leave Antigua resolute in our renewed commitment to facilitate the meaningful sustainable development of SIDS that put us all on the path to resilient prosperity.

Thank you.



**Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations
19 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017
www.ghanamissionun.org**



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STATEMENT BY
HON. SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWEY
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION
THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**AT THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES**

*27th May 2024
Antigua and Barbuda*

**Chair of Conference
Secretary-General
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Ghana pays tribute to the government and fraternal people of Antigua and Barbuda for hosting the fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States, as well as for their warm reception and gracious hospitality. Prime Minister Gaston Browne has demonstrated exceptional leadership to ensure the success of this conference and we thank him and his government.
2. Let me express our deepest sympathies to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea on the devastating landslide that has killed and displaced thousands of people. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones in this tragedy.
3. A large number of SIDS are linked by blood with Africa, and those in the Caribbean are part of the African Union. Apart from the vulnerabilities we share as a result of climate change, among others, and the solidarity we feel for the SIDS as the most impacted, we are in this together. The success of SIDS would be the success of the entire globe. We are committed to their fight for resilience.
4. Ghana commends the Small Island Developing States for their leadership in taking primary responsibility for their own sustainable development, despite their inherent vulnerabilities, which make them a special case for sustainable development. After three decades and three programmes of action, it is past time now for the international community to step up and play its part. The outcome of our negotiations for the Outcome of this conference is

disappointing, given the daunting challenges facing SIDS and the potential a resilient SIDS promises to a thriving globe.

5. All of us, especially the development partners, need to take comprehensive action to address short-term issues, as well as implement long-term strategies to address the systemic vulnerabilities of SIDS.
6. This means supporting SIDs to make better progress by resolving the knock-on effects of the multiple, cascading and increasingly entrenched global crises that have deepened the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS.
7. The key policy lesson from recent development performance is that “business as usual” is no longer a viable option for the most vulnerable countries. Not when the structural vulnerabilities that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face have been further compounded by new and emerging challenges. Continuing to apply the past models of development will not usher in the achievement of new outcomes. Building the economic resilience of developing countries, and SIDS in particular, is the imperative of our time.
8. This includes building resilience to the economic and environmental impacts of climate change, as well taking action to build the necessary productive capacities to support a process of structural transformation, leading to sustainable development. We need a comprehensive approach to the analyses of the overall gaps in sustainable development in the regions as well as in the responses at the system level.
9. Over the medium to long term, SIDS require debt restructuring and a new arrangement to access concessionary finance and aid, which has customarily been conditional upon income-based criteria, without regard for vulnerability or debt distress.

- 10.Ghana urges support for the 2022 Bridgetown Initiative for the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture, geared at addressing the liquidity challenges among SIDS. We support the call for modifying the Common Framework for Debt Treatment by G20 creditor countries. We also support increased access to concessional finance for SIDS, as well as the urgent need for debt relief and climate finance and increased ODA and FDI flows to SIDS.
- 11.SIDS with their development partners should ensure that allocations of external financing are aligned to the core objective of achieving sustainable structural transformation, through enhancing productive capacities and technological capabilities in SIDS. This includes support to both the private and public sectors, as well as a renewed commitment by donors to meet international obligations on ODA.
- 12.The international community also has an important part to play through the development and extension of dedicated international support measures (ISMs) to address the unique trade and development challenges of SIDS. The new generation of ISMs should focus on key areas including: international trade, financial resources, capacity- building and technical assistance. An estimated \$4 trillion needs to be mobilized each year to fight climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to estimates in UNCTAD's latest Trade and Development Report 2023.
- 13.South-South cooperation can play a complementary role to North-South cooperation, and can be further leveraged through triangular cooperation. Ghana is heartened by the significant deepening of partnerships with the Caribbean, including through Bilateral trade and investment agreements, technical cooperation and exchange of best practices and membership of AfDB and Afreximbank.

14. As Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, Ghana will support every effort tailored to the realities of climate vulnerability and end the negative net finance flow from developing countries. We are also committed to ensuring the implementation of the \$100 billion climate finance target of the Paris Agreement and the Loss and Damage Fund as well as to delivering a successful IDA21 replenishment. In addition, we will advocate for systemic action for coordination, coherence, and effectiveness towards long-term sustainable development outcomes.
15. Each of these conferences seems to mark milestones towards the last chance saloon. I hope we can mobilize the will to reverse our unsustainable course in St. John's.
16. Thank you for your kind attention.

Cuarta Conferencia de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo (SIDS4)
St. Johns, Antigua y Barbuda
27-30 de mayo de 2024
Intervención realizada por S.E. Sr. Roberto Álvarez, Canciller de la República Dominicana y Jefe de Delegación

Distinguidos jefes de Estado y de gobierno, delegados todos, nos complace mucho participar en esta importante Cuarta Conferencia de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, de la cual nos honra formar parte.

Felicitamos calurosamente a Antigua y Barbuda por la organización, al tiempo que les agradecemos por su cálida hospitalidad y finas atenciones.

Aprovecho para adherir mi intervención a la realizada por Uganda en nombre del Grupo de los 77+ China, y a la realizada por Samoa en nombre de la Alianza de Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo.

A 30 años de la primera Conferencia de los SIDs, seguimos conviviendo con problemáticas que, lejos de solucionarse, se siguen agravando. La triple crisis planetaria, junto a los riesgos emergentes que afectan de manera diversa a nuestras regiones como el aumento en la frecuencia e intensidad de los huracanes, la proliferación masiva de sargazo en nuestras costas y el aumento del nivel del mar profundizan las desigualdades existentes, afectando de manera particular a las islas y golpeando con más fuerza a las comunidades más pobres y vulnerables.

Para Estados como los nuestros, el cambio climático es una crisis existencial, como ha resaltado esta mañana el secretario Guterres, con implicaciones para la seguridad humana, la seguridad alimenticia, la seguridad hídrica, los empleos, la salud, la vivienda; deslazando comunidades y lanzando a millones de personas a la búsqueda de nuevos horizontes, en fin, con implicaciones para las diferentes formas de vida incluyendo la humana. La crisis climática ha hecho más difícil para los gobiernos distribuir los frutos esperados de la democracia, debilitando su legitimidad y dificultando cumplir con la agenda 2030.

Pero no estamos reunidos aquí para reiterar nuestras problemáticas como países insulares, sino para buscar soluciones conjuntas. Y ahí está la clave, en la apuesta por un multilateralismo renovado que busque soluciones comunes a problemas que también nos son comunes.

República Dominicana respalda la transformación de la estructura financiera internacional para apoyar el desarrollo sostenible de los SIDs. Destacamos la urgencia de operativizar el índice de vulnerabilidad multidimensional, e iniciativas para el

financiamiento como la de Bridgetown, componentes esenciales de esta reforma. Superando la visión que limita la medida del desarrollo de los países al PIB.

Es hora de que todos los países nos empoderemos y de que los SIDs seamos tratados como socios en los espacios de decisión en los que se diseñan e implementan las soluciones a estos problemas.

Exigimos de que finalmente se cumpla con el compromiso de duplicar el financiamiento climático para el para el 2025. Esto permitirá disponer de más recursos para la adaptación y la creación de resiliencia, particularmente para los SIDs. Asimismo, permitirá poner en funcionamiento el Fondo para Pérdidas y Daños aprobado en la COP28.

Así mismo, no debemos perder de vista el fortalecimiento las inversiones en energías renovables y la transición hacia matrices energéticas limpias; restaurar la salud de nuestros océanos y su biodiversidad, transitar hacia un turismo sostenible y poner fin a la contaminación por plásticos, por medio de un acuerdo internacional vinculante que se encuentra actualmente en negociación.

Amigos y amigas,

Deseamos agradecer el audaz liderazgo de los integrantes de la Comisión de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, Vanuatu, Antigua y Barbuda, Palau, y a través de ellos a los demás miembros, que solicitaron la Opinión Consultiva al Tribunal del Mar. Esta decisión, de hace tan solo seis días, es trascendental como reconocimiento de que las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero son contaminación marina, y de que en consecuencia los Estados deben tomar todas las medidas necesarias para prevenir, reducir y controlar dicha contaminación.

Precisamente la contaminación y el calentamiento del océano son factores que agravan el fenómeno del afloramiento descontrolado del sargazo, el cual afecta a treinta países del Gran Caribe y más allá, en particular a los insulares. Este fenómeno daña en especial a comunidades costeras y a la vital industria turística de nuestra región. Es oportuno reiterar el llamado hecho por el presidente de República Dominicana, Luis Abinader, en el seno de la Asociación de Estado del Caribe (AEC) para que se declare emergencia regional este afloramiento descontrolado, de manera que siga siendo tema de atención y preocupación para toda la comunidad internacional.

Este es un tema que amerita que sea conocido a la mayor brevedad posible en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas para lo cual estamos haciendo los acercamientos requeridos.

Uno de los países más afectados en nuestra región por el Cambio Climático y por la crisis de violencia interna que ha venido enfrentando es Haití. Reiteramos la necesidad de que

se apoye a ese país vecino como lo han venido haciendo CARICOM, Kenia, Estados Unidos, Canadá y otros, a quienes les agradecemos con sinceridad.

De igual forma, ponemos en valor que mucho de los que caracteriza a nuestra región caribeña ha sido la convivencia y el compromiso con la paz en nuestras relaciones, fundamentadas en el respeto a la diversidad y a nuestras diferencias.

El momento actual nos impone la necesidad de forjar alianzas y actuar para preservar las futuras generaciones. La dinámica de esta conferencia requiere acción permanente dirigida a resultados y sobre todo en línea con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Muchas gracias.



European Commission - Speech [Check Against Delivery]



Plenary statement by Commissioner Urpilainen at the 4th UN Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference

St. John's, 27 May 2024

Your Excellencies,

In today's world, we face multiple challenges.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, we are reminded of the images of destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

We cannot ask countries that produce less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions to pay the existential price of climate change.

Or suffer the most from global crises like COVID-19.

Or drown in debt.

We must shift the course.

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS outlines an ambitious plan to boost resilience and prosperity over the next 10 years.

The EU applauds this milestone. Now, we must follow through.

First, the international community must work harder and faster to fight climate change.

The EU stood alongside SIDS at COP28 to achieve international consensus to transition away from fossil fuels.

We supported SIDS in their call for a Loss and Damage Fund to cope with the growing costs of climate change.

The EU and its Member States – together as Team Europe – pledged over half the initial funding.

Team Europe is also the largest provider of climate finance globally, contributing EUR 28.5 billion to developing countries in 2022 alone.

Europe remains fully committed to ensuring a just transition towards climate neutrality.

We call on the international community to join us.

Second, we must work on multiple fronts to help strengthen SIDS economies.

The EU continues to advocate for Multilateral Development Banks to better address global challenges, including climate and biodiversity challenges.

We welcome the proposed Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, and we invite other development institutions to consider its application.

We must also boost resilience through trade.

The EU enjoys trade ties with all SIDS, and we are eager to strengthen them.

Third, we must involve the private sector in sustainable development.

This is the idea behind the EU's Global Gateway investment strategy.

We aim to mobilise EUR 300 billion in public and private investments by 2027.

Today numerous Global Gateway initiatives are underway in SIDS.

In the Caribbean, we want to transform sargassum algae from a threat to an economic opportunity...

In the Pacific, we have the Green-Blue Alliance to tackle climate, ocean, and energy challenges.

Dear friends,

Through collective action – here in Antigua and Barbuda, and at the upcoming Summit of the Future in New York – we can ensure a strong future for SIDS.

Together, by always standing up for rules-based international order and cooperation, we can solve global challenges.

SPEECH/24/2907



STATEMENT

BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA**

AT THE

**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS4)
“CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD RESILIENT PROSPERITY”**

GENERAL DEBATE

SAINT JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ON

MONDAY, 27TH MAY 2024

Please check against delivery

Salutations

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I extend warm congratulations to you on your election to preside over the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

Allow me to also convey my delegation's deep appreciation to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for their hospitality and generosity as hosts of this Conference.

As SIDS, we meet at another crucial juncture. Since we had our first Special Conference thirty years ago, our vulnerabilities have become more acute and our challenges have grown more severe, while our ability to respond effectively remains limited and uneven. The Government of Jamaica, therefore, welcomes the adoption of a new 10-year Programme of Action - *The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) - a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity*.

Climate Change

Mr. President,

Climate change has been our planet's most striking feature in recent times. Without a doubt, and despite our low contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions, the very existence of SIDS is threatened by increasing global temperatures, rising sea levels and worsening natural hazards.

Jamaica and our sister Caribbean countries are not only among the most vulnerable to these phenomena, but we are also among the most dependent on some the most climate vulnerable economic sectors, such as tourism and agriculture. 70 per cent of our populations are located in coastal towns and communities, which host large portions of productive industries, service sectors and residences.

Again, despite our negligible contribution to the problem, Jamaica remains committed to finding solutions. Our updated Climate Change Policy Framework, which takes into account our obligations under the Paris Agreement, supports the achievement of sustainable and sustained growth and prosperity for all Jamaicans, including by strengthening Jamaica's adaptive capacity and resilience. Jamaica is working to reduce our vulnerability to climate change, pursue low carbon development, mobilize climate finance and promote public education and awareness, as well as research and technology transfer towards ambitious climate action.

It is always important to keep in mind that notwithstanding any SIDS' efforts, the responsibility for effective action is a global one, as the wide-ranging consequences are, in fact, global – a fact becoming more evident every year. To address the vastly larger part of the problem, Jamaica has therefore consistently advocated for developed and emerging countries to take urgent, tangible and concrete actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the pace and scale required to keep '1.5 alive.'

Noting however, that the pace and scale of the irreversible impacts of climate change are already pushing beyond the capacity of SIDS to adapt, we also continue to advocate for a significant increase in climate financing to support meaningful mitigation and adaptation efforts in SIDS.

Jamaica is proud to have led and supported global efforts to reform the international financial architecture and to improve access to affordable

financing for development, including climate finance. More work is however needed in this regard to facilitate inclusiveness and equity for all states, and particularly for highly indebted middle income, and vulnerable, SIDS.

We support the position that a New Finance Goal must be adopted and implemented at COP29 to replace the US\$100bn goal, even though that goal has not yet been met. We must be bold and ambitious in this effort, given the stark reality that the actual requirement is in the trillions of dollars.

Appropriate action also requires the urgent capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, as well as the fulfilment by developed countries of their commitment under the Glasgow Climate Pact to at least double their collective provision of adaptation finance from 2019 levels by next year – 2025.

Improved Ocean Governance

Mr. President,

As large ocean states, the sustainable management of our waters is critical. The historic adoption of the BBNJ Agreement last year, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Frameworkⁱ adopted in December 2022 (GBF), are significant milestones in ocean governance and global biodiversity conservation. Jamaica, as a sustainable ocean economy, the seat of the International Seabed Authority and the home of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, actively participated in the negotiations. I am pleased to confirm that Jamaica will be signing the BBNJ Agreement this year and we are keen to begin the process towards effective implementation.

We are also working towards a global agreement on plastic pollution and call for an ambitious treaty that will effectively address plastics throughout its lifecycle. We continue to be active members of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and encourage all countries to join us in our efforts to protect and restore the health of our Ocean.

Attainment of the SDGs

Mr. President,

Resilient prosperity cannot be achieved without the attainment of the SDGs. Jamaica, therefore, welcomes the decision of Secretary-General Guterres to appoint a Stimulus Leaders Group, to address stalled global progress. The reality is that SIDS are particularly off-track. SIDS' small size and in several cases, geographical remoteness, limit opportunities to achieve greater economies of scale. Furthermore, the designation of many SIDS as upper middle-income countries, reduces critical access to concessionary finance for development needs.

Against this background, there is the need to revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. We must give greater primacy to financing for development. Next year's FFD conference will be critical. We must also consider how best SIDS can bridge the digital divide and fully integrate science, technology and innovation into our development processes, for societal transformations.

Equally important will be the development of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to specifically consider the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by SIDS. Jamaica is, therefore, pleased that there is now a draft resolution to take forward the very important Report that was finalised last year under the able leadership of our host, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, and former Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway. It is our

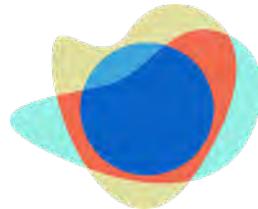
expectation that this will feature strongly in the Summit of the Future this September.

Mr. President,

Our efforts over the past decades serve as a testament to the collective resolve and aspirations of SIDS. Even as we strive to go above and beyond our obligations according to our size, our limited capacity hampers both progress on the SDGs and our ability to mitigate against existential threats. Without urgent and meaningful action, the situation will become dramatically worse, particularly in the poorest regions, which have contributed least to global crises. All are called to implement transformative measures in building climate resilient economies.

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS refines our focus and has laid out a path. While we will do all that we can to ensure its implementation, our efforts will require the invaluable support of our partners. Let us, therefore, continue to work together so that we can achieve an inclusive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable future for all.

I thank you.



Speech for the Minister of Foreign Affairs International Business and International Cooperation, His Excellency Albert Ramdin, on the occasion of de 4th Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

May 27, 2024, Antigua and Barbuda

President of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and low-lying coastal areas,

Secretary-General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

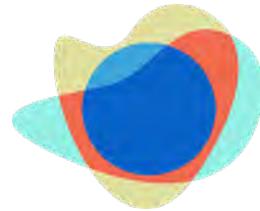
I thank the Government and people of this beautiful island Antigua and Barbuda for hosting this important conference. We feel at home Prime Minister Browne.

I am convinced that under your able stewardship we can and will be able to adopt a bold, forward looking and action-oriented policy template for SIDS going forward. At the 5th SIDS we should not reflect any more on the current issues, but have delivered on the set goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, Suriname is an extractive industry and agriculture based economy, and at the same time one of the only three carbon negative countries in the world, with a 93% forest coverage, a high level of biodiversity, highly forested, low deforestation Amazon basin country.

We are committed to the Paris Agreement and at the same time need to deliver on social and economic well-being for our people. This reality increases our burdens and worries even more.

Mr. President, indeed, we live in challenging and uncertain times, due to economic inefficiencies, climate change and impactful conflicts in the world. We also live in a time of urgency to find appropriate and realistic solutions.



Speech for the Minister of Foreign Affairs International Business and International Cooperation, His Excellency Albert Ramdin, on the occasion of de 4th Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

May 27, 2024, Antigua and Barbuda

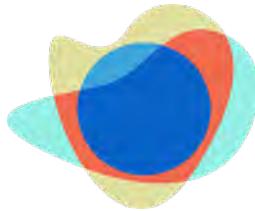
The problems and vulnerabilities of small economies have been discussed extensively over the past decades, we don't need to rehash them. Many of us are tired of hearing admirable aspirations and noble objectives, but relatively speaking not much is happening on delivering on these. We need to **ACT** on them.

Mr. President,

I want to focus my contribution today on what needs to be done.

It all boils down to the SIDS needing coordinated policies and dedicated external financial support in every instance or scenario:

- We need the international community's recognition of our vulnerability and apparent inability of global institutions to facilitate sustained economic and financial prosperity for all.
- We need to coordinate among ourselves and with international instruments effective policies in terms of mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. Especially "loss and damage" support will create the required fiscal space to address structural vulnerabilities in our economies.
- We must revisit the effectiveness of international financial institutions in resolving consequences of high debt, economic inefficiencies and the impact of global challenges, such climate change and conflicts.



Speech for the Minister of Foreign Affairs International Business and International Cooperation, His Excellency Albert Ramdin, on the occasion of de 4th Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

May 27, 2024, Antigua and Barbuda

- We must enhance the role of regional and national development banks with equity and development financing for the production and connectivity sector.
- We need effective climate financing instruments, that are geared towards the priorities of the SIDS countries, easily accessible, differentiated and an appraisal process that recognizes urgency of action.
- We must invest in human capital, especially the youth in our countries, to further our collective climate resilience action.
- I plead for the swift adoption and implementation of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index, to recognize and provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of SIDS' vulnerabilities.
- We must with a sense of urgency adopt the Bridgetown Initiative aimed at the reform of the global financial system, but also restore justice in access to resources.

In closing, Mr. President, colleagues: let us realize, that in this highly interconnected and inter-dependent world we all must work together in our collective interest to maintain peace, security and sustainable development. I believe that each of us in the SIDS family understand this and will do their part. Let us, all of us here, commit, to do our part as we prepare for the Summit of the Future and COP 29. With a collective message, vision and voice, we can and should move the world to take action now!

I thank you.



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Planning and Development**

Draft Statement

For the

**The Honourable Penelope Beckles
Minister of Planning and Development**

for the

**General Debate of the Fourth International Conference on
Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)**

**Date and Time to be Determined
Plenary Hall**

Salutations

Heads of State and Government

Secretary General of the Conference

Fellow Ministers and Heads of Delegation

Heads and Representatives of United Nations Agencies and Civil Society

Distinguished Delegates

Mr. President, before I begin my statement, I wish to join others in expressing our deepest condolences to the Government and People of Papua New Guinea, following the devastating landslide that claimed the lives of so many. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Mr. President,

We are pleased to join this distinguished assembly of leaders and delegates from across the globe on the occasion of this Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda for their unmatched warm hospitality, and express our appreciation to the Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, for his astute and visionary leadership as President of the Conference.

Mr. President,

On this important occasion, we acknowledge our individual minuteness, but at the same time, we vociferously acclaim our collective might.

Our small island developing states continue to be disproportionately affected by global shocks. However, the clarion call emanating from

our discussions must be heard and must be genuinely addressed. WE DEMAND THIS!

Mr. President, we are gathered here today, thirty years after the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action was adopted, the first dedicated strategy to mitigate the vulnerabilities of small island developing states (SIDS).

I contend that our efforts have diminished exponentially due to the external shocks and vulnerabilities, and while our present reality appears grim, the future seems to hold much hope. We shall not resign ourselves to defeatism. The resilience, diligence, and creativity that have sustained our islands thus far will carry us to a brighter, more sustainable future.

While in numerous fora in the international arena, leaders, experts in various spheres, academics, and members of civil society continue to underscore the special case of SIDS and the need to collectively address the pressing challenges confronting our nations while charting a path towards sustainable development and prosperity, can we truthfully declare any significant dividends accruing from this advocacy?

We have heard on too many platforms across the world about climate change and its devastating impacts. We are all aware that the effects of climate change are not a distant threat but a present reality. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, intense heat waves, changing rainfall patterns, and the disappearance of hundreds of species from our marine

life, pose grave risks to and are already negatively impacting our economies, our environment, and the livelihoods of our people.

It has long been established that our vulnerabilities, Mr President, whether they be economic, environmental, or social, are compounded by factors such as remoteness, limited resources, and disproportionate vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Since those who are not affected by our unique circumstances are unlikely to effectively champion our most just cause, the onus lies with us to articulate our right to equally benefit from the providence of this earth, based on our contributions to global production, the past exploitation of our resources by external entities, and the inordinate impacts we experience resulting from the indiscriminate actions of others.

Climate finance must be accessible, adequate, and predictable for small island developing states. Climate finance is not charity, but a moral imperative and a commitment under the Paris Agreement. In this regard, developed countries are compelled to honour their climate finance commitments and provide additional resources to support the adaptation and mitigation efforts of vulnerable countries such as ours.

Our own responsibilities cannot be overshadowed. We must also invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and ecosystem-based adaptation measures to protect our communities from the ravages of extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

Additionally, we must mainstream climate considerations into our development planning processes to ensure that our investments are sustainable and climate-smart.

Mr President, Trinidad and Tobago recognises that to mitigate the impacts of climate change, we must reduce our carbon footprint and ensure the long-term sustainability of our energy systems. To achieve this, our future will be built on three pillars: renewable energy, energy efficiency, and innovation. By promoting energy-efficient technologies, building codes, and consumer behaviour change, we aim to unlock significant energy savings and enhance the resilience of our energy systems.

Fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the energy sector is a crucial commitment being undertaken by Trinidad and Tobago. From grid modernisation to energy storage solutions, we will capitalise on tremendous opportunities for technological innovation to drive the transition to a green economy. Through strategic partnerships with the private sector, we will catalyse innovation and accelerate the adoption of sustainable energy solutions.

In conclusion, Mr President, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to work collaboratively with fellow small island developing states and the international community, to address the aforementioned challenges and chart a course towards resilient prosperity. By leveraging our collective strengths, resources, and

Country Statement

innovations, we can build a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for all.

I thank you.

SIDS 4: Belize statement for the General Debate
[approx. 5 minutes/750 words]

Your Excellency

I join my colleagues in extending my country's sympathies to the people and government of Papua New Guinea on the loss of the lives occasioned by the devastating landslides.

Belize extends its deepest appreciation to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, and the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for your warm and generous hospitality and for so ably sharing with the world that which makes a small island developing state so unique. What we lack in physical space, we make up many times fold in our ambition and in our action to deliver on promises.

If only the world were so inclined as the SIDS, we would not be standing here 30 years since the United Nations first visited our Caribbean shores, reckoning with a bleak future for the world and especially for island and low lying coastal states.

Just a few days ago, we learnt that the Atlantic Hurricane Season will be extraordinary with 17 to 25 named storms predicted. I need not remind anyone in this room that it takes only one storm and a few hours to erase years of hard-earned development from a small island. Regrettably, these predictions come on the heels of other scientific warnings of abnormal heating from land to sea.

Those out of bounds predictions are manifesting in a prolonged dry season at home, which has ignited forest fires that to date have destroyed 32 percent of our major forest, and significantly depleted water supply for our hydroelectric power plants threatening power supply nationwide.

While the scarring of our economies and livelihoods are more readily apparent when a storm hits, and it would seem a perfect storm is brewing, we also suffer scarring from these climate anomalies, not to mention the downstream detritus of chemicals and waste and increasing loss of our endemic biodiversity. In the case of Belize, climate impacts already cost upwards of 4 percent of our GDP, without counting the cost of unforeseen extreme events nor calculating for the unseen slow onset of other climate impacts which together create volatile conditions for our natural resource dependent economy.

But this is not the SIDS story I wish to highlight. It certainly is not the SIDS story we had penned 30 years ago in Barbados.

That SIDS story held up small island developing states as the benchmark of ambition for the world. The first SIDS agenda embodied at the core an integrated people centered approach to development. It is the first example of a global climate resilient and sustainable development agenda which the UN would only emulate some two decades later with the 2030 Agenda.

Progressively from 1994 to date, the SIDS have pioneered other strategies to confront emergent global issues that have placed our countries on the frontline as first responders.

In climate change, SIDS championed the cause of climate justice for the vulnerable with our 1.5 and loss and damage campaigns. The Paris Agreement enshrines the 1.5 long-term temperature goal and after three decades leaders finally agreed to a loss and damage fund.

We delivered.

In ocean matters, we championed the equitable environmental stewardship of our ocean through strengthened inclusive ocean governance, and robust standards for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity. In June 2023, the United Nations adopted a groundbreaking ocean treaty on marine biological diversity which provides the only chance for the world to achieve the global biodiversity goals. Belize is proud to be the first Caribbean country to ratify the BBNJ treaty, and we are committed to supporting our fellow SIDS progress their efforts to early ratification. Here again, we have delivered.

In finance, we have been at the forefront of efforts to reform the international financial architecture and make it fit for purpose to support delivery of climate and sustainable development commitments. The Caribbean has stood behind the Bridgetown Initiatives for the reform of IFIs, and we have innovated debt conversions for nature. In 2021, Belize launched the largest blue bond which facilitated a debt conversion for marine conservation that not only reduced our debt to GDP by 10 percent but also created long-term sustainable finance for conservation. We will be launching a toolkit with The Nature Conservancy for other SIDS to benefit from our experience. Through the Alliance of Small Island States, we initiated the multi-dimensional vulnerability index as a new tool to leverage concessional finance, not just for SIDS, but for all developing countries. Once more, we are delivering.

In the case of international law and jurisprudence, we have filed our case before the highest international courts and have received already a first opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, affirming state obligations to implement measures for the protection of the marine environment consistent with the Paris Agreement 1.5 ambition. There is no question that SIDS deliver.

The SIDS story tells that we are not so much victims as we are defenders of what is right, of what should be. What has been prescribed for us is not.

The SIDS story, SIDS1 to SIDS4, reaffirms and underscores that the SIDS process of implementation must be done through a gender-equality lens so that our goals are not aspirational but truly achievable and have the impact for the most vulnerable. The SIDS story is a human rights story and our SIDS process must be one of transformational leadership.

Belize stands here shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters from the Caribbean, Africa and Asia-Pacific to redeem the SIDS ambition.

We stand for justice and in defense of the vulnerable. Our aim for resilient prosperity is to deliver inclusive sustainable climate resilient growth for all our people without the burden of debt; to nurture our present and the next generation in a secure and healthy environment; and to confront exogenous shocks through coordinated action and in cooperation with local national and regional partners as well as with the broader international community.

Our ask is simply to give us a chance.

Give us a chance to achieve this ambition.

Give us a chance by working with us to chart the path to a resilient sustainable future; we cannot do this alone. The challenges are beyond our means and capacities but well within your own.

Now you must deliver. Providing only 2 percent of climate finance to our countries who are in the line of the climate fire is not delivering. Closing off channels of access to finance based on anachronistic eligibility criteria and ever-changing rules, is not delivering.

Give us a chance by walking with us on that path to a resilient sustainable future; it is also your future. On that journey, there are points when you must lead the way.

Now, you must lead the way in bending the emissions curve towards a 1.5 global limit by 2030.

Now, you must lead the way in scaling up finance and investment for climate resilient development pathways, and in providing debt relief to our countries.

Now, you can help us also lead the way for a just transition by building our institutional and human resource capacities and know how to act in line with our priorities and needs and harnessing the advantage of the most advanced technologies.

And now, you must deliver.

In so doing, our paths will converge. SIDS will no longer be forced to linger behind. The SIDS story we started off with 30 years ago will then finally be redeemed. And together, we will be well on our way to achieving resilient prosperity.

Belize wholeheartedly welcomes the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). We acknowledge and appreciate the renewed commitment of the international community to effectively and urgently respond to the special case of SIDS.

Dear colleagues, let us walk the walk together and act now to make each of the next 10 years count for delivering the SIDS ambition.

Thank you.

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**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY
SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER IN
THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND SECOND MINISTER FOR
EDUCATION AND FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SINGAPORE DR MOHAMAD MALIKI OSMAN
AT THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL
ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES,
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA,
27 MAY 2024**

Thank you, Mr President.

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1 Ten years ago, we adopted the SAMOA Pathway, a programme of action for SIDS to address multifaceted challenges. I am glad to see that SIDS have since made strides in their development. The 2022 UN Secretary-General's Report on the Follow-up to and Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway showed that most SIDS are progressing in sustainable energy, food security and nutrition, gender equality and women's empowerment, and water and sanitation.

2 But our work is far from over. Over the last decade, new issues have arisen and the past few years have been particularly challenging. The COVID-19 pandemic, sharpening geopolitical tensions, macroeconomic uncertainty, climate change, and food and energy insecurity have been major threats. New issues such as technology and AI have also emerged, which present both opportunities and challenges. As the SAMOA Pathway draws to a close, we need to refresh our approach and strengthen our partnerships to deal with this new environment and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

3 We therefore strongly welcome the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), our programme of action for the next decade. This action-oriented document highlights emerging issues that we must collectively address, and which also require strong support from the international community for SIDS. Let me share Singapore's views on two major challenges for SIDS.

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4 First, climate change. SIDS are on the frontline of feeling the impacts of climate change. We are increasingly affected by tropical cyclones, storm surges, droughts, and changing precipitation patterns, as documented by the IPCC and which we have all experienced acutely. Last year was the warmest year globally. The IPCC's forecast of global mean sea-level rise of up to 1.1 metres by 2100 would be a disaster for many of us. Adaptation is clearly an urgent priority for SIDS. Singapore therefore fully supports the ABAS' call for timely support for action on adaptation, including the operationalisation and implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. In addition, SIDS must work together to push for a successful COP-29 in Azerbaijan which ensures all countries fulfil their climate pledges to keep the Paris Agreement temperature goal of 1.5°C within reach.

5 Second, digitalisation. Singapore agrees with the ABAS' recommendation to harness digital technologies to achieve sustainable development. The ITU has reported that internet use in SIDS since 2014 has grown faster than global growth, at an annual growth rate of 8.4 percent. This is encouraging as connectivity is the enabler for digital transformation, which could yield economic benefits. For example, the UNDP projected that the adoption of financial digital public infrastructure can contribute to 20 to 33 percent of economic growth in low- and middle-income countries. Singapore's experience in adopting mobile banking and digital payment systems such as the Singapore QR code – the world's first unified national e-payment system – has been a positive one as it allowed us to scale up e-payments and create innovative business opportunities.

6 In the spirit of South-South cooperation, Singapore is contributing our digital solutions for healthcare, electronic verification, and accessibility to the UNDP's and ITU's open registries of digital public goods. To reap the full benefits of digitalisation SIDS should also create an enabling environment to foster innovation, while promoting digital inclusion to ensure that no one is left behind in this digital revolution. To this end, Singapore and the UNDP have been working on a joint challenge where innovative solutions from SIDS on managing coastal risk and transport infrastructure can be showcased and applied.

Mr President,

7 No SIDS can tackle these challenges alone. As a tiny island-state, Singapore understands the unique challenges faced by SIDS. We have benefitted

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much in learning from other countries during our development journey and are happy to share our experiences. We echo the call in the ABAS to strengthen partnerships for human resource development as this also reflects Singapore's belief that a country's most valuable asset is its human capital. Singapore has been offering technical assistance packages for SIDS since 1999, in response to the evolving challenges. For example, the Singapore Partnership for the SAMOA Pathway, which we launched in 2019, offered tailor-made programmes including on climate change and disaster risk reduction. I am glad that more than 2,200 officials have participated in this programme. As we prepare for the challenges of the coming decade, I am pleased to announce Singapore's new technical assistance package for SIDS, which we call the "SIDS of Change". This package includes new customised programmes on emerging issues such as blue carbon and digitalisation. We will also continue to sponsor civil aviation and maritime fellowships for SIDS officials to build up capabilities in these important areas that will enhance our connectivity. We invite all SIDS to participate actively in these programmes.

8

Thank you.

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Statement of the Honorable Kavydass Ramano, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

Republic of Mauritius

Antigua and Barbuda

27-30 May 2024

Secretary-General of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Heads of States, Vice Presidents, Heads of Governments, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Vice Ministers

Excellencies and Heads of delegations,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All Protocols observed,

A very Good Morning to you all!

At the very outset, allow me to congratulate the Secretary-General of the Conference **Mr Li Junhua**.

I also wish to congratulate Ms Rabab Fatima, who has been appointed as Special Adviser for the Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen/ Mr/Ms President,

On behalf of the Government of Mauritius, I wish to place on record, our deepest gratitude to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Mauritian delegation.

It is indeed my honour to be in this conference which is dedicated only to SIDS. This shows the special case that are SIDS.

As SIDS, we are all part of one family. It is undeniable that we have the same specificities; we face very similar challenges, share the same environmental, social and economic concerns. It is reassuring to be in a

forum in which we understand each other very well and I am convinced that together, we will have common solutions to our common challenges.

The theme of this conference '*Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity*' is very pertinent and calls upon us to think together and take firm engagements towards resilient prosperity for our peoples and their livelihoods as well as promote an equitable and sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen/ Mr/Ms President,

Before looking forward to the future of SIDS, we have to look back since the Barbados Plan of Action in 1994, through the Mauritius Strategy in 2005 and the SAMOA Pathway in 2014 and draw lessons for a durable future of our Island States.

Thirty years from the first SIDS Plan of Action, in spite of considerable efforts towards sustainable development, the vulnerabilities of SIDS have accentuated, in the face of planetary environmental crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergence of diseases and the economic downfall.

Most of the SIDS are still recovering from COVID 19 while endless wars and conflicts are causing distress on all fronts. The global crises of climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity continue to jeopardize our present and future generations. Plastics, being ingrained in our daily lives, have become one of the greatest enemies of humanity and nature.

None of the SIDS is exempted from the adverse impacts of climate change such as accelerating sea level rise, changing temperatures and change in precipitation patterns, coral bleaching, saline intrusion and our vulnerabilities put at stake our chances of achieving our sustainable development objectives. We are in the obligation to prioritise our financial flows to where it is most needed. We often find ourselves gearing resources to build back damaged infrastructures after natural disasters

and putting back the economy on track rather than making progress in achieving our sustainable development goals. This is unfortunately the stark reality of SIDS.

Ladies and Gentlemen/ Mr/Ms President,

It is a matter of pride that despite these challenges, Mauritius is striving to adopt a sustainable development pathway. Government is committed to an environmentally sustainable development policy and making Mauritius a plastic-free country within the nearest possible delays.

The SDG Index Rank of Mauritius in 2023 was 93rd out of 166 and has an SDG index score of 68 while in 2016 it ranked 69th and the score was 60.7.

Mauritius has an Environment Master Plan 2020-2030 to chart the way towards an ecological transition. We are also implementing a Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan for the decade 2023 to 2033.

We have reinforced our legislation for the integration and mainstreaming of sustainability to achieve the country's transition to a green and circular economy. It includes a National Policy, Strategy and Action Plan on Sustainable Development; development of a National Circular Economy Policy, Strategy and Action Plan; enhanced concept on Extended Producer Responsibility; and introduction of a framework for the sustainable management of plastics.

To enhance our country's response capacity in the event of oil spills, the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been reviewed. In the same vein, we are also collaborating with IOC member states for an oil spill contingency plan at the regional level.

In advance of the legally binding global agreement on plastic, the Government of Mauritius has already put a ban on several categories of single use plastic products and plastic carry bags.

To address coastal erosion in an integrated manner and in order to increase the resilience of our coastal zones, we are pursuing the coastal rehabilitation programme to safeguard natural assets and to improve safety and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Furthermore, with a view to broaden the environmental data base, Government is setting up an "*Observatoire de L'Environnement*", a web-based platform that will serve for collecting and centralizing environmental data, for environmental monitoring, management and development.

On the one hand, despite our insignificant contribution to the global GHG emissions, our commitment is to reduce our GHG emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 and to achieve 60 per cent of renewable energy in our energy mix by 2030. We are aiming to completely phase out coal in electricity generation before 2030.

On the other hand, Mauritius emphasizes the critical importance of SIDS to adapt to climate change for our survival. The importance of National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was reemphasized in the Paris Agreement for building resilience and accessing climate finance. Mauritius is actively working towards creating its NAP.

However, many SIDS, including Mauritius, are falling behind in NAP formulation due to limited capacity and limited resources. Although the Green Climate Fund (GCF) provides a country allocation for the formulation of their NAPS and other adaptation planning processes, it is difficult to access this much needed fund. In this regard, we urge the GCF as well as GEF to establish a dedicated desk to support SIDS towards preparing their NAPs and others issues of relevance and to help identify the relevant implementing partners to help us formulate this crucial document.

Ladies and Gentlemen/ Mr/Ms President,

In conclusion, we still have a long way to go. The impediments in our path are many.

This week's discussions and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS outcome document will be decisive for our future. This will be our development agenda over the next ten years. ABAS will undoubtedly trigger a new impetus and wave of action.

We do not have adequate resources and capacities, whether technical, technological or financial, to combat our challenges and make progress on the sustainable development pathway.

Expectations are high, commitments are ambitious, but the means and will power to implement them are often limited and inadequate. SIDS will need to be supported. They will need to be given adequate resources to move from ambitions to actions.

International cooperation for provision of adequate funds, capacity building and necessary assistance must be put in place for SIDS. Multilateral and regional cooperation is imperative. We rely on the international community's continuous support for transfer of technology, technical assistance as well as green investment towards a low carbon economy and climate resilient island and we urge for greater global cooperation in tackling the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and in fostering a unified approach towards building a sustainable and resilient future.

Funding for progress, sharing of expertise and knowledge and collaboration are the key approaches. SIDS must stand united in the face of the multiple crises.

We commend the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS outcome document and look forward to its effective implementation by one and all.

Isolated actions will no longer bring the expected results. We must join forces to combat the global crises looming on us! Let us stand together to ensure that the progress of today does not compromise the possibilities of tomorrow.

I thank you for your attention.

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Statement
at the
4th International Conference on
Small Island Developing States Conference
'Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity'
Monday 27 2024; Antigua and Barbuda
by
Prime Minister H.E. Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes of Aruba
representing
the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr / Madam President, Your Excellencies,

I am honored to be here today as the Prime Minister of Aruba, representing the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands in all its diversity. From the islands of Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba in the Caribbean, to the low-lying delta in Europe: we are Four Countries, and One Kingdom.

We are both familiar with the problems faced by SIDS, as well as a long-standing and committed partner of SIDS. And as I know from my own experience in Aruba, SIDS face unprecedented challenges to their people and their prosperity. We are on the frontlines of climate change, without the fiscal space to build resilience.

The theme of this once in a decade Conference is resilient prosperity: we should seize the momentum of this week to shape

our own future. And what a future it can be! We have great assets in the form of our people and our natural environment, including the oceans that surround us. As his Majesty King Willem-Alexander stated last year during the UN 2023 Water Conference: "Together, we want to emphasize that water is our common denominator."

The ocean is our friend and pride. It provides us with abundant resources and has been an integral part of our livelihoods and travel routes connecting our nations.

Yet, we know all too well how the ocean also poses risks and challenges, mainly as a result of climate change.

We all remember how Hurricane Irma severely affected our generous host country, Antigua and Barbuda. That same hurricane also struck the islands of Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius. They, too, have felt its devastating effects. We stand in solidarity with you because what affects one of us, affects all of us.

We recognize that climate action is needed urgently, to protect our lives and livelihoods. Our strength lies in the combined knowledge and experience of the Caribbean islands and the European part of our Kingdom. We are committed to share this knowledge and experience, and create more opportunities for capacity building.

The Kingdom has a long history of expertise in areas like water management, coastal defense, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. We have strong knowledge institutions and a vibrant private sector in these areas.

Our universities in Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and the Netherlands offer a wealth of expertise to develop sustainable solutions. They seek to empower current and future generations in SIDS to tackle the pressing challenges of our time and diversify our economies as well, by investing in young people's skills.

The Kingdom is also looking into ways to make pragmatic cooperation possible. Therefore I am happy to announce that we will enable additional short-term technical assistance, dedicated to SIDS, on water management and climate adaptation.

But we also need to address the more structural issues facing SIDS. If we really want to make strides in the fight against climate change, SIDS need more fiscal space. We need an international financial architecture that truly works for developing countries, especially SIDS. And therefore, we need reform of the international financial architecture.

The Kingdom has already stepped up. Through a recent allocation of 2.1 billion euro in Special Drawing Rights, we aim to provide additional concessional financing to SIDS. We also recognize that many SIDS struggle with accessing existing climate funds, due to

administrative burdens and capacity issues. We will explore how to support SIDS in successfully submitting applications for various climate funds through technical support. And through our strong voice in the multilateral arena, we will make sure that the concerns of SIDS lead to concrete actions in the field of reforming the international financial architecture.

We can and must act now for the good of all our islands—whether in the Caribbean, the Pacific or the Indian Ocean.

Ladies and gentlemen, the international community has a duty to fulfill. The United Nations were founded upon the idea that small states can control their destiny as well. We owe it to our citizens and our children that we fight for resilience and prosper together. Small islands have much to offer to the rest of the world. The potential of our peoples and our natural environment is limitless. We should harness this together.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY H.E. ABDALLAH ULEGA, MINISTER OF LIVESTOCK
AND FISHERIES OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS4) IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA,
27 - 30 MAY 2024**

***Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and
President of the 4th International Conference of SIDS,
Excellencies Head of States and Government;
All protocols observed.***

- 1.0. At the outset, allow me to join previous speakers who have spoken before me by expressing my sincere appreciation you Excellency Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Government and the people of this beautiful country for graciously hosting of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation.
- 2.0. Let me also take this opportunity to convey warm greetings from Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania who expressed her best wishes to successful deliberations of this conference.
- 3.0. Mr. President, let me use this opportunity also extend Tanzania's condolences to the government and people of Papua New Guinea following the tragic landslide that has claimed numerous lives and caused immense suffering. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those who have lost their lives, displaced and we wish quick recovery for those who have been injured by this devastating event.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates;

4.0. We meet here at a time when development challenges are ever-increasing. Everyday we are witnessing increasing crises such as earthquakes, droughts, and floods. At the same time, geopolitical tension and the ever-increasing impacts of a changing climate are threatening our societies. So, how do we move forward in making our world a better place to live?

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates;

5.0. The answer to this question is, **to strengthen multilateralism through inclusive, representative, and effective international cooperation**. There is a proverb we use in Tanzania that “**one finger can not break a lice**”. It is clear that, these global challenges are far too great for any one nation to handle alone, the only hope is to find a multilateral or global solution.

6.0. SIDS are more vulnerable to the impacts of global challenges such as limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters and vulnerability to external shocks, high communication, and are facing high energy and transportation costs just to mention a few. The United Republic of Tanzania, Zanzibar Islands, are no exception to these challenges.

7.0. Despite their challenges, SIDS have innovative, dynamic and people ready to act. What is needed is just the support from the international community to unlock and utilize their potential and pave a way for a sustainable future. My delegation appreciates the work of the High-level panel on the development of a **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index** for its comprehensive report shared to us two months ago. I believe that the findings and recommendations, if implemented fully, will be a good step towards building a more sustainable future for SIDS.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates;

8.0. The United Republic of Tanzania stands in solidarity with Small Island Developing States in their unique challenges, especially in relation to

climate change, sustainable development, and economic resilience. As a nation with extensive coastal and island territories, including the beautiful Island of Zanzibar, we share many of the environmental, economic, and social vulnerabilities that characterize SIDS.

- 9.0. We are committed to fostering international cooperation and partnerships that prioritize sustainable development, climate action, and the enhancement of marine resources management. Tanzania recognizes the urgency of addressing the impacts of climate change and is dedicated to implementing comprehensive strategies that promote environmental sustainability and resilience.
- 10.0. In conclusion **Mr. President**, I would like to wish you success, as we deliberate on important issues for the prosperity of the SIDS. The United Republic of Tanzania looks forward to the effective and meaningful implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and welcomes development partners and multilateral stakeholders to cooperate with us in this endeavor.
- 11.0. I also wish to call upon the international community to intensify support for SIDS, ensuring access to necessary resources, technology, and funding to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
Together, we can build a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for all island nations.

I THANK YOU.



Statement by
Ms. Sewa Lamsal, Foreign Secretary, and Leader of the
Nepali Delegation to
the Fourth International Conference on Small Island
Developing States (SIDS4) on Behalf of the Group of Least
Developed Countries (LDCs)

27-30 May 2024

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda

(Please check against delivery)

**His Excellency Sir. Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda/ His Excellency Mr. Gaston Browne Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda
Their Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am deeply honored to bring a message of solidarity and togetherness from the Group of Least Developed Countries to the fellow SIDS Member States.

I align my statement with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of G77 China and China.

Let me begin by expressing our sincere and deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for a warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful island country.

I would also like to commend the Co-Chairs, Maldives, and New Zealand for their able leadership of the SIDS4 Conference preparatory process and for making this Conference a success.

I would also like to appreciate the Secretary General of the Conference, USG Li Junhua and Special Advisor for the Conference, High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDs,

USG Madam Rabab Fatima for their diligent efforts and unwavering support in making this Conference a success.

Excellencies,

Vulnerabilities define the countries in special situations.

LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs are among the countries hardest hit by the impacts of compounding and intersecting crises from the pandemic to climate change, conflicts to geopolitical competition, and rivalry/and rising cost of living due to external shocks.

The context of SIDS is unique due to their structural vulnerability emanating from the geographical situation, lack of alternative energy sources, and burgeoning impacts of elevated frequency and intensity of climate disasters impacting them the most.

Despite the unprecedented advancements we have made in technology, innovation, and skills, SIDS have not received enough attention to address these existential threats they face.

To our utter consternation, vulnerabilities, risks, and challenges facing SIDS are ever worsening.

Excellencies,

SIDS are in need of stronger and enhanced global support to address challenges it is facing.

We must help strengthen the sustainability and resilience of SIDS.

We must support SIDS to build back better from persistent shocks.

We must ensure urgent global action to the rise of sea level caused by melting of snow in the polar regions including mountains.

SIDS deserve stronger attention and should not be left behind. We the LDCs wholeheartedly support the cause of SIDS and also wish to highlight that there is an organic link between sea-level rise and melting of glaciers.

As we prepare for the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, it is imperative that the needs and priorities of SIDS be reflected and addressed properly.

It is only through stronger global solidarity, harmony, cooperation, and collaboration that we can address the global-level systemic problems. We must stop carbon emissions first, the main cause of sea-level rise and melting of glaciers before it is too late for the existence of human beings. We are paying a very high cost of climate change despite negligible contribution to it.

Excellencies,

The global community recognized the special case of SIDS both for its environment and development needs at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Similarly, the General Assembly in Resolution 47/289 decided to adopt targeted plans, programmes and measures to support these

countries' sustainable development efforts taking into account their unique circumstances.

The successful adoption of the Fourth Programme of Action the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is yet another opportunity for not only SIDS but also for the entire global community to help address multidimensional vulnerabilities and challenges facing these fellow countries.

On this, I take this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations to SIDS on the adoption of this ambitious yet achievable outcome document.

I also reiterate the commitment expressed by the LDCs at the inception of this process to engage constructively in pursuit of a successful implementation of the new 10-year mandate for the SIDS.

ABAS makes a good diagnosis of the problems SIDS face. It is an action-oriented document. It is a transformative agenda for SIDS for the coming decade.

Due emphasis on resilient economies, safe, healthy, inclusive and prosperous societies, resilient infrastructure; and environmental protection and planetary sustainability are particularly important for the future of SIDS.

In light of this successful Conference, we must not forget that effective implementation is of paramount importance to translating

this ambitious document into action. Only actions, not lofty plans will serve the interests of SIDS as well as of the entire global community.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, I assure you that the LDCs move ahead hand in hand with SIDS and call for the international community to renew their partnership with the SIDS as they pursue this new program of action.

As our stakes are common in terms of sustainable economic development and threats of the climate crisis, we LDCS and SIDS must work together with a sense of strong partnership to make this world more equitable, inclusive, and just.

In this critical juncture, we LDCs would like to join our voice with fellow SIDS members to call upon development partners, multilateral stakeholders, the UN development system, and the entire global community to stand with SIDS with a robust and enhanced level of support so as to bring ABAS into action.

I once again, express our strong solidarity with SIDS and wish the Conference a grand success!!!

Thank you.



PAPUA NEW GUI NEA STATEMENT

BY

MR. KUI KE NUMOI ,

ACTI NG DEPUTY SECRETARY (POLICY),

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAI RS

AND HEAD OF DELEGATI ON

TO THE

UNITED NATIONS FOURTH I NTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPI NG STATES (SIDS4)

27 MAY 2024

SAINT JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

"Check against delivery"

**Mr. President, His Excellency Gaston Brown, Prime Minister
of Antigua and Barbuda;
Excellencies and Distinguished participants;**

All protocols observed.

On my delegation's behalf, may I start by aligning our remarks with those made by the respective distinguished Chairs of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Samoa; and the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), Vanuatu.

Mr. President;

We extend our profound appreciation to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the warm welcome and commendable hospitality extended to my delegation. We also highly commend and thank Antigua and Barbuda for their valued efforts for the arrangements to host the SIDS Fourth International Conference.

Mr. President;

May I also take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt and sincere appreciation to the many delegations who expressed sympathies, condolences and solidarity with Papua New Guinea for last Friday's devastating and tragic landslide, triggered by an earthquake, in our highlands region, which has claimed many lives and disrupted the lives and livelihood of scores of others, the extent of which remains to be fully determined.

The relief and recovery efforts remain apace, led by our National Disaster Center, with support from our development partners, including Australia, New Zealand, the United Nations system and others, for which we are grateful.

Mr. President, this tragic natural disaster is a clear reminder, yet again, of the vulnerabilities and challenges facing SIDS and many others. It also underscores the importance of further strengthening the national capacities and for greater investment in resilience building measures to address such increasing and worsening calamities, in a timely and effective manner, to protect and save the lives of our people's and better safeguard our communities.

Indeed, one of the preliminary recommendations from our National Disaster Management Committee, arising from this tragic natural disaster, is the strong call to build capacity for disaster warnings and preparedness at all levels in the country.

In this spirit, we recognize and applaud The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity – for rightly prioritizing the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction and underscoring the critical importance of strengthening disaster preparedness, including multi-hazard early warning systems and capacity to take action. Ensuring the effective operationalization of this ABAS provision is therefore critical.

Mr. President,

Since the recognition of the Special Case for SIDS, over three decades ago, the SIDS-family has come a long way, often in remarkable ways despite the constraints and heightened vulnerabilities faced.

As canaries in the coalmine, sounding out the alarm on the gravity of climate change not only to their wellbeing and survival but for humanity, as a whole, and as guardians of international law, which serves as an anchor for their rightful place in the international community.

The championing of landmark and groundbreaking global legacies, such as the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on climate change, led by Vanuatu, our fellow Pacific SIDS and on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) Advisory Opinion on climate change and international law, submitted by the Commission of Small Island States (COSIS), are but a testament to what SIDS are capable of, to making our world a better place for all.

Mr. President, despite SIDS measured progress been made in various sectors such as in education, health, gender equality and empowerment, economic growth, oceans agenda, environmental protection and conservation and climate change, the work for SIDS is far from over. It requires our sustained commitment, individually and collectively.

The climate fight and the challenges of the rising sea-levels remain paramount priority issues for us, like many other SIDS, from whom we have heard loud and clear, yet again, in this Conference.

Also, for my delegation, like many other SIDS, the pressing and urgent need for access to adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, at speed and scale and at affordable rates, to meet our development needs, is critically important.

At our national level, we are embarking on growing our economy from the current twenty-eight billion dollars per year to around 57 billion dollars, per year by 2030, and to create additional one million jobs countrywide, to take us progressively into the future, including delivering on our 2030 Agenda commitment.

We are implementing strengthened domestic resource mobilization, including through:

- Tax reforms and enhanced internal revenue collection;

- Domestic laws and policies review and revision to ensure that our natural resources development in the extractive industry is on fair, just and equitable terms;
- Incentivizing public private-partnership;
- Strengthening governance laws and policies to tide illicit financial flows; and
- Addressing systemic issues on foreign exchange.

Mr. President, the financing we need for our sustainable development cannot be achieved through domestic resource mobilization, alone, but will require the necessary fiscal space and a reformed international financial architecture to deliver it.

it is merely not enough to demand SIDS to fix their domestic systems to support development financing, it is crucial to address the existing shortcomings of the international financial system that continue to be a bane to the financing for development needs of developing countries like my own.

We therefore strongly support the renewed call by the UN Secretary-General and other SIDS for urgent reforms of the international financial system to make it fair and just for SIDS development support.

We also join other SIDS and reiterate our call for international financial institutions and development partners to use the final report and recommendations of the High-Level Panel on the Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).

This should serve as a tool to adequately account for key factors of vulnerability such as the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters into IFIs decision-making for financing for development rather than relying solely on GDP/GNI per capita as measure of a country's development that determines their access to concessional financing.

We also strongly support the Secretary-General's call for a SDG Stimulus Package, which will further assist SIDS in addressing debt relief and ensure better long-term concessional financing for development.

Mr. President, we recognize that The ABAS is our new SIDS compass and a beacon of hope, for us to build on the foundations laid by its predecessors.

While it is regrettable that SIDS ambitious level for the ABAS outcome may have been watered down, this should, however, in no way dampen the spirit and resolve of SIDS in taking strong, decisive leadership, ownership and be the driving force for the future we want.

It is in this spirit, **Excellencies and ladies and gentlemen**, that we are reminded by the adage that "it is not the size of the dog in the fight, but it's the size of the fight in the dog." This should be the rallying call for SIDS to go further forward with ABAS.

For Papua New Guinea, our 2023 to 2027 Medium Term Development Plan IV, with its twelve Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs) and our Vision 2050 development roadmap, resonates well with the priorities for sustainable development as presented by The ABAS.

We are therefore supportive of ABAS and we will incorporate the next Ten-Year SIDS thematic development areas into our national plans and investments, to deliver on it, as we track this alongside our overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In closing, **Mr. President**, my delegation recalls the continuing relevance of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway call for genuine and durable partnership to further foster SIDS resilient prosperity. Such a development partnership should also be based on one that is on equal footing and not merely on a donor-recipient lens.

Thank you.

**Discours du Ministre de l'Environnement, de la Biodiversité et de
l'Action Climatique de la Guinée-Bissau à la 4ème Conférence
Internationale des PEID**

Antigua-et-Barbuda (27-30 mai 2024)

Monsieur Gaston Browne, Premier ministre d'Antigua-et-Barbuda et Président de la 4ème Conférence Internationale des PEID, nos vous félicitations pour votre présidence de cet événement et nos remerciements pour l'accueil chaleureux de votre gouvernement et de votre peuple;

Monsieur António Guterres, Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, notre gratitude pour votre leadership avisé et votre travail inlassable dans la mobilisation d'efforts collectifs pour lutter contre les changements climatiques;

Madame Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Première ministre de Samoa et Présidente de l'AOSIS;

Tous les Protocoles respectés;

Distingués délégués;

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est avec un grand honneur et un sens de responsabilité que je m'adresse à vous à l'occasion de la 4ème Conférence Internationale des Petits États Insulaires en Développement sous le thème "Tracer la voie vers une prospérité résiliente".

Ce forum est essentiel pour échanger nos expériences et construire ensemble un avenir plus durable et résilient pour nos pays.

La Guinée-Bissau, un pays d'une beauté naturelle unique et avec une richesse extraordinaire en biodiversité et en culture, fait face à des défis significatifs en raison des changements climatiques.

Avec une grande partie de notre territoire situé à moins de 5 mètres au-dessus du niveau de la mer, nous sommes particulièrement vulnérables à la montée du niveau de la mer et aux événements climatiques extrêmes. Ces menaces mettent en péril non seulement la biodiversité, mais aussi la sécurité et la subsistance de nos communautés côtières et insulaires.

Nous sommes engagés à atteindre les Objectifs de Développement Durable. Nous avons mis en œuvre des politiques visant à promouvoir les énergies renouvelables, des pratiques agricoles durables et la conservation de nos écosystèmes marins et terrestres. Nous efforçons de garantir que la croissance économique soit inclusive et durable, en alignant nos actions avec le SAMOA Pathway pour renforcer la résilience de nos communautés insulaires.

Distingués délégués,

La vision d'une Afrique prospère et intégrée guide nos initiatives. Nous investissons dans des infrastructures résilientes et le développement communautaire, en promouvant l'amélioration des conditions de vie et un développement économique durable.

Notre engagement envers le New Deal se reflète dans le renforcement des institutions démocratiques et l'engagement de la société civile. Des projets axés sur le renforcement des capacités des communautés côtières et insulaires et la gestion des déchets plastiques sont en cours, visant à accroître la résilience face aux défis climatiques et à protéger les écosystèmes.

Nous reconnaissons l'importance du principe de responsabilité commune mais différenciée. Bien que notre contribution aux émissions mondiales de gaz à effet de serre soit minime, nous sommes disproportionnellement affectés par les impacts des changements climatiques. C'est pourquoi nous appelons à une plus grande solidarité et à un soutien international.

Nous sommes déterminés à augmenter notre ambition et notre action climatique dans le cadre de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques. La candidature de l'Archipel des Bijagos à la Liste de Patrimoine Naturel Mondial de l'UNESCO est une étape cruciale. Cette initiative protégera non seulement la biodiversité mondialement menacée, mais renforcera également l'objectif 30x30 du Nouveau Cadre Mondial de la Biodiversité de Kunming et Montréal.

Pour respecter nos engagements internationaux, il est essentiel de compter sur la solidarité et la subsidiarité internationale, la justice climatique et des financements climatiques robustes et conséquents. Nous réitérons l'urgence d'un mécanisme de financement efficace pour les pertes et dommages dans le cadre des négociations de la CCNUCC.

Le gouvernement, les ONG et la société civile ont réalisé des efforts notables pour respecter nos engagements internationaux. Des projets d'adaptation basés sur les écosystèmes, la restauration notamment des mangroves, des

programmes d'éducation environnementale pour le changement de comportements, des initiatives participatives de conservation de la biodiversité et basées sur la recherche scientifique et l'intégration des savoirs traditionnels, ainsi que des investissements dans les énergies renouvelables, sont des exemples d'actions concrètes que nous mettons en œuvre.

Distingués délégués,

Avant de conclure, je voudrais affirmer qu'il est crucial que nous continuons à travailler ensemble, en partageant nos connaissances et nos ressources pour relever les défis climatiques qui menacent nos nations. Ensemble, nous pouvons tracer la voie vers une prospérité résiliente, garantissant un avenir durable pour toutes les générations à venir.

Je vous remercie.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND OWNERSHIP STEERING ANDERS ADLERCREUTZ, FINLAND
SIDS4

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank Antigua and Barbuda for hosting us here in the Caribbean for this crucial event. We need multilateralism now more than ever to take effective action to support SIDS in tackling pressing challenges and dealing with the rapidly accelerating impacts of climate change.

We need strong action to speed up the progress in Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the implementation of the necessary reforms. The common challenges that we face underline the need for common solutions.

Climate change is the biggest global challenge we face, while ongoing wars and violence in different parts of the world aggravate its impacts. While all of us suffer the consequences of climate change, it is the most vulnerable who suffer the most. For the SIDS the consequences are disproportionate, even existential for their societies, economies and cultures, in particular for women and girls. I assure you of our determination to find joint solutions.

Finland considers climate change and its negative impacts an urgency that we must address at the highest level but with a whole society approach. At COP28 in December 2023 world leaders acknowledged the need to move away from fossil fuels for the first time. Finland appreciates the close partnership between SIDS and the EU in the UN Climate negotiations. The next years will be critical if we are to bend the curve on emissions.

Countries have to step up their efforts. Finland is doing its part and we applaud SIDS for their efforts in the fight against climate change and protection of the environment.

A green transition away from fossil fuels is not only an answer to climate change, but also provides many opportunities. Our businesses have already seen the potential the global green transition provides to those who can offer solutions in for example digitalization, connectivity, clean energy, electrification, energy efficiency and circular economy. We must ensure a level global playing field and an attractive business environment benefit both business and planet. We must make sure this transition happens in a just way, creating new jobs and better opportunities for people everywhere including SIDS.

We stand ready to support SIDS in tackling the development challenges and overcome the vulnerabilities that they are facing. Finland has a long history supporting developing countries especially in developing weather and climate services and early warning systems. The Finnish Meteorological Institute has helped to develop hydrometeorological institutes in more than 50 developing countries with Finnish funding. We are a strong supporter of the UN Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative.

Finland and the European Union are longstanding partners of SIDS. EU together with the Member States is the largest donor to SIDS. Under its Global Gateway strategy, the EU and its Member States are partnering with SIDS through investments in digital, environment, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research.

What we need now is immediate, urgent, accelerated actions working for the benefit of SIDS. There is no time to waste. So let's together ensure that we chart the course toward resilient prosperity.

Thank you.



(Please check against delivery)

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Theme: 'Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity'

General Debate

**Statement By H.E. Mr. Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister
of Foreign Affairs of Georgia**

Antigua and Barbuda, 28 May 2024

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for the generous hospitality extended to us on this picturesque island and for exemplary efforts, which have led to the successful culmination of holding this landmark conference.

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to convey our sincere condolences to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, and the families of the victims of the tragic landslide.

Set against a backdrop of unparalleled complex development landscape, where countries grapple with major global challenges such as armed conflicts, climate change and disasters, and rising humanitarian needs, this conference comes at a critical juncture. No place in the world can be immune from their consequent adverse impacts.

The theme of the 4th Conference on SIDS resonates its importance and relevance. We firmly believe that this gathering serves as an exceptional opportunity to facilitate dialogue on mainstreaming SIDS perspectives and forge meaningful partnerships to support their development.

Excellencies,

We are cognizant that SIDS are on the frontline of unique and multifaceted challenges, including climate change and socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19.

In this context, over the next ten years, 'The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity'¹ should guide our efforts while charting the course for substantive change in SIDS and beyond.

Herewith, I would like to thank co-facilitators for their dedication and extensive efforts you made reaching an agreement on the outcome document.

¹ Outcome document of the SIDS 4 Conference

Excellencies,

Georgia is poised to unite with international community to address inherent vulnerabilities of SIDS.

Georgia has been sharing its innovative experiences and reforms with interested countries across diverse regions, including SIDS. These endeavors encompass a spectrum of areas, such as public administration reform, fight against corruption, public service delivery, police reform, elections, creation of favourable environment for business and innovations, taxes and customs. We stand ready to further enhance these partnerships. Furthermore, Georgia continues its commitment to facilitate educational opportunities for SIDS through its scholarship programs.

Let me also mention, that we have been a strong advocate for universal participation and broader involvement from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work the Human Rights Council (HRC). Georgia became the first Eastern European country contributing financially towards supporting the meaningful participation of representatives of these nations in the crucial work of the HRC and continues to be among annual contributors to the relevant Trust Fund.

Distinguished delegates,

Climate change poses the most significant challenge of our time. Although SIDS contribute less than one per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, in recent years, we have regularly witnessed these nations being hit hardest by more frequent El Niños, sea level rise, extreme weather events, flooding, loss of species, increased drought, poverty, displacement and other adverse impacts of climate change. The urgency for global action, cooperation and multilateral approach to overcome the climate crisis is more pressing than ever before.

My country is no exception in experiencing bitter repercussions of climate change, therefore, the Government of Georgia stands firm in its national commitments by implementing the Paris Agreement with tangible steps.

To this end, Georgia has embarked on enhancing its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ambition, with plans to develop a new emission reduction target by 2025 (current 35% emission reduction will be increased up to 47%). Through the adoption of the 2030 Climate Change Strategy and its corresponding Action Plan (2024-2025) Georgia has demonstrated its proactive approach to addressing climate challenges. Additionally, the Long Term (2050) Low Emission Development Concept outlines a pathway towards achieving climate-neutrality by 2050, showcasing the alignment of Georgia's climate change ambitions with leading international standards.

Excellencies,

Despite our steadfast efforts to effectively address the pressing issues before us today, we have witnessed how conflicts in different parts of the world, including the devastating consequences of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine are impacting human lives. Regrettably, the continuous occupation of Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions by Russia, deprives the conflict-effected population of the possibility to benefit from the positive changes and developments taking place in my country.

In conclusion, let me stress again that SIDS cannot bear the weight of transformation alone. Looking ahead of the Summit of the Future, let us commence the process of translating our shared aspirations into a transformative result, which will 'chart the course toward resilient prosperity'.

I thank you!

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS
IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET, HONOURABLE L.
MATUKE (MP), AT THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: 27-30 MAY 2024

Your Excellency, Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and our host;

Heads of State and Government;

Your Excellency Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly;

Your Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations; and

Distinguished delegates;

Let me first convey Zimbabwe's appreciation to you, Prime Minister Browne, and the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this **magnificent city of St. John's.**

We are gathered here, as we remember that when we adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, we made the fundamental commitment to **"leave no one behind"**. At this critical juncture in our ambitious journey, there is great urgency to re-affirm this core commitment and, consequently step up our efforts to address the needs and priorities of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Coming from a land-locked country, Zimbabwe, it is both an honour and a solemn duty, to show our solidarity at this conference. Today, as we convene to chart a new course for sustainable development in these countries at risk of being left behind, we join our brothers and sisters from Small Island Developing States, united by our shared commitment to building a better future for all, and guided by our very relevant and timely theme, I quote, **"Charting the Course Towards**

Resilient Prosperity". It is imperative, therefore, that we agree on an achievable pathway, milestones, and strategies to reach our intended destination of resilient prosperity.

Excellencies,

The challenges faced by Small Island Developing States are deeply intertwined with those of Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). While our geographical contexts may differ, our aspirations for sustainable development, resilience, and prosperity are fundamentally the same. We are bound by a common destiny and a shared responsibility to safe-guard our planet and ensure the well-being of present and future generations.

The Small Island Developing States, have, been confounded with a litany of unique set of challenges, such as climate change (extreme weather events, limited fresh water availability, rising sea levels, habitat degradation etc). This enjoins us to support them as they lead in the formulation of home-grown solutions to the challenges they face, inspired by experience and hindsight. It is clear that, while this Group was formally recognised at the Rio Conference in 1992, many of the multilateral frameworks adopted since then, have been overtaken by developments in the world, and are outdated and no longer fit for purpose. As we look towards a more resilient future and prosperity, we must recognise that whilst our special circumstances may make us different, they do not take away the potential to partner as equals for mutual benefit.

As we embark on the task of implementing the new Ten-Year Programme of Action for SIDS, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Islands Developing States (ABAS), which we are set to adopt during this Conference, it is imperative that we heed the lessons of the past and forge a path forward that is bold, inclusive, and transformative. Our collective efforts must be guided by the principles of equity, solidarity and mutual respect, recognising the unique vulnerabilities and development needs of Small Island Developing States.

Excellencies,

Climate change stands as the defining challenge of our time, posing an existential threat to the very existence of Small Island Developing States. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and ocean acidification, are wreaking havoc on vulnerable island ecosystems, threatening livelihoods, and undermining sustainable development efforts. As a Land-Locked Developing Country, currently reeling from the impact of an El Nino induced phenomenon in the form of a drought, we stand in solidarity with Small Island Developing States in their fight against climate change, recognising that our fates are intertwined in the face of this global crisis.

We are encouraged by the progress made on the Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which is crucial for supporting Small Island Developing States, as it provides a comprehensive assessment of their vulnerabilities beyond just economic factors. Indeed, it is important to consider various dimensions that include environmental, social, and institutional vulnerabilities, which are particularly pertinent to Small Island Developing States due to their unique challenges such as susceptibility to natural disaster, limited resources, and climate change impacts. We urge all International Financial Institutions, and other development partners to tailor interventions and allocate resources to effectively address the specific needs of Small Island Developing States, and to enhance their resilience and sustainable development efforts.

I take this opportunity to underline the urgency of reforming the global financial architecture. It is critical that SIDS have access to concessional financing which is critical for supporting efforts in implementing sustainable development projects, in particular, in renewable energy initiatives, as well as infrastructural development, and climate change adaptation measures, which are all essential for their long-term prosperity. Further, this is needed now more than ever, to alleviate the burden of high-interest debt and provide resources for essential investments. Such measures will assist Small Island Developing States and other developing countries, including Zimbabwe, to build resilience to external shocks and climate-

related disasters by funding initiatives, in the areas of disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and to build resilient infrastructure.

Excellencies,

It is undisputed that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States and many other developing countries, highlighting the urgent need for resilient and inclusive recovery strategies. As we work towards building better futures, it is essential that we prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable, including women, youth, and marginalised communities, and ensure that "**no one and no place is left behind**" in our pursuit of sustainable development.

Translating the overall ambitious promises, measures, and commitments of ABAS into practical actions and achieving the desired transformation in the lives of people in Small Island Developing States would be the yardstick of our collective success as an international community in this endeavour.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm my country's unwavering commitment to supporting Small Island Developing States in their request for sustainable development. We stand ready to share our experiences, expertise, and resources, and to collaborate closely with fellow countries in the Global South to address common challenges and maximise on shared opportunities.

In conclusion, let us utilise this historic moment to reaffirm our collective resolve to build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for Small Island Developing States and Land-Locked Developing Countries. Together, let us chart a course towards a brighter tomorrow, where no one is left behind, and where the principles of solidarity and cooperation guide our actions.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable President of the Conference,

At the outset, let me extend Estonia's condolences to the government and people of Papua New Guinea following the devastating landslide.

Let me begin by wholeheartedly thanking the government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for their warm hospitality and meticulous preparations for this conference. It is easy to enjoy the beauty of your country, and its 365 beaches – one for each day of the year. But we cannot fail to recall also the vulnerabilities this beauty may mean for island states.

Though Estonia and Small Island Developing States are geographically distant, we face many of the same issues. Estonia's population is only 1,3 million, but our coastline stretches over 3000 km – 5 times longer than the land border – and includes 1500 islands. The maritime environment directly impacts our economy and well-being. Rising sea levels and extreme weather events are not abstract concerns – they are immediate realities that demand urgent action. Like small island states, we understand the acute threats posed by climate change and the critical importance of protecting our environment.

We share these challenges, but we also share a vision for a resilient and sustainable future. Estonia is committed to supporting SIDS in their fight against climate change and in advancing sustainable development. We set ambitious goals for ourselves, aiming for climate neutrality by 2050, with a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 71% by 2035 and generating 100% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

Yet, as we acknowledge the scale of these challenges, we recognise they demand a unified and strategic response on an international level. We are aligned in our goals within the UN climate talks, advocating for ambitious, legally binding agreements that address global greenhouse gas emissions, while promoting adaptation and resilience. The outcomes of COP28 were clear in their emphasis on transitioning away from fossil fuels and accelerating efforts in climate finance, both public and private. Estonia allocates approximately 1.5 million euros annually to climate finance, with contributions to the UN Green Climate Fund and the new Loss & Damage fund Climate Impact Response. By 2027, our climate finance will increase by 7% annually. These goals reflect our dedication to the global green transition, a mission we share with SIDS.

As small nations, our resources are certainly limited. However, digitalisation is a powerful tool for overcoming many of the challenges we face. Estonia's own journey towards e-society began over two decades ago with the creation of e-governance solutions such as the national ID card and digital signatures. Innovation and digital solutions have proven to streamline state functions, enhance business environment and reduce costs, while improving the quality of citizens' lives. For SIDS specifically, embracing digital technologies can help bridge geographical distances, improve access to services, and create new economic opportunities closer to home. Achieving this will require political will, robust legal frameworks, and close cooperation between governments and the private sector.

It will also require trust in digital solutions. We must recognise that an integral part of ensuring the safety and reliability of digital infrastructure is cybersecurity. The establishment of the EU-funded and Estonia-implemented regional cyber competence centre, LAC4, in the Dominican Republic is a testament of that commitment. The centre offers training and capacity-building support across the Latin American and Caribbean region, and we encourage SIDS to join and benefit from this collaboration. Estonia stands ready to share our knowledge and expertise with SIDS and collaborate on initiatives that enhance cyber resilience and support digitalisation. By building resilience and openness into global connectivity, we increase trust in those solutions and see wider benefits from their uptake and implementation. Small states, who often depend on a very limited number of critical connections, need to be leaders in trusted connectivity globally.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we approach the Summit of the Future in September, we have a unique opportunity to accelerate the implementation of existing commitments and address new challenges of our time. More efforts need to be put into achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, though vital issues of peace and security take up much of our attention. This is a pivotal moment to reinvigorate multilateralism, with the United Nations and its Charter at the core. Why I emphasise the UN Charter here – is because upholding the Charter and international law is existential for the security, territorial integrity and sovereignty of all, small as well as bigger states. All nations, irrespective of size or aggressive neighbours, have an even right to exist, and their voices heard in international affairs shaping the global order. Through strategic collaboration and coordination, smaller states at the UN can advocate for their interests as well

as insist on strengthening multilateralism and international system based on the UN Charter even more effectively. SIDS, as well as the Forum of Small States, are excellent examples of such cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The distance between Estonia and SIDS countries is only geographical. We share your commitment to sustainable development, climate action, and digital transformation. Together, we can make a difference, build a resilient and sustainable future for all our nations, uphold international law, and strengthen the multilateral system.

Thank you.

Dear Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, all Protocols Observed

- It is an **honour** to address you today. I would like to thank our host, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, for their outstanding **hospitality and leadership**.
- I extend my sincere **condolences** to the government and people of **Papua New Guinea** after the terrible landslide. So many innocent people suffering. **We cannot and must not look away.**
- **Thirty years ago**, the first SIDS Summit took place not long after the first **IPCC** report and a year before the **first COP** in Berlin. Climate change was already a reality for SIDS back then but did not have a prominent place on the larger international stage.
- We have made progress since then (without the Paris Agreement temperature rise would be even higher) and the SIDS have been instrumental in this.
- **But we all** know that we have not delivered the **pace and scale of change** needed to **avoid crossing the 1.5 degrees C limit**.
- **We are not on track.** Realising this and truly taking stock is painful in Europe, where the impacts are also being felt. But we can barely grasp what this means for your communities, for your families, for your countries.

- For too long too many countries looked away despite your voices. No one can do that any longer and ignore the families having to leave traditional lands or the economic costs of losing beaches for local businesses in countries so dependent on tourism.
- As you have made clear, nowhere will be more impacted by the decisions of those countries than SIDS: **here it is literally a matter of life and death.**
- Responsible for 80% of global emissions, **the G20 countries**, especially, have a key responsibility to scale up action and drive down emissions now, and in the upcoming nationally determined contributions, in line with the science and the 1.5 degrees C limit.
- **Germany is on track** to meet our 65% GHG reduction goal by 2030 on the way to carbon neutrality by 2045. And the EU as a whole is an excellent example of driving down emissions while achieving economic growth and prosperity over many years. And we will stay the course. It is possible.
- We **must work together** as we did in Dubai at COP28 to **push the global community** out of its **comfort zone**. We **ALL** decided to a just and orderly transition away from fossil fuels - to triple renewables and double efficiency by 2030 to keep the 1.5 goal within sight. We must implement and hold countries accountable to that decision.

- But the **impacts are here and now** so driving down emissions alone is not enough – we also need **solidarity, adaptation and resilience**. And a Loss and Damage Fund that is up and running by the end of this year, building off of the positive momentum, which Germany has worked hard to contribute to in the last two years by the end of this year. Let's work together to make that happen. Something SIDS has been demanding for 30 years.
- This year's COP29 in Baku, we will need **to listen to each other and work more closely together than ever**. We have a tremendous opportunity to **transform finance** so that it is fit for purpose for the world in which we live now – 1.5 consistent and more just: working for debt relief, for new innovative sources of funds, for leveraging private finance as never before, and for ensuring that public funds are deployed where they are most needed. (E.g. Resilience and adaptation)
- In order to grasp this moment to change the international financial system, the new climate finance goal at COP29 must be part of a **larger global effort** to enhance and **align public and private finance** from all sources to mobilise the trillions needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, and to ensure that it flows where it is needed most – to developing countries, noting the special needs of SIDS.

- Fairness to the most vulnerable countries also demands that **countries that have significantly contributed to emissions over the past decades must contribute if they are in an economic position to do so.**

But our collaboration and partnership with SIDS is not only about addressing the climate crisis:

- Our partnership with the SIDS has many facets: we share the same values of **multilateralism**. And we stand with the island States to **defend the international order based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations charter, the rule of law, statehood and common values**. We must seize the opportunity offered by the **Summit of the Future**, co-facilitated by Germany and Namibia, to reaffirm and reinforce multilateralism.
- We are **privileged** to have such a strong partnership with the SIDS. This is ever more important now, given the geopolitical situation.

Dear colleagues,

We are honored to work with SIDS countries on a long list of bilateral partnerships. Today I am pleased to share three new bilateral programmes:

- a 5 million Euro technical cooperation programme, named *Pacific Blue Economies - Strengthening Integrated Ocean Governance for Increased Resilience*.
- The creation of the first online repository for cultural heritage, where Tuvalu will implement the first pilot. This will be carried out by the Rising Nations Initiative and the German Archaeological Institute.
- And Germany will contribute to the SIDS Centre of Excellence that will be set up here in Antigua.

Separately, but also extremely important:

- Germany also welcomes the decision of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, last week. We congratulate COSIS on this landmark advisory opinion, an important outcome for the marine environment.

Dear excellencies, dear colleagues, dear friends

- These next ten years, starting now, are going to be the most important we have ever experienced historically to turn the tide. The decisions we take today will have an impact for thousands of years.

- The history of the climate crisis is not yet written – we still have it in our hands to change its course and safeguard our planet and its people today, tomorrow and for the next generation.
- Let us together, courageously and tenaciously, write the history we know is just and sustainable. We are ready to do so with you.

Thank you.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, and friends. Mr President.

Thank you, Antigua and Barbuda, for your generosity, dedication and hospitality. To you, Prime Minister, your Government, and the people of A&B.

It is a great honor to attend SIDS4 – an impressive gathering of member states and multilateral stakeholders, - and even more important: an ambitious joint commitment by SIDS and the international community, to set a new course for the next 10 years.

We must ensure that this conference will lead to concrete results for SIDS. That is why the ABAS-plan of action is so important.

We welcome that ABAS includes critical and strong language on human rights, gender equality, indigenous peoples, jobs and growth, and access to data.

President,

Let me briefly highlight three issues: 1) The ocean and blue economy, 2) climate, and 3) international efforts to support sustainable development for SIDS.

First, the blue economy: Norway and SIDS are united by oceans. The importance of the oceans to our economies and societies makes us share fundamental foreign policy priorities.

We welcome the ambitious language in ABAS on biodiversity and oceans. Norway remains fully committed to tackling biodiversity loss, marine pollution, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

We must all work for a swift entry into force of the BBNJ agreement. Also, that all WTO members ratify the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. And that we secure agreement on the follow up agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which we came close to finalizing a few weeks ago. It is imperative that WTO members agree upon effective measures to address subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.

I also wish to highlight the International Declaration on Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry. Today, sixty countries support this Declaration, including 25 SIDS.

The international community must recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

To support the Declaration, Norway launched the Blue Justice Initiative five years ago, making digital infrastructure available to assist ocean states to improve ocean surveillance capabilities.

SIDS are in a particularly vulnerable situation regarding marine plastic pollution.

Together, we have actively been pursuing an ambitious global agreement to combat plastic pollution. I hope for your continued strong and active engagement with the negotiations to achieve an ambitious agreement in the last negotiation meeting in November.

To advance the ocean agenda, we must continue our efforts at the high-level meeting on sea-level rise during the next UNGA, and at the third UN Ocean Conference in Nice next June. A critical area for improvement is the enhancement of scientific cooperation, along with better access to and sharing of ocean data, something that especially SIDS can benefit from.

Second, climate change.

The pace of climate action does not match the pace with which the climate is changing.

Those facing the most severe consequences of climate change are the populations in SIDS. We also experience significant impacts in the Arctic, affecting both societies and ecosystems. It is imperative that we work together to take urgent action to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach.

Norway has recently decided to double our climate financing, which is already among the highest in the world. We support the ambitious language and measures in the plan of action on the fight against climate change, particularly on climate finance, loss and damage, and the climate-security nexus.

Mitigation and adaptation remain core priorities for Norway, but we also need to respond urgently to loss and damage.

Norway is pleased with the progress made in this field over the last year: new funding arrangements, including the establishment of a dedicated fund, to address loss and damage, are important steps in the right direction, as is reform of development banks and increased capitalization.

It is vital that those who can lead the way on climate ambition do so. Norway has launched the Green Shipping Challenge, an initiative aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions from shipping. Additionally, Norway is investing 1.92 billion US dollars in the Green Voyage 2050 Project to support SIDS and developing countries in transitioning to a cleaner shipping sector.

Third, on sustainable development.

Norway fully supports addressing the multifaceted challenges that SIDS face in achieving sustainable development.

Norway's former Prime Minister, Erna Solberg, co-chaired the high-level panel on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, together with our host, Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. The High-Level Panel's report provides an important basis. Now, the UN Member States must take the next step towards implementing the index.

Norway also recognizes the urgent need to address debt sustainability. We are actively participating in discussions in multilateral fora on reform of the International Financial Architecture, aiming to increase liquidity and improve access to concessional financing, both of which are of significant importance to achieve the SDGs.

President,

Norway stands ready to collaborate with SIDS in building a new decade of partnerships and progress, supporting your journey toward resilient prosperity and sustainable development.

Thank you.



**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
Statement**

By

Hon. Carlos James, Esq. MP
Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture

For

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

May 28, 2024
Antigua and Barbuda

Secretary-General, Mr. President, Excellencies,

The government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines gives its full support to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda for “Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity,” and commends UN DESA in the successful execution of this conference.

We welcome the decision of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in its Advisory Opinion issued on 21st May 2024, where it considered greenhouse gases absorbed by the oceans constitute marine pollution, a major breakthrough for SIDS threatened by rising sea levels caused by global warming.

It has been 10 years since the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway, yet we are still not able to find concrete solutions to the unique challenges that plague SIDS. Our small size, limited capacity and high exposure to exogenous shocks remain ongoing struggles in our quest to achieve sustainable development.

In the wake of global upheavals, many have acknowledged that the status quo is untenable. This conference must be a call to action, it is an opportune time for the international community to fully commit to addressing the ‘Special Case’ **for sustainable development of SIDS in light of our unique and particular circumstances.**

It is therefore concerning that the International Development Association’s (IDA) expressed the intention to reduce significantly the concessional terms of its loans to certain Small Island Economies, all of which are among the most vulnerable countries in the world. These intended actions will no doubt adversely affect life, living and production more difficult for developing countries.

Mr. President,

This year, St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ ambitious national budget was implemented on Accelerating the Sustainable Development Agenda. This was backdropped by recovery efforts following the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, the explosive eruptions of the La Soufriere

volcano and tropical Storm Brett. Our government's focus was placed on building economic sustainability through people-centred investments in transformative development projects.

As a result, this year our country allocated over \$92 million towards "environmental protection," with many of our infrastructure projects being related to fighting the effects of climate change and building resilience. For Caribbean SIDS, a significant portion of our Capital Estimates is spent on recovery from the devastating impacts of climate change and natural hazards. This impacts on our efforts to ensure improvements in the quality of life for our citizens in education, health care and our attempts at achieving the SDGs.

We simply cannot continue without the actionable outcomes necessary to support the development agenda for SIDS. We recognise that the return to growth is constrained by multiple factors that demand urgent attention, the main of these being finance. Yet, our access to finance remains severely limited; largely due to burdensome, complex and rigid requirements, and limited technical capacities that exacerbates our situation.

In this vein, it is imperative that we highlight, among the major calls today, the need to scale up climate action and support, including climate finance, in line with existing commitments and obligations under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Excellencies,

Facilitating the implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies, and support for regional mechanisms is of paramount importance.

SIDS are often debating a 'Sophie's choice', between sustainable development and rebuilding from the ravages of natural hazards.

As a first step, enhancing concessional development finance is critical to support pursuit of sustainable development objectives. The implementation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability

Index (MVI) as a reform tool in addressing access and eligibility criteria, and measures of need, is of vital importance, and we urge support of the MVI by the United Nations, international financial institutions and multinational development banks alike.

Further, consideration should be given to the Bridgetown Initiative which calls for the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture, addressing the liquidity challenges among SIDS while offering comprehensive solutions to the financing needs of climate-vulnerable countries.

We also recognize that evidence-based policy making and development financing can be severely hindered by data gaps. International partners and the UN system must support progress in modernizing national statistical systems. We welcome the establishment of a SIDS data hub that would assist in monitoring and reporting on the implementation progress of the ABAS, over the next decade, and offer regional and country-specific data services for SIDS.

Rapid technological revolutions adds urgency to the need to bridge divides and ensure support for a whole-of-society approach in Science Technology and Innovation transformation. The opportunities for SIDS to benefit from the leapfrogging impact of STI appear to be shrinking.

Each step towards resilience is a hard-won victory, as we navigate systems that were not created with SIDS in mind. The advocacy for our special circumstances must be unwavering. The survival of SIDS demands our firm and concrete commitment.

We must accelerate our action now – for our people and planet.

Ministry of External Affairs
UNES Division

Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)
General Debate

(Date: 28th May 2024; Venue: Plenary Hall)

Statement

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the hosts of this conference, the Government of Antigua & Barbuda for the excellent arrangements and their warm hospitality.

Being here, at this scenic island nation, for the 4th SIDS Conference has given us all the opportunity to see, with our own eyes, the unique conditions and circumstances of our friends and partners from the Small Island Developing States, as well as the special challenges that they face.

India would also like to add its voice in expressing condolences to the Government of Papua New Guinea for the recent landslides and terrific loss of lives. A support of immediate relief assistance has been announced by the Government of India.

India, with a coastline of over 7500 kms along with diverse island communities of its own, has always been very conscious of and sensitive to the special situation of the Small Island Developing States. This appreciation of their special circumstances has been shaped and reinforced by our longstanding, traditional

and strong bonds of friendship as fellow developing countries of the Global South. We hope to further strengthen these bonds in the coming years.

Madam President,

In a couple of days, we will be adopting the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity. We are pleased with the high level of ambition that the international community has displayed in our combined efforts to support the SIDS in ensuring sustainable development for their people in all its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental.

India also recognises the progress made on the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy¹, and believes that the momentum gathered during the implementation of these roadmaps should fuel the work before us.

India, for its part, will continue to support implementing of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS through its long-standing bilateral development partnerships, that include concessional financing, grant assistance, and capacity building and training programmes. Under the Indian Technical Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, over the last 10 years, almost 6000 people from our SIDS partner countries have attended training courses in India. We are hoping to double this number in the coming years.

In addition, since 2017, through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, we have also focused on the SIDS. Presently, the Fund supports 82 projects in 57 countries, of which half are SIDS. Last year, we launched a global Capacity Building Initiative with the office of the UN Resident Commissioner in India to share India's development experiences, best practices and expertise with partner countries. Apart from these, we also have regional initiatives like the Forum for

¹ SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation were the outcomes of the 3rd and 2nd SIDS Conferences respectively.

India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, which is aiming for all round development of the Pacific SIDS.

Madam President,

As we begin a new decade of action for SIDS, it will be important for us to focus on implementing the various initiatives contained in the ABAS. International Development partnerships would naturally play an important role in assisting the SIDS, particularly in the areas of renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, digitalisation and the creation of digital public infrastructure.

Since 2015, India has also been promoting solar energy through the International Solar Alliance. This has been an important driver in the deployment of solar energy technologies as a means of bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries, many of whom are, in fact, SIDS.

India remains committed to strengthening disaster resilience efforts among SIDS through the Coalition for Disaster Resilience (CDRI) which India helped launch in 2019. The Infrastructure for Resilient Islands States Initiative (IRIS) of the CDRI is unique, in that it is co-owned, co-managed and co-operated by SIDS. IRIS is now supporting programme work across 13 SIDS, building resilience, including through projects to support retrofitting of houses, schools, and hospitals; improving multi-hazard early warning, etc. In fact, I am delighted to inform you that a second Call for Proposals of CDRI was launched yesterday (27 May) on the sidelines of this Conference.

Madam President,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate India's long-standing commitment to supporting the SIDS as they face unique challenges and vulnerabilities, and to assure all our

friends and partners among the SIDS of India's continued endeavour to helping them realise their development aspirations.

I thank you.

Ministry of External Affairs
UNES Division

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General Debate

(Date: 28th May 2024; Venue: Plenary Hall)

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friends and partners among the SIDS of India's continued endeavour to helping them realise their development aspirations.

I thank you.



Intervenção para o 3º Debate Geral em Plenária

27 de maio – 10h00-13h00

5'

Excellencies, dear colleagues, good morning,

Over three decades and three action programs have passed since the international community pledged to assist SIDS in their unique environmental and developmental challenges. While this commitment still holds, the current strategies to tackle these issues are proving inadequate.

In thirty years, the world has changed. The unique vulnerability of SIDS was exacerbated, undermining the ability of these States to meet sustainable development objectives.

As partners, we are here to honour our commitment.

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is our roadmap. SIDS will lead the way at home, and we must support them on the international stage.

In a decade, our shared feeling should be of accomplishment in the pursuit of resilient prosperity, and not frustration.

The targeted approach of ABAS can enhance this effort, notably through key deliverables like the Centre of Excellence and the Debt Sustainability Support Initiative, which Portugal welcomes.

Portugal will play its part. We will continue to walk this path together, as a friend of SIDS. Listening. Learning. And working together at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

We were present at every step of the preparatory process of this Conference, from the regional meetings to the interregional in Praia.

We negotiated the Outcome Document on behalf of the EU and its Member States, with Malta and the EU Delegation.

And we committed to its implementation, following its adoption at this Conference.

Portugal's support for the implementation of ABAS will draw upon its deep-rooted partnership with SIDS, which is a key priority in Portugal's 2030 Cooperation Strategy.

We see eye to eye and collaborate on many areas covered in the agenda:

- from oceans to climate action;
- from addressing the multiple impacts of sea level rise to disaster risk reduction; and
- from economic diversification to financing for development, including triangular cooperation and debt for climate swaps.

This requires a holistic approach, being able to connect the General Assembly, the ECOSOC, and the UN Security Council, on key issues, such as the climate and security nexus, pushing for ambitious, yet necessary goals such as the reform of the international financial architecture, for the benefit of all.

From the Bridgetown Initiative to the Paris Pact for People and Planet at the UN and beyond. Portugal will continue to support SIDS leadership.

In this context, I am glad to announce that Portugal is officially launching an "Ocean Fellowship" with the UN, an annual capacity-building programme starting this year, aimed at supporting developing countries, especially SIDS, in the fields of ocean governance, marine conservation, sustainable blue economy, and the continental shelf regime.

Excellencies,

As we look ahead, we must work together to keep the momentum achieved in Antigua.

2024 is the International Year of SIDS. Let it also be the year we achieve progress towards establishing a solid monitoring and evaluation framework for ABAS and in the improvement of the SIDS Partnership Framework and Global Business Network Forum.

You can count on Portugal's constructive engagement bilaterally, at the UN, and in the EU.

Thank you.

505 words



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

Antigua and Barbuda, 27-30 May 2024

Statement of Italy delivered by the Permanent Representative, Ambassador Maurizio Massari

Excellencies,

Italy is honoured to join this SIDS4 Conference, which will be a turning point for SIDS sustainable development, prosperity and security. The adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is key to address some of the most pressing issues SIDS face.

Agenda2030, the Paris Agreement and the ABAS are interlinked. We therefore need a joint acceleration strategy for their full implementation. In this endeavour, Italy will continue to leverage the political, financial and technical support for SIDS sustainable development. We stand ready to contribute to the implementation of the Action Programme, through cooperation on its priority areas.

SIDS specific needs and vulnerabilities must be recognized and addressed by all partners.

We have examined with interest the final report on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). We stand ready to support a process that adequately reflects the specificity and urgency of the challenges that the SIDS are facing.

In our longstanding bilateral cooperation with PSIDS and CARICOM (which predates the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement), Italy particularly focused its efforts on projects related to energy transition, climate change adaptation, protection of oceans and seas, marine plastic pollution, disaster preparedness and response and women empowerment. These areas are perfectly in line with the most urgent issues highlighted by the new Agenda for SIDS. Since 2007, Italy funded projects for more than 37 million euros in the fields of environment, climate adaptation and mitigation.

Regarding the climate finance for the developing countries, Italy is honoring its commitments and nearly tripled its climate finance contribution to 1.4 billion dollars per year until 2027 reaching a total of 7 billion dollars. We recently made a pledge of 100 million Euro for the new Loss and Damage Fund, as well as a pledge of 300 million Euro for the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.

In 2022, Italy finalized the concessional loan partnership for a total of 50 million euro + 2.5 in grants dedicated to sustainable development projects in CARICOM Countries, to be implemented via the Caribbean Development Bank, in full synergy with localization and ownership priorities.

*Let me also mention that we financially support the **UNOPS Rising Nations Initiative**. It is important we join our efforts to help the interested countries to protect the statehood of Pacific Atoll countries, preserving their sovereignty and safeguarding the rights and heritage of affected populations.*

We greatly value the youth meaningful participation to these efforts. That is also why we fund on a multi-year basis a number of scholarships on climate diplomacy, to the benefits of young leaders coming from AOSIS countries.

*We consider that the development of **multi-hazard early-warning systems** and early actions designed to protect people from hazards in vulnerable countries, such as SIDS, as well as the strengthening of domestic, regional and international legal frameworks, constitute key components for an effective action in the field of disaster risk reduction.*

*Italy will remain engaged in these discussions in the next days and weeks, also in the run-up of the **Summit of the Future** and in view of the **Sea-level Rise Summit** in September 2024, **COP29** and at the next **UN Ocean Conference**, in June 2025. Count on us to advocate for the special case of SIDS in all these major events.*

I thank you.

**Statement by Mr. Keeyong Chung
Special Representative for Indo-Pacific
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Korea
General Debate**

**4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States
Monday, 27 May 2024 (15:00-18:00)
(5 minutes)**

Mme. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to everyone.

It is a great honor to address the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. I extend my deep appreciation to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for their warm hospitality and thank the UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDSs for organizing this important event.

On behalf of the Korean government, we offer our heartfelt condolences to the victims of the recent landslide in Papua New Guinea. Our thoughts are with the families of those who lost their lives, and we wish for a speedy recovery for the injured.

Mme. President,

Today, our world faces profound and unprecedented challenges. From climate change and pandemics to food insecurity and supply chain disruptions, crises abound. Only 15% of the SDGs are on track, with many regressing. Last year, global CO2 emissions hit their highest level since 1990,

contributing to the hottest decade on record. SIDS face a multitude of challenges, including vulnerability to climate change, limited natural resources, and economic fragility. They are undeniably at the forefront of these global crises in their pursuit of sustainable development.

Mme. President,

To reshape our collaboration and move forward, I propose three key points:

First, Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. SIDS are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, even though they contribute minimally to greenhouse gas emissions. We must bridge the climate gap and support SIDS in coping with climate-induced damage and loss.

Second, considering their unique geography, we need a comprehensive understanding of SIDS' vulnerabilities across economic, social, and environmental aspects. Korea welcomes the establishment of the SIDS Center of Excellence in Antigua and Barbuda as a hub for data, technology, innovation, and investment. The ambitious Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS provides a blueprint for building resilient prosperity.

Third, despite increased ODA, a significant financing gap remains for achieving the SDGs. We must diversify development finance. Innovative partnerships with the private sector are key to attracting investment and leveraging expertise and technology. Continued reform of the international

financial architecture is also necessary.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a responsible member of international community, Korea has dedicated to fostering freedom, peace, and prosperity worldwide. To this end, we increased our ODA volume last year by more than 20% compared to the previous year and increased it again by more than 30% this year.

During his speech at the G20 Summit last year, President Yoon emphasized that Korea will seek to build green ladders by supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts. We stand fully committed to increasing green ODA and contributions to the Green Climate Fund and the Global Green Growth Institute.

Mme. President,

SIDS represent remarkable diversity and dynamism. They are the center of the blue economy and stewards of irreplaceable biodiversity. This diversity offers valuable knowledge to share, but also necessitates context-specific solutions.

Building on the Korea-Pacific Islands Summit last year and the annual High-Level forum on the Korea-Caribbean Partnership, the first-ever Korea-Africa Summit in Seoul next week presents a historic opportunity to deepen

cooperation, identify specific needs, and provide tailored support to each SIDS.

With only six years left until the SDG target year, Korea believes this conference can galvanize political leadership and pave the way for bold, concrete actions to accelerate SDG implementation in SIDS. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for SIDS.

Thank you. /END/

Malta Statement by Mr. Karmenu Vella

**Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of
the Republic of Malta**

SIDS4 Conference General Debate

“Charting the Course Towards Resilient Property”, 28 May 2024

Duration: 5 Minutes

Thank you, President.

Allow me to start by congratulating Antigua and Barbuda for hosting us here today, to review the progress of sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and to propose a new decade of partnerships and solutions aimed at charting their course towards resilient prosperity.

As one of the smallest island states in the world, Malta shares a deep affinity with the aspirations and concerns of SIDS.

We confront similar problems.

We have common circumstances.

We wish to share and exchange experiences and lessons learnt; to learn from each other through knowledge transfer; to address the challenges we face together.

This is the basis of Malta’s ‘Island for Islands’ initiative, our contribution towards tackling, among others, the unique challenges emerging from climate change, through the sharing of expertise; lessons learnt, technical know-how and best practices.

We recognise the importance of investing in capacities: by building on what is already in place and recognising what needs to be further bolstered; and in the potential of youth as pivotal agents of change in achieving a sustainable future. Youth need to be empowered through quality education and increased opportunities, such as scholarships in sustainable development fields, grants to support innovative youth-led projects, and better assistance for indigenous youth.

To this effect, Malta is pursuing and strengthening further its SIDS scholarships programme at both Master’s and PhD level over the next programming period. Such endeavours, which are open to citizens of ODA-eligible SIDS, are also a contribution to increase the capacities of SIDS and booster resilience.

As a UN Member State, and presently, a member of the UN Security Council, Malta remains strongly committed to addressing the unique challenges and needs of SIDS.

Here are some examples:

During our two-year tenure as Co-Chairs of the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, we co-organised a series of webinars, at a time of global lockdown. SIDS-specific themes were specifically dealt with such as sustainable tourism in a post-COVID world or management of water resources as well as renewable energy sources and the blue economy.

Malta convened an Open Debate on Sea-Level Rise during its Security Council Presidency in February last year, ushering in a momentum – across the UN System – to discuss the security-related impacts of climate change, and their interplay on our seas and oceans, disproportionately affecting SIDS.

President

SIDS have emerged as frontrunners in the global fight against climate change, as demonstrated through their unwavering commitment to the principles outlined in the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. However, Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity in the face of global challenges necessitates collective action and multilateral cooperation to foster sustainable solutions.

Recognising the need for a comprehensive understanding of climate change risks and associated efforts and costs to enhance resilience, the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta, in collaboration with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the University of Malta's Islands and Small States Institute, has been working on a Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index. This Index, alongside the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, will become a valuable tool to developing countries, especially SIDS, and their partners.

Furthermore, the Malta-based Small States Centre of Excellence is in the process of enhancing its operational and outreach capacities. This centre will serve as a data hub for the Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index which is being launched at this SIDS4 Conference in a Side Event, complementing the newly launched SIDS Centre of Excellence data hub of Antigua & Barbuda, at the service of all SIDS.

President

The ‘Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States’ is taking place at a most opportune time.

In today's interconnected world, tackling global challenges demands collective action and partnerships.

Enhancing forms of financing and aid effectiveness through dialogue and cooperation can pave the way for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world, where all nations can prosper, while enabling an environment in which every individual, especially women and girls, can reach their full potential.

The Antigua & Barbuda Agenda for SIDS' (ABAS) presents us with a crucial 10-year plan aimed at providing practical and impactful solutions to assist SIDS on their path to a sustainable future.

Let us sustain this momentum and convert it into concrete action to ensure that this outcome document benefits all people, and work towards its successful implementation, leaving no one behind.

Thank you.

UK National Statement, 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Third Plenary session 28 May 2024

Delivered by Lord Benyon, Minister of State for Climate, Environment and Energy

Before I begin, I would like to send the UK's sincerest condolences to our friends in Papua New Guinea who have been affected by the landslide. Our thoughts are with all those affected by this tragic event.

Thank you, Prime Minister Browne, Secretary-General Guterres and your teams, for bringing us together on this beautiful island.

I am also delighted that we have representation here from British Overseas Territories who are Small Island Developing States, and profoundly concerned about issues being discussed this week.

Formally, SIDS' unique position has been acknowledged for decades.

Yet we have all seen the way you have had to speak up – persistently and powerfully – to make sure the world really understands what it means to see things from your perspective.

So, it is up to all of us to make a sincere effort to do so – and then to take action.

For our part – the UK is helping Antigua host this conference, and Samoa to host the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government meeting later this year.

We are working hard to make sure the support we offer SIDS takes your specific needs into account – and that we work in partnership with you in addressing them.

And for all of us, we should ask ourselves three vital questions – to check whether we have been listening.

First, do our systems reflect the unique circumstances of SIDS?

Yesterday, Prime Minister Browne, Prime Minister Fiame Maata'fa and I showcased work we have led with SIDS and the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

Crucially, it includes an agreement to look into how vulnerability could be integrated into the OECD's DAC ODA policy and processes, including on graduation.

I know the current system creates real problems for SIDS.

And frankly, if the way we do aid does not work for some of the world's most vulnerable, there's something wrong with the system.

Second, are we offering enough funding?

Last year, Britain announced an additional £1.6 billion for the Green Climate Fund.

That's our biggest single aid commitment to help tackle climate change.

Earlier this month, we announced that £25 million of our new support for Antimicrobial Resistance will be for work in the Caribbean region.

Last week, our Foreign Secretary pledged a further £200 million to build on our landmark Caribbean Infrastructure Fund.

And we continue to press international financial institutions to stretch their balance sheets, so the aid we and other donors give to them goes as far as it can – and has a real impact when it gets there.

The final test is the most important – can SIDS actually access the money?

Over the years, so many of you have said –
'we keep hearing announcements about green finance, but it seems so hard to get hold of it.'

We are using our programme funding to boost technical assistance to SIDS.

And we want to make sure all of you can harness expertise, to get the cash you need from the international finance system, and spend it effectively – be that cleaning up marine pollution, or making infrastructure better able to withstand a cyclone.

I hope you sense that the UK is listening – and that we are taking action.

Together, we can support the communities, the biodiversity, the incredible natural beauty of islands around the world – and it is going to take all of us to see this through.

Thank you.



Remarks by

the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

at the General Debate

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

27 – 30 May 2024

**Mr. President,
Excellencies (all protocol observed)**

1. Indonesia extends its condolences and sympathy to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea, following the landslide natural disaster that has claimed so many lives.

➔ Our thought and prayers are with the people of the Papua New Guinea in this difficult time.

2. Indonesia also extends its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for their generosity in hosting this Conference.

Mr. President,

3. Allow me to start by underlining **Indonesia's unwavering support and solidarity** for sustainable development and progress of the Small Island Developing States.
4. **We strongly believe that special development challenges and characters** of SIDS have to be recognized.
5. SIDS have been **disproportionately affected** by multiple global crises hindering SDGs implementation... along with being **on the frontline** of the climate crisis.
6. As an archipelagic State, Indonesia shares similar challenges with SIDS.
7. Addressing **sea-level rise, disaster risks, and advancing effective ocean and coastal resource management**, are amongst our many shared interests.
8. Indonesia has thus placed special priority for SIDS in our development partnership.

9. This is evident throughout Indonesia's leadership in many fora...
 - ➔ among others, our Chairmanship in the **G20**, **ASEAN**, and the **Archipelagic and Island States Forum**...
 - ➔ where we have consistently engaged SIDS and prioritized their interests.
10. In this regard, allow me to highlight **some points**:
11. **FIRST**, we must ensure a continued **SIDS-owned and SIDS-led** sustainable development agenda.
12. Indonesia welcomes and fully supports the adoption of the **Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)**, which outlines a **clear path** for SIDS towards resilient prosperity over the next decade.
13. ABAS also provides international partners with **guidelines on the support needed for SIDS**, based on their **priorities and needs**.
14. This needs to be complemented by a **robust approach** for effective implementation of ABAS.
15. In this regard, Indonesia is pleased to **support the SIDS-4 follow-up programs** through the **UN DESA Trust Fund**.
16. **SECOND**, **bold and innovative partnership** that corresponds to SIDS needs and challenges is key.
17. For that, Indonesia sees a strategic opportunity to further elevate partnership between SIDS and the Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum.
18. Synergy between SIDS and the AIS Forum can further leverage a cross regional partnership that **addresses common challenges** through **smart and innovative solutions** on **4 key areas**, namely:
 - ➔ climate change mitigation and adaptation,
 - ➔ blue economy;

- ➔ marine pollution; and
- ➔ maritime governance.

19. Tangible and concrete actions within the AIS Forum framework, such as **research grants, scholarships, start-up incubators, and blue financing**, could serve as catalyst for SIDS development priorities.
20. **THIRD**, securing adequate **means of implementation for SIDS** is key.
21. SIDS vulnerabilities should be taken as critical factors in the provision of development financing.
22. We therefore welcome the establishment of a measurement that complements the GNI by factoring in SIDS vulnerabilities.
23. **LASTLY**, scaling up **support from the multilateral mechanism** is crucial.
24. For that, the Summit of the Future is our golden opportunity...
 - ➔ to reform the multilateral architecture, including international financial architecture
 - ➔ so that it is better fit for purpose for developing countries, including SIDS.

To conclude, Mr. President,

25. Indonesia stands ready to walk hand in hand in close partnership with SIDS
 - ➔ to achieve resilient prosperity over the next critical decade
 - ➔ and to ensure no one is left behind.

Thank you.

Total: 520 words (est. 5 minutes)

Danmarks tale til SIDS4 Generaldebatten

[Setting the scene]

- Excellencies, colleagues
- At the outset let me thank our host Antigua & Barbuda for hosting this landmark conference.
- The theme, ‘Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity’ is highly relevant to both Small Island Developing States and the rest of the world. Denmark welcomes the designation of 2024 as the International Year of SIDS, providing a key opportunity to highlight SIDS perspectives on the international agenda.
- A lot has happened in the world since the last SIDS conference in Apia, Samoa in 2014. One of the most notable changes is that a much greater portion of the world’s population has woken up to the fact that climate change is real, that the climate crisis is already *here*, and that action must be taken now!
- The challenges many SIDS are facing are beginning to emerge in many other parts of the world, including changed weather patterns, sea-level rise and intensified storms and cyclones. The impact of these phenomenon on societies are no longer confined to small island countries in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean or the Caribbean but are increasingly shared in many other parts of the world, including Asia, Europe and the Americas, and my home country Denmark.
- A key difference is however that to most - if not all small island states - the impact of any shock tends to have disproportionate, often even existential consequences for your societies, economies and cultures. Communities and livelihoods are uprooted – sometimes permanently and with staggering speed, as is the case for example in Tuvalu and Kiribati (*Kiri-bash*).
- As those who have contributed the least to climate change, communities in Small Islands Developing Countries are nevertheless paying the highest price. A price, which is often compounded by other challenges such as the debt-burden and the ramifications of Covid-19 pandemic.

[The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)]

- The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is set to be a milestone for the acceleration of sustainable development of SIDS. Denmark is proud to have contributed to the constructive negotiations of the ABAS supporting the SIDS' needs and wishes all the way through the negotiations especially regarding your high climate ambitions.
- On climate change, it may be the first time – in an isolated SIDS context - that the link between climate change and security has been recognized in an agreed UN text. We strongly welcome this breakthrough. We also strongly support the call by SIDS to raise ambition and to implement existing commitments in order to limit global warming to 1.5 °C.
- In addition, we especially welcome the inclusion of two key deliverables in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS – the Centre of Excellence and the Debt Sustainability Support Service.

[AOSIS-DAC Partnership Agreement]

- I am also proud to say that Denmark is part of the new AOSIS-DAC Partnership Agreement, that was presented yesterday.
- It does not solve all problems, but it shows the way towards a new way of cooperation and presents a new and stronger partnership between DAC members and SIDS.
- Denmark has been a contributing member of the task force and we look forward to further broadening our cooperation with AOSIS.

[SIDS at the forefront of climate action]

- The people in SIDS are at the frontlines of climate change. As we have heard many times during this conference: You did not contribute to global warming, but you are paying the price. Weather-related disasters have doubled in two decades: with island nations both most vulnerable and least responsible.
- Denmark values SIDS as key partners in highlighting the need for immediate, urgent action in achieving the COP28 outcomes, including transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency, halting deforestation and guidance for future NDCs.

[What Denmark is doing in support]

- Denmark has for many years been engaged with SIDS. By doing this, we are heeding the call from SIDS representatives to work on energy transition, fossil fuel phase out and building resilience.
- Denmark is a small country in Northern Europe far away from the Small Island Developing States. But we have long had an interest in getting to know you even better - and whether you are part of the Caribbean, the Pacific, or the AIS, for years, we have heard your representatives at the climate conferences give testimony to the dire situation in your regions.
- On mitigation, we are ready to provide support for the post of Pacific Energy Commissioner that PIF Leaders have decided to establish. Let me also mention our push on decarbonisation of shipping, which we cooperate on in the context of the International Maritime Organization and where the Danish Prime Minister brought together a coalition at COP28 to raise funding in support of SIDS and LDCs participation in the IMO negotiations and other development needs.

- We look forward to see continued SIDS leadership at COP on fossil phase out and believe that we need to work closely together. In that context let me highlight the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance focused on aligning oil and gas production with the 1.5 degrees target. It is based on our decision to set an end date for oil and gas extraction. We already see a lot of SIDS commitment and invite even more SIDS members to join. Earlier today, it was just announced that Belize - another AOSIS country - joined the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.
- On loss and damage, we are pleased with the adaptation of the new Fund for Loss and Damage and I am proud that Denmark pledged 25 million USD. The funding arrangements and the fund responding to loss and damage represent global recognition and agreement that the world must support countries most affected by climate change, including SIDS.
- At COP28, Denmark also announced a new partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC).
- In addition, we are proud co-champions and supporters of the Rising Nations Initiative to address Sea-level rise and Existential Threats. Denmark strongly supports the convening of the Sea-level Rise Summit in September 2024 and the next UN Ocean Conference in June 2025 where the UN membership will address devastating challenges faced by SIDS.
- On finance and access, we doubled our GCF contribution to close to 250 million USD and believe me, we have heard your appeal for access and it is an integrated part of our contribution to work closely with the GCF on facilitating access to the funding. And as a member of the GCF board, I am happy to see the swift process on the recent Cook Island recent application. This is what we should aspire for.
- Denmark has an emissions reduction target of 70% in 2030 by law. We only emit less than 0.1% of global emissions, so it is part of the law that we have to work with the rest of the world sharing our solutions and knowledge on climate policies and action in order to support staying within 1.5 degrees.

- Denmark welcomes the proposed Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and calls for its swift endorsement, as SIDS face development challenges and vulnerabilities insufficiently reflected in the common national income indexes such as GDP and GNI per capita. The MVI should give greater understanding to inform decisions.

[Concluding]

- Looking ahead, Denmark will further build its partnership with Small Island Developing Countries to ensure a successful and sustainable development of all SIDS.
- I thank you.

**Постоянное представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций**

*136E 67th Street
New York, NY 10065*



**Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations**

*Phone: (212) 861-4900
Fax: (212) 628-0252
517-7427*

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**ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ
Чрезвычайного и Полномочного Посла
Российской Федерации в Ямайке
С.С.ПЕТРОВИЧА,
главы российской делегации на Четвертой Международной конференции
по малым островным развивающимся государствам**

28 мая 2024 года

Уважаемый господин Председатель,
Ваши Превосходительства,
Дамы и господа,
В первую очередь, хочу выразить признательность правительству Антигуа и Барбуды за гостеприимство и организацию этого знакового мероприятия.

Россия придает большое значение международному сотрудничеству по поддержке малых островных развивающихся государств (МОРГ). Эта категория стран обладает уникальными экосистемами и культурным наследием, но одновременно сталкивается со многими вызовами, среди которых – затрудненный доступ к торговым путям и ограниченность ресурсов. Особенно тяжким бременем лежат на них негативные последствия изменения климата и стихийных бедствий. В этой связи для устойчивого развития МОРГ необходима ощутимая помощь международного сообщества.

Россия традиционно оказывает поддержку этим государствам. В одном только 2022 г. ее совокупный объем превысил 360 млн долл. США, что составляет четверть от всей суммы нашего содействия международному развитию. Российская помощь направляется на обеспечение продовольственной безопасности, укрепление здравоохранения и образования, чрезвычайное реагирование, цифровизацию, урегулирование задолженности по программе «долг в обмен на развитие», защиту окружающей среды и борьбу с изменением климата.

Благодарим наших партнеров из числа организаций системы ООН за реализацию совместных проектов в интересах МОРГ: Программу развития ООН (ПРООН) – за укрепление потенциала островных государств в сфере предупреждения и ликвидации последствий стихийных бедствий; Всемирную организацию здравоохранения – за чрезвычайные поставки в эти страны специализированных медицинских модулей. В общей сложности поставленные модули были рассчитаны на лечение более миллиона человек и 9,6 тыс. хирургических операций. Кроме того, Россия ежегодно вносит средства в Фонд технического сотрудничества Международного агентства по атомной энергии, который позволяет целому ряду островных государств получать содействие в применении ядерных технологий в целях устойчивого развития. Студенты из нескольких стран МОРГ бесплатно обучаются в отраслевых российских вузах.

Одним из ключевых партнеров России в области международного развития остается страдающая от незаконного экономического эмбарго Куба. С 2018 г. наша помощь кубинским друзьям по линии Всемирной продовольственной программы ООН (ВПП) составила 14 млн долл. Кроме того, продолжаем оказывать финансовую поддержку проекту ВПП по укреплению систем школьного

питания в этой стране на 5 млн долл. Вместе с ПРООН осуществляли проекты также в сферах адаптации к изменению климата, развития агросектора и занятости населения с общим бюджетом 4 млн долл. При участии Международной организации гражданской обороны сотрудничаем с кубинскими коллегами в подготовке специалистов пожарно-спасательного профиля. Взаимодействуем с ними также по проблематике защиты здоровья матерей, новорожденных и детей в возрасте до 5 лет.

Россия намерена продолжать помогать в деле развития МОРГ. Приветствуем принятие новой профильной десятилетней программы действий – Повестки дня Антигуа и Барбуды, которая в полной мере отражает особую уязвимость данной группы стран и предлагает пути решения стоящих перед ними задач. Отмечаем, что в документе принимается к сведению озабоченность МОРГ о том, как изменение климата оказывает многоаспектное влияние на эти страны. Вместе с тем, хотели бы вновь подтвердить нашу позицию о неприемлемости прямой увязки вопросов изменения климата, мира и безопасности. Климатические факторы усугубляют имеющиеся вызовы в социально-экономической сфере, которые уже, в свою очередь, действительно, создают угрозу для стабильности развития этих стран. В остальных аспектах сможем оказывать всестороннюю поддержку в реализации Программы.

Наша страна готова быть надёжным партнёром МОРГ в достижении устойчивого развития.

Благодарю за внимание.

Statement by Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the General Debate of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

My name is HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this important conference.

Please allow me to express my gratitude to the United Nations, the government of Antigua and Barbuda, and all those involved for their efforts to bring this conference to St John's.

Before I begin, let me convey my heartfelt sympathy to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea affected by the recent landslide.

Japan stands with Papua New Guinea, our close friend, and ready to provide as much support and cooperation as needed.

I would like to make three points regarding the approach and efforts of Japan, a long-time partner of SIDS.

First, let me outline Japan's cooperation policy towards SIDS.

Today, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure human security, that is, to realize a society in which all people are free from fear and want and can live with dignity.

Japan itself is an island nation with many remote islands – about 14,000 – and is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons.

Against this background, Japan has been cooperating with SIDS in a number of ways, based on the needs of SIDS, while taking advantage of its own experience and technology.

According to its Development Cooperation Charter, Japan will continue to provide the necessary cooperation to SIDS regardless of their income levels, taking into consideration the actual development needs of each country, their ability to bear the associated obligations, and the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS.

Second, I would like to outline some specific examples of Japan's cooperation.

In addressing climate change, Japan is steadily implementing its commitment to provide up to a total of 70 billion US dollars both in public and private funds, over five years to 2025, and has pledged to make a new contribution of up to 165 billion Japanese yen for the second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

In addition, Japan has already disbursed the pledged amount of 10 million US dollars to have the fund start operating in responding to loss and damage, which is to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

With regard to the impact of rising sea levels due to climate change, Japan's position is that the existing baseline established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) will be maintained.

Regarding disaster risk reduction, Japan has offered assistance through such means as human resource development and the strengthening of disaster-information-sharing-systems to reduce the relevant risks in line with the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.

For the oceans, we are promoting multidimensional cooperation to realize a free and open maritime order and to protect and utilize the richness of the oceans through the provision of maritime security equipment, the enhancement of fishery resource management capacity, the provision of fishery-related facilities and equipment, assistance in combating IUU fishing, support for the removal of Sargassum seaweed, that hinders the marine industry and tourism in the Caribbean region, and measures against plastic pollution.

Japan has actively engaged in international discussions on the oceans, including through Prime Minister Kishida's membership of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy.

As a maritime nation, Japan attaches great importance to saving the world's beautiful oceans.

In this regard, let me mention the discharge of ALPS treated water from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the sea.

This is essential for promoting the reconstruction of Fukushima from the Great East Japan Earthquake and has been conducted in accordance with relevant international safety standards and practices.

Japan will continue to provide reassurance through continuous information-sharing and thorough explanation of the issues involved, including the dissemination of the results of monitoring carried out with the continued involvement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Third, I would like to discuss the importance of strengthening various partnerships.

Japanese companies are working to solve the challenges facing SIDS, and the government is supporting their efforts.

One recent example is WOTA, a Japanese start-up, working to solve the world's water problems. This company is planning to introduce its innovative small-scale decentralized water recycling system here in Antigua and Barbuda.

JBIC, a Japanese government-affiliated financial institution, is supporting this initiative in the form of co-financing with a Japanese bank.

In the Pacific Island region, Japan has also been contributing to progress on such issues as capacity building at the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) in Samoa, while collaborating with other donors.

In order to achieve resilience and prosperity for SIDS, Japan, as a partner of SIDS, will continue to work together for the next decade, guided by The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), the outcome document of this conference.

This year, Japan will host the 10th Pacific and Islands Summit (PALM10) in July, and the TICAD Ministerial Meeting with African countries in August.

This year is also the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2024.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Kishida proposed, in his policy speech on Latin America and the Caribbean, to work together to overcome the common challenges that humanity faces in such areas as environment and climate change.

I look forward to meeting again with friends from SIDS in these regional frameworks to further deepen our exchange and cooperation.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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الملكية المغربية



المؤتمر الدولي الرابع للجزيئات الصغيرة وال NANOMAT 2018

خ طاب سلیمانی د ع مر هالل،
سلافی ر، لام بع و شل دای ملل ملکه ل غبی قلدی ال مهلامت حدة
بن یوی و رک

لئىق غۇا باي ودا، 27 - 30 ماي 2024

السري دال ريفي س؛
السري دال هي ن الع لم لأل مم ال تحد دة؛
هـ حـ اـبـ الـ بـ لـ لـ لـ ةـ فـ خـ اـمـ ءـ؛
خـ رـ اـتـ لـ سـ رـ يـ دـ اـتـ ظـ اـسـ اـدـ ءـ؛

لـلـمـحـولـيـيـطـيـةـ أـنـ شـامـنـ لـلـجـ وـدـلـلـهـمـذـلـهـ مـنـ لـجـ لـعـنـ ظـيـمـ هـذـاـلـ مـوـقـمـ لـلـدـطـيـ لـلـرـبـلـ عـلـلـ دـوـلـ لـلـجـزـيـةـ الـصـغـرـةـ لـلـأـهـيـ،ـ لـكـمـ اـلـتـهـزـزـ مـذـهـهـ لـلـمـلـبـ تـلـتـعـبـرـ عـنـ لـجـ فـيـلـ الشـكـرـ وـالـفـيـقـ اـنـ لـمـ عـلـيـ لـلـسـيـرـ جـلـتـنـبـرـاـونـ،ـ لـلـوـنـيـرـ الـوـلـ لـفـيـغـوـ اـبـارـوـدـاـ،ـ لـفـيـىـمـ اـحـظـيـبـهـ فـهـبـلـدـيـ مـنـ لـفـيـاـوـقـتـرـجـبـ وـكـيـرـمـ ضـيـفـلـةـ،ـ لـكـمـ اـلـفـيـوتـيـ اـنـ لـثـكـرـ مـعـلـيـ لـلـرـيـدـ اـلـطـوـيـ وـغـوـتـيـيـسـ،ـ اـلـيـنـ لـلـعـ اـمـلـمـ لـلـتـحـدـدـ،ـ لـفـيـلـلـاعـيـ ظـلـتـيـ مـلـتـيـيـيـخـصـبـهـ اـهـذـهـ لـفـيـعـةـ مـنـ لـلـلـدـانـ.

حُسْن راتِ الْسَّيِّداتِ فَلَاسِ اَدَةٌ

تواجه لدول لجزيء المصغرة للنهاية من الكراوات الباري لم مرتبطه لمن يطلب عزلة لجغرافيته، فرق صل موارد، لى جلب المثار لجوي ملتفي رلفم اخي ثقى وذهليه من لدول، مام اييتو جبنتيني تسيير لم موسدة ومنتراكه ولهليه قبيعنيز لتنقي قفي لدول لجزيء المصغرة للنهاية، وليمض تقليص درجة تسيير ملبلم خاطر الباقيه والزمات لدوله.

غير أنّه ليهُنْ تحقِيقَ التفاصيل مرجوٌ قبليًّا. هذا الصدد دون الرادة على ملابسات ذلك الاجتماع الدولي، وللتذكرة.

حُضُورِ اقبال سری دات فلَاسِ ادَة،

توفي ذات الليل في قبة الدهب، حيث تلقي بذاته على الملكة لمغيرة من اللعنات، حيث وُلد رجلٌ يُدعى حمزة بن عبد الله، وهو أخوه، ولذلك يُطلق عليه لقب حمزة بن عبد الله، وهو من أئمة الشافعية وأئمة الحنفية وأئمة المذهب الظاهري.

ومن هذا الافق، حرص لمغرب، ثم انتزع اون مع الدول لجزية الصغيرة للناهية، خصّة الفاروق، هـ، وهو لحرص لذوي تمتعت به بغير مجموعه من الشيء ابيه والهـ ادوات للرطبة، ثمـ غرارـ.

شانیا - احداث "مرکیز لام اخ للشیاب الفاروقی". من طرف موسی بن محمد اللہ ادیس لح طیۃ للیہیۃ مبہدف پلر از لایور لایل الشیاب الفاروقی فی هذال مجرم افق دیت ه فی المذاکار.

ثالثاً - إطلاق بيماءدة للتحول لاطقىي لميتدام وللتي تروم الساستعنىز حصة لاطقىات للتحجج ددقىي
المني ح للك وربطى لتقىل غ 52% وتحىض للن دل كل طق قبىن 20% يفلىقين 2030 ..

لجزریة للصحراء لآن اهي ة.

كـلـ هـذـهـ الـلـهـمـاـدـرـاتـ وـالـتـزـامـاتـ لـيـدـهـ طـفـيـلـ عـلـىـ قـبـلـ هـيـتـجـرـيـ دـلـرـفـيـةـ فـيـ اـهـيـ تـقـيـسـعـىـ مـنـ خـلـلـهـ اـهـارـ الـمـغـرـبـ لـلـىـ تـسـخـرـ بـخـرـبـهـ وـتـجـابـهـ وـمـوـتـعـظـيمـ بـلـيـلـهـ وـاـهـسـ وـاعـتـقـلـهـ فـيـ الـمـرـبـلـتـعـاـونـ بـخـوبـ وـلـتـعـاـوـنـ الـثـلـثـيـ،ـ أـوـفـيـ إـطـارـ لـلـعـلـقـاتـ لـلـشـلـيـةـ وـهـمـاـرـاتـ لـلـتـعـاـوـنـ دـلـلـيـ وـالـقـلـيـمـ يـلـامـخـرـصـةـ لـلـدـولـ لـلـجـزـيـةـ الصـغـرـةـ لـلـاهـيـةـ.

حُسْن راتِ الْسَّيِّداتِ فِلَاسِ اَدَة،

إن تتحقق لتنمية الاهتمام في الدول لجزية الصغيرة للناهية، فضلاً عن ضرورة تحريم ومحاربة التزام لمتحمّل بذاته، إعمال العدالة، وإتاحة كل النهاية، ومحاربة كل مدعى له شرر إثلاك في المجتمع، وذلك بذاته، لتجعل لجزية الصغيرة للناهية مفيدة وتحقق الرزد، وإن تتحقق لتنمية الاهتمام في الدول لجزية الصغيرة للناهية، فضلاً عن ضرورة تحريم ومحاربة التزام لمتحمّل بذاته، إعمال العدالة، وإتاحة كل النهاية، ومحاربة كل مدعى له شرر إثلاك في المجتمع، وذلك بذاته، لتجعل لجزية الصغيرة للناهية مفيدة وتحقق الرزد.

ومن هذا الافق، يتضمن مدى الحاجة إلى بذخ انتلير جماعية لمemos قبغيه والتصدي للتحفيات لخطورة التي تواجهها هذه الدول، لكنه يتيح قيامها بتغطية فعالة وتعزيز الامن لغرضي. ولم يتم ارسال لزراعية لاستدامه والتسيير لممتلكات الموارد الطبيعية. وكذلك اعتماد عزف دراسة الماء للشرعي تحقيق الندماج، فبعض هذه الدول في التجارة البدنية والستة ارفقي للاتفاق الدولي والملكية.

وتقام، أو دأب، أو جدد، الـعـربـ عنـ التـزـاهـيلـ دـيـلـ مـوصـولـ بـلـيلـ مـنـ اـمـةـ الـبـانـغـةـ وـقـعـلـ فـقـ هـيـنـزـيـ لـتـوصـيـاتـ وـخـطـةـ عـمـلـ هـذـاـ لـمـ قـمـرـ لـتـيـ سـتـشـكـلـ أـرضـيـةـ عـلـيـ قـمـنـ أـجـلـ عـنـ زـقـدـرـةـ الـدـوـلـ لـلـجـزـيـةـ لـلـصـغـرـةـ لـلـأـهـيـةـ هـنـىـ الـصـمـودـ وـتـحـقـيقـ الـزـدـ وـارـ لـلـهـشـوـدـ وـلـسـيـ مـفـلـيـ إـطـارـ لـلـتـعـاوـنـ حـيـ وـبـ حـيـ وـبـ وـلـتـعـاوـنـ لـلـثـالـثـيـ.....

شکراللہم۔

Time Limit: 3 minutes

Active Word Count: 470 words

Statement for Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), 27-30 May 2024

President of the Conference,

UN Secretary General,

President of the General Assembly

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentleman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the President of this Conference, for hosting us in one of the most beautiful islands of the Caribbean. We assure you of Pakistan's full support for the successful conclusion of this conference.

2. I extend our delegations deepest appreciation to your government for their tremendous efforts in preparing for this conference. I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the people of Antigua & Barbuda for their warm hospitality.

Mr. President,

3. At the outset, I would like to fully associate with the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

4. In 1992, we, the internationally community, formally declared Small Island Developing States (SIDS) a special case both for environment and development and committed to assist them to meet their sustainable development objectives.

5. This commitment was showcased in the previous three United Nations Conferences on SIDS

6. Undoubtedly, since then, remarkable successes and progress has been made towards the development aspirations of SIDS. However, simultaneously the threats faced by SIDS have compounded and intensified rather than being mitigated over time.

7. SIDS face the unrelenting and compounding impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, disasters and natural hazards, health and other social related challenges and economic vulnerabilities. An unjust international financial architecture further exacerbates the difficulties faced by SIDS.

Mr. President,

8. Pakistan believes that urgent climate action is needed, in line with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Responsibilities. We need greater political commitment aimed at addressing the needs of developing countries, including SIDS, through the provision of new, additional and predictable financial resources.

9. At COP-29, we must agree on a New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) which reflects the needs and priorities of developing countries. We must also pursue the full operationalization of the Loss & Damage Fund along with additional pledges for the capitalisation of the fund.

10. Simultaneously, we must also pursue the reform of the international financial architecture in various upcoming processes, in order to make it more equitable, just, and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

Mr. President,

11. We recognise the need for an integrated, coordinated and balanced approach, with the support of international community and other stakeholders, to ensure sustainable development of SIDS. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) outlines tangible actions in this regards and it is incumbent upon all of us to follow up on its implementation. Undoubtedly, the results of this Conference will ultimately depend on the credibility and effectiveness of this follow up.

12. Pakistan assures you, Mr. President, of its strong and continued support to SIDS for the meaningful implementation of the ABAS.



PERMANENT MISSION OF ARMENIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Furth International Conference on Small Island Developing States
General Debate

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia

28 May 2024

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to congratulate the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for the successful organization of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and to express gratitude for the warm hospitality.

In times of interlinked crises that have significantly undermined development efforts and progress in many parts of the world, there is an urgent need for renewed attention to the challenges faced by the countries in special situations.

Armenia welcomes the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity. This landmark initiative signifies an important step in reinforcing global commitment and solidarity for advancing the sustainable development agenda. It marks a pivotal moment for mobilizing international efforts to tackle climate change, foster economic diversification, strengthen institutional capacities, and promote technology transfer for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Armenia supports the ongoing intergovernmental process aimed at developing a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which provides an opportunity to better reflect and assist the unique challenges of developing countries in a comprehensive and holistic manner. As the funding gap continues to be a key impediment for majority of countries to achieve the SDGs, we continue to

advocate for increased cooperation towards the mobilization of resources and a more equitable and adequate landscape of sustainable development financing.

I would like to acknowledge the important role of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDC, LLDC, and SIDS and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in promoting the agenda of countries in special situations.

As a landlocked developing country, Armenia fully recognizes and shares many of the developmental challenges faced by the countries with unique structural constraints, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural disasters. Exploring the untapped potential for synergies and collaboration between Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) can pave the way to addressing many of the common challenges related to barriers to trade, digital connectivity, and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Armenia has consistently worked to emphasize the imperative of addressing the pressing needs of countries facing exceptional circumstances by fostering a global environment, where every nation can achieve sustainable development through targeted and tailored policies and support. Strong, inclusive and effective multilateral institutions are essential to this end.

It is in line with this approach that, in the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Armenia has co-initiated the creation of the Group of Friends of Small Island Developing States, as a platform to advance the SIDS agenda within the UNESCO and to promote dialogue, exchange and cooperation. With Armenia's active involvement, the Group of Friends of Small Island Developing States has made significant contributions to the adoption of the "2023-2029 UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS" during the General Conference of the Organization, which was held last year. The Strategy represents a comprehensive framework designed to support SIDS in their efforts to achieve progress across various sectors, including education, science, and culture, and to enhance their impact within UNESCO.

Mr. President,

Within the United Nations Development System, Armenia will actively seek to advance efforts in support of more targeted and innovative financial mechanisms aimed at investing in and

developing low-carbon, resource-efficient, resilient, and socially inclusive green economies. Regular and meaningful dialogue within the Economic and Social Council will be indispensable in facilitating effective, sustainable, and equitable financing strategies that align with the commitments outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Mr. President,

While not on an island, Armenia shares many vulnerabilities with small island states due to its geographic and climatic challenges. Only a few days ago, Armenia experienced firsthand the harsh consequences of extreme weather events, as unprecedented and torrential rainfall resulted in severe flooding and landslides affecting several communities in the Lori and Tavush regions of Armenia. This disaster has caused significant damage to infrastructure, homes, and livelihoods, demonstrating once again the urgent need for robust disaster preparedness and response strategies. As we work tirelessly to mitigate the effects of this natural disaster, we appreciate and value the assistance and solidarity of our international partners.

The flood in Armenia was not an isolated incident but part of a worrying pattern driven by the changing climate. It is a stark reminder that climate change is not a distant threat, but a current reality that demands immediate and concerted action. For a landlocked developing country, the consequences of such threats are profound, affecting all aspects of sustainable development.

Our experience underscores the necessity of enhancing the disaster preparedness and response measures. However, national efforts alone are insufficient. We call for more robust international cooperation to effectively address the impacts of climate change and to help protect the lives and livelihoods of those most vulnerable.

Armenia reaffirms the commitment to fostering cooperation, solidarity, and partnerships in advancing the development agenda of all countries in special situations, also, through the sharing of knowledge, technology, and best practices. By working together, pooling our resources, and exchanging knowledge we can work to address the unique structural challenges and to ensure that no country is left behind. We stand ready to strengthen our international partnerships with SIDS and other stakeholders to help achieve progress in this regard.

I thank you.



General Debate SIDS4 Conference

Intervention by Mr Charles Schmit

Chargé d'affaires e.p. of Luxembourg to Costa Rica

- First, I want to thank Antigua and Barbuda for their warm welcome and for hosting this pertinent SIDS4 Conference to chart the course toward resilient development for SIDS.
- Luxembourg is pleased to be participating at a conference **by the SIDS, for the SIDS and centered around the priorities of the SIDS** and to engage in discussions that will be essential in making sure that we **leave no one behind**.
- We also want to thank OHRLS for the organization of this conference, and the co-facilitators of the outcome document for their work.
- 2024 is the **International Year of the SIDS**. In this vein, crucial negotiations for SIDS are ongoing at the United Nations, with Member States engaging with resolutions on sea-level rise, the multidimensional vulnerability index, and the restructuring of the international financial architecture to the benefit of all.
- It is essential that we recognize that SIDS find themselves at a crossfire of a **multitude of complex crises**. SIDS are disproportionately vulnerable to **climate change**, while they face a **debt crisis** and suffer under the pressures from the economic and social repercussions of the **Covid-19 Pandemic**.
- SIDS' small size, geographical remoteness and dispersed populations add to their vulnerability to exogenous shocks. Economic dependence on external markets and lack of diversification within their own further exacerbate the challenges already identified. Increased **conflicts** and linked **economic recession** are exacerbating these conditions.
- Under climate change, SIDS are exposed to natural disasters and hazards, and are dealing with the consequences of erratic precipitation, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, floods, droughts and cyclones. Such trends are impacting humanitarian, cultural, economic, and social aspects of life in the 39 SIDS.
- Luxembourg recognizes these challenges and is dedicated to supporting SIDS in **building resilience for prosperity**.
- Luxembourg supports mitigation and adaptation action through its International Climate Finance (ICF) Strategy. Luxembourg's ICF represents an additionality to its official ODA, which itself constitutes 1% of the country's GNI. Over nearly 10 years, from 2014 to 2025, Luxembourg has committed to provide a total of 340 million EUR in ICF.
- Luxembourg is engaged in projects with a number of SIDS: Cabo Verde, Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu.
- Luxembourg has a long-standing partnership with Cabo Verde through its bilateral development cooperation. Cabo Verde and Luxembourg work together on energy transition, water



management and climate action programmes to achieve the mitigation and adaptation goals set out in the **Paris Agreement**.

- In Fiji, Luxembourg provided support to the “Drua Incubator” through cooperation with UNCDF on parametric insurance and with UNDP on supporting business and civil society organizations in building climate resilience.
- In Palau, Luxembourg’s support to the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility formed part of a public-private, green-grey infrastructure support envelope.
- In Vanuatu, Luxembourg has been working with the GGGI on climate adaptation and mitigation action in the past 5 years through a 3 million EUR grant. A new strategic partnership of 5 million EUR with GGGI for the Pacific and the Caribbean has been signed in 2023.
- In New York, Luxembourg continues to support the activities of **the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** currently chaired by Samoa.
- Luxembourg is also a proud **“Friend for the SIDS Coalition for Nature”**, a joint initiative by the Governments of Cabo Verde, Samoa, and Seychelles aimed at advocating as ONE for agreed common SIDS priorities and needs.
- SIDS are responsible for less than 1% of GHG emissions globally. Yet, SIDS’ approximately 65 million citizens are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- SIDS face unique development circumstances, which need to be recognized. **Access to concessional finance** must be made easier for SIDS to allow for a **mitigation of fiscal constraints** and a **reduction of indebtedness** to make sure that hard-earned development gains since 2015 are not lost. A **restructuring of the IFA** will be essential in building **economic resilience** in SIDS.
- Luxembourg looks forward to constructively contributing to this week’s discussions *by SIDS, for SIDS* and underlines its continued commitment to leaving no one behind.
- Thank you.

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662 words

Quatrième Conférence internationale sur les petits Etats insulaires en développement

Débat général

Allocution de Monaco

S. E. Mme Isabelle Picco, Représentante permanente de Monaco auprès de l'ONU

Monsieur le Président,

Nous remercions Antigua-et-Barbuda pour l'excellent accueil de la 4^{ème} Conférence internationale sur le développement durable des petits Etats insulaires en développement.

Nous tenons aussi à présenter nos plus sincères condoléances à la délégation de Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée pour le terrible glissement de terrain survenu le 24 mai.

Monsieur le Président,

Force est de constater que dix ans après la Conférence de Samoa, le développement durable des petits Etats insulaires en développement est toujours un objectif à atteindre.

Le programme d'action d'Antigua et Barbuda pour une prospérité résiliente (ABAS) se veut transformateur.

Des énergies renouvelables, à la santé et la protection de l'environnement et des océans, les priorités sont connues de tous.

Aussi, nous saluons l'établissement du Centre d'excellence qui constituera un mécanisme très utile pour le partage de données et de technologies et pour favoriser l'innovation et les investissements.

En outre, nous sommes persuadés que le futur index sur la vulnérabilité multidimensionnelle sera un outil indispensable pour mieux prendre en compte les circonstances spéciales des petits Etats insulaires en développement et les défis auxquels ils font face.

Le soutien de la communauté internationale doit se manifester par le renforcement de capacités, l'accès à la finance internationale ainsi que la coopération scientifique et technique et l'innovation.

Le potentiel de l'économie bleue doit aussi être saisi. En marge de la troisième Conférence sur l'ODD 14 qui se tiendra à Nice l'an prochain, Monaco organisera le Forum sur l'économie bleue et la finance.

Monsieur le Président,

La lutte contre le changement climatique constitue pour les PEID en particulier, et pour toutes nos Nations collectivement, la condition *sine qua non* d'un avenir durable et viable.

La tendance alarmante et inexorable du changement climatique et ses effets doit nous pousser à remplir sans délais nos objectifs et nos engagements, pris notamment dans le contexte de la Convention cadre sur le changement climatique et de l'Accord de Paris.

La triple crise planétaire fait peser sur les petits Etats insulaires en développement des pressions disproportionnées et le coût de l'inaction sera plus grand que le coût de l'atténuation et de l'adaptation.

Monsieur le Président,

Nous apprécions la relation qu'ont les petits Etats insulaires en développement avec l'océan qui forme une partie intégrante et indissociable de leur identité. Le rôle et l'engagement dont ils font preuve pour protéger et restaurer la biodiversité et les ressources marines sont exemplaires.

Nous saluons d'ailleurs le fait qu'un PEID ait été le premier pays à ratifier l'Accord sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de la diversité biologique marine des zones ne relevant pas de la juridiction nationale (BBNJ). Monaco l'a également ratifié ce mois-ci.

Un océan sain et en bonne santé est essentiel à la vie sur Terre. Pour les Etats océaniques, il en va d'une question de survie.

Alors que nous nous employons à repenser la façon dont l'humanité considère l'océan, celui-ci ne saurait être vu, dans ce nouveau paradigme, comme une somme de ressources à exploiter, mais comme un bien commun avec une valeur inhérente à conserver.

Monsieur le Président,

A un moment charnière pour le multilatéralisme et pour le rôle de l'ONU en faveur du développement durable de toutes les Nations, nous ne pouvons pas ignorer l'appel des petits Etats insulaires en développement et Monaco entend ainsi leur réaffirmer tout son soutien.



بيان

دولة قطر

يلقيه

سعادة السفير ياسر عوض العبد الله

سفير دولة قطر لدى جمهورية الدومينيكان ولدى انتيغوا وباربودا

امام

الاجتماع الدولي الرابع المعنى بالدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية

27-30 مايو 2024

سانت جونز - انتيغوا وباربودا

السيد الرئيس،

اهنئكم على انتخابكم رئيساً للمؤتمر، والتهنئة ايضاً لأعضاء المكتب الموقرين، واتقدم بالشكر والتقدير للجنة التحضيرية للجهود التي بذلت في الاعداد لهذا المؤتمر، كما نقدر الجهد التي بذلتها الامم المتحدة ممثلة في السيد لي جنهوا وكيل الامين العام للأمم المتحدة، مدير ادارة الشؤون الاقتصادية والاجتماعية، السكرتير العام للمؤتمر. والسيدة رباب فاطمة وكيلة الامين العام، الممثل السامي لأقل البلدان نمواً والبلدان النامية غير الساحلية والدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، المستشار الخاص للأمين العام بشأن المؤتمر.

وأتقدم بالشكر والتقدير لانتيغوا وباربودا حكومةً وشعباً على كرم الضيافة وحسن الاستقبال. ويضم وفد بلادي صوته لبيان مجموعة الـ 77 والصين، وبيان مجموعة الدول الصغيرة

السيد الرئيس،

السيدات والسادة، رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود،

ينعقد هذا المؤتمر تحت شعار "رسم المسار نحو الرفاه القابل للصمود" ويعد استكمالاً لنتائج المؤتمرات الدولية المعنية بالدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، برنامج عمل باربادوس، واستراتيجية موريشيوس للتنفيذ، ومسار ساموا، والهادفة جميعاً لاتخاذ إجراءات ملموسة من قبل المجتمع الدولي لمواجهة التحديات الإنمائية والبيئية التي تواجه الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية وتأثير سلباً على حياة سكانها، مما يتطلب تضافر الجهد من خلال تعزيز الشراكات والعمل متعدد الأطراف، والوفاء بالالتزامات في إطار تنفيذ خطة 2030 وتحقيق اهداف التنمية المستدامة.

السيد الرئيس،

تحرص دولة قطر، من خلال سياستها القائمة على الشراكة والتعاون والتضامن، على الالتزام بمبادئ المسؤولية المشتركة، وتواصل تعزيز شراكاتها ودعم المبادرات التي تحدث فرقاً ايجابياً في حياة الملايين من البشر وتساهم في التخفيف من أعباء الازمات الإنسانية والتحديات التنموية. وانسجاماً مع هذا النهج تواصل دولة قطر القيام بدورها كشريك فاعل على المستوى

الدولي والإقليمي والثاني. وتغقر دولة قطر باستضافة مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة الخامس المعنى بأقل البلدان نمواً في الدوحة في مارس 2023، وتواصل دعمها لتنفيذ برنامج عمل الدوحة من خلال صندوق قطر للتنمية بالتركيز على الامن الغذائي، وتطوير حلول مستدامة لبناء القدرة على الصمود. وفي إطار اهتمامها بدعم جهود الدول النامية وتعزيز قدراتها على تحقيق اهداف التنمية المستدامة، وخاصة تلك التي تواجه تحديات خاصة، عززت دولة قطر من شراكتها الممتدة مع وكالات الأمم المتحدة، ووّقعت مطلع هذا العام المرحلة الثانية من شراكتها الاستراتيجية مع برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي (2024-2028)، كما تقوم حالياً بدعم الموارد الأساسية للبرنامج بناءً على الاتفاق الموقع بين الجانبين، وقد أثمرت هذه الشراكات العديد من المبادرات البناءة.

وتولي دولة قطر اهتماماً كبيراً بالبرامج والمشاريع التي من شأنها مواجهة الآثار السالبة للتغيرات المناخية على المستوى الدولي ، وفي هذا الصدد، كان حضرة صاحب السمو الشيخ تميم بن حمد آل ثاني أمير دولة قطر "حفظه الله" قد أعلن أثناء الدورة 74 للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة، من خلال مشاركته في مؤتمر القمة للعمل المناخي للتحالف المعنى بتمويل الأنشطة المناخية في 23 سبتمبر 2019 عن مساهمة دولة قطر بمبلغ 100 مليون دولار أمريكي لدعم الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية وأقل البلدان نمواً للتعامل مع تغير المناخ والمخاطر الطبيعية والتحديات البيئية وبناء القدرة على مواجهة آثارها المدمرة. واستضافت دولة قطر في عام 2012 الدورة الثامنة عشر لمؤتمر الدول الأطراف في اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية بشأن التغير المناخي.

السيد الرئيس،
السيدات والسادة،

تشكل التحديات التي تواجه الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، بما فيها تلك المتعلقة بآثار التغيرات المناخية، والاستخدام المستدام للمحيطات ومواردها، والحفاظ على التنوع الاحيائى، والحد من مخاطر الكوارث الطبيعية، تحديات عالمية، وهناك مسؤولية جماعية للمجتمع الدولي لدعم الجهود التي تبذلها الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية في تجاوز تلك التحديات وتحقيق اهداف

التنمية المستدامة، وفي هذا الصدد ترحب دولة قطر بالوثيقة الختامية للمؤتمر الدولي الرابع حيث تم التوافق على خطوات عملية نرجو ان تجد طريقها للتنفيذ.

السيد الرئيس،

تعتز دولة قطر بعلاقة الصداقة والشراكة والتعاون التي تربطها بالدول الجزيرية الصغيرة النامية، ومن هذا المنطلق ظلت دولة قطر تساهم في انجاح عقد المؤتمرات الدولية المعنية بالدول الجزيرية الصغيرة النامية، وحرصت على تقديم الدعم لمواجهة التحديات الإنمائية والبيئية، وتلافي آثار الكوارث الطبيعية، التي اجتاحت بعض الدول من خلال صندوق قطر للتنمية. وتلتزم دولة قطر بالمضي قدماً والاستمرار في تعزيز علاقة الشراكة والتعاون ودعم تحقيق اهداف التنمية المستدامة في الدول الجزيرية النامية الصديقة.

شكراً السيد الرئيس



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Statement - Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Antigua and Barbuda.

Delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Teburoro Tito, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kiribati to the United Nations

28 May 2024

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am honored to warmly greet you all on behalf of the Government and people of Kiribati and in the name of the Almighty Creator and Ruler of the Universe and Everything in it, living and non-living.

Kam na bane ni mauri meaning Blooming life and health to you all.

Kiribati joins other delegations in expressing our condolences to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea over the loss of many lives and the injuries sustained as a result of a natural disaster hitting the country.

We also join other delegations to congratulate you Mr. President, as you take on the important role, and assure you of my delegations' full support in the discharge of your important duties as you guide our important deliberations to chart our future toward resilience and prosperity.

Mr. President, please accept my delegation's heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for their extraordinarily warm and gracious hospitality and arrangements that has made everyone at this Conference feel very much at home. My delegation supports the statements delivered by Samoa on behalf of AOSIS, Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, and Vanuatu on behalf of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States and by Nepal, on behalf of LDCs.

We also endorse the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States,(ABAS), and reaffirm the calls made by AOSIS, the Pacific Islands Forum and PSIDS, that highlight the urgency of critical priorities for SIDs sustainable future. My delegation also wishes to highlight several priorities that are crucial for the sustainable development of Kiribati, in line with the objectives and goals of ABAS.

First and foremost, my delegation recognizes that SIDS and LDC are among the countries hardest hit by the impacts of compounding and intersecting crises from the pandemic to climate change and sea level rise, conflicts to geopolitical competition, and rivalry/and rising cost of living due to external shocks. Our graduation status from the LDC category pose a critical question of where we are in the future given these unprecedented challenges. SIDS and LDCs deserve stronger attention and should not be left behind, including through economic graduation, which may unduly expose some nations to critical vulnerabilities and shocks.

As an island nation, Kiribati aspires to be connected to the world. To date the Government has also invested significantly in the air transportation service and digital connectivity infrastructure across the nation, subsidizing mobile infrastructure establishments on all islands across Kiribati. We see this as an innovative pathway toward long-term resilience and prosperity.

Mr. President,

Fisheries remain a priority for economic growth. It is the largest contributing revenue source for Kiribati. However, given the volatility of revenue generation, which is further exacerbated by climate change, we aim to protect and complement our fishing license revenue through more vigorous marine protection coupled with marine spatial planning strategies, a more robust

collaborative anti-IUU arrangements, diversification of tax resources and expansion of our revenue base in line with our KV20 roadmap aimed at transforming Kiribati into a wealthy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous nation and people by 2036.

In line with our KV20 we are exploring options to create a more conducive environment for both foreign direct investment and domestic private sector development to ensure investor confidence for both foreign and domestic private investors. To this end the Kiribati Foreign Investment Policy Framework 2018-2028 as enacted in the Foreign Investment Act 2018. These measures aim to increase investment levels, ensure investor confidence, and align with international best practices and regional trade agreements.

Mr President,

Kiritimati Island, the largest coral atoll in the world, holds enormous sustainable development and economic potential for Kiribati. We call it the "new paradise". We acknowledge the great and continued support of our development partners and their keen interest in considering significant investment support in the realization of the Kiritimati Island Economic Development Programme. This initiative will harness the alignment to the

KV20, ensure an inclusive and sustainable growth pathway and provide a resilient response to emerging climate change crises. Furthermore, its historical legacy as a site for nuclear testing during the colonial period, makes it an ideal location to establish a center for promotion of nuclear disarmament, peaceful living the Pacific Way and the Pacific Settlement of Disputes mechanisms required under Chapter VI of the UN Charter under the auspices of the Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The existence of nuclear weapons and the continuing dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific ocean threatens the resilient, peaceful and prosperous that we all seek to achieve individually and collectively under ABAS.

Mr President,

Our pathway toward a sustainable and resilient future requires climate action and resources. We call on the international community to fulfill its commitment to limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as per the Paris Agreement.

We join calls to emphasize the need for increased provision and mobilization of climate finance to address adaptation, loss and damage, and upscaling climate change solutions.

We support in principle all new partnership initiatives launched and agreed at this SIDS4 within the framework of ABAS particularly those aimed at accelerating the resilience and prosperity of small islands states and their achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

We also recognize the indispensable value of good leadership in the development of resilience and prosperity. Good leadership begins in the inclusion of youth leaders and perspectives at the community , local, regional and global levels. While the ABAS has been charted, we must act now to advance our shared vision for a resilient and prosperous future filled with blooming health, peace, happiness for all.

Thank you Chair.

END



Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the UN

300 East 42 Street, Suite 1600
New York, N.Y. 10017
e-mail: fsmun@fsmgov.org

Telephone: (212) 697-8370
Facsimile: (212) 697-8295
<https://unmission.fm/>

SIDS4 – Item 8: General Debate

**Statement by H.E. Jeem S. Lippwe
Permanent Representative of the
Federated States of Micronesia to the UN
St. John's, 28 May 2024**

Mr. President,

Micronesia stands in solidarity with the people of our sister nation, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. We offer our condolences during this difficult time.

I am most honored to take part in this historic gathering today and to deliver this statement on behalf of the delegation of Micronesia. I am most pleased to be here at this 4th Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in this beautiful city of St. John's. To the people and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, we thank you for your gracious hospitality in hosting this important meeting, and for the excellent meeting arrangements.

Mr. President,

We arrived in St. John's with high hopes that this SIDS4 Conference will provide the international community new impetus and propel us towards urgent actions to forward the progress made to address the sustainable development of SIDS.

Some 368 miles from St. John's, in this same Caribbean region is the small island developing state of Barbados where the first UN global conference on Small Island Developing States was held thirty years ago. We rejoiced in the conference's adoption of the Barbados Program of Action on the Sustainable Development of SIDS. It gave SIDS a strong hope that the world is paying attention to the development needs and aspirations of the most vulnerable. Three decades later, we are poised to adopt another SIDS dedicated document – the fourth of its kind.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the positive engagements and exchanges in the negotiations during the preparatory committee meetings. As SIDS, we have highlighted the insurmountable challenges we face and our clear sustainable development aspirations. Our unique and inherent characteristics make SIDS a special case for sustainable development. We are still the same but our vulnerabilities, in many instances have doubled and loom even larger than ever before.

But the promises of a newly minted framework entitled “Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS: Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity”, has been overshadowed by world events from the Russian aggression against Ukraine to the events of October 7 in the Middle East. And while SIDS no longer endure occupation by colonial powers and wartime destructions, our lives, livelihoods, and security remain under threat from other destructive forces, I fear, and this is a global challenge we must deal with in an urgent sense. These threats, none of our own making, include sea-level rise and climate change, greenhouse gases and global warming. Today, these threaten to render all the apparent progress made in previous SIDS agreements and frameworks meaningless.

Mr. President,

The ongoing threats from the rising sea levels caused by the climate crisis are unprecedented. Our coral reefs that act as natural barriers to catastrophic storms wither from acidification and are vulnerable and destroyed by warming of the ocean caused by climate change. The outcome document rightfully references it as the “gravest of threats to the

survival and viability of [our] people, natural ecosystems, and overall sustainable development”. The impacts of climate change already have implications on SIDS, including humanitarian, economic, social, cultural, ecological and on our security.

We agree with the Secretary-General that Governments and the international community should strengthen and integrate, as a matter of priority, human rights principles within climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, with particular attention to those most affected but least able to adapt to climate impacts. While the document calls for phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, we were dismayed that despite insistence from SIDS, language from the Global Stock take on transitioning away from fossil fuels was blocked by some.

Mr. President,

By necessity, Micronesia has spoken consistently and constantly at every occasion on the urgent necessity to cut greenhouse gas emissions, particularly by developed countries. And we call for a new methane agreement using the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as a model for a new agreement. As part of this effort, countries should eliminate the emissions of methane, HFCs, and other short-lived climate pollutants from their industrial products and activities, which altogether could result in the avoidance of at least 0.5 degree Celsius of global warming. In this respect we are encouraged that the outcome document has a reference to methane emissions.

Mr. President,

We are pleased that the outcome calls for “Building SIDS’ capacity to ratify and implement the provisions of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)”. The BBNJ Agreement was an important milestone. SIDS are prepared to do our part for our Ocean but we will not be able to do so by ourselves.

Partnerships will be an important tool to help SIDS in general to achieve our vision of sustainable development. The success or failure of the Conference will ultimately lie with how much support we get. We call on our partners to step up their efforts and to work with us in this regard.

I thank you!



4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States: National Plenary Statement SIDS4 – 2024

**New Zealand Statement delivered by Head of Delegation,
H.E. Ms. Carolyn Schwalger**

28 May 2024

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Small states matter.

Over the past eight decades, small states have been amongst the most consistent advocates for, and most influential contributors to, the rules-based international system that underpins our collective security and prosperity.

Collaborating with small states to realise their development objectives is fundamental to delivering our global development objectives. However, too often their unique interests and vulnerabilities have been overlooked by the international community.

Advancing the interests of SIDS has long been a central priority for New Zealand's foreign policy. This is in part due to our relationship with Pacific SIDS, who are amongst our closest neighbours, partners, and friends.

Our proximity, shared history and populations, and close cultural, economic, political and sporting links, mean we share a direct stake in our region's peace, stability, prosperity and resilience.

We face a shared Pacific destiny. However, this destiny appears more uncertain than at any point in recent memory.

Ten-years on from the SAMOA Pathway, and despite progress in some areas, the social, economic, and environmental development challenges faced by SIDS are more acute than ever.

Fortunately, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) offers a blueprint for our collective efforts to realise SIDS development aspirations. New Zealand is honoured to have served as Co-Chair of the preparatory process for this conference.

We are also proud to be co-facilitating preparations for a High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on addressing the existential threats posed by sea-level rise, given its relevance to SIDS.

Climate Vulnerabilities

SIDS leaders have made clear that climate change is the defining issue that imperils the lives, livelihoods and wellbeing of their peoples. While SIDS are some of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, they have contributed the least to causing it.

Scaling up climate action in this critical decade, and limiting warming to 1.5 degrees, is vital to reducing the severity of climate impacts on SIDS.

Doing so will also require investing in innovative solutions.

Allow me to share three examples of New Zealand's innovative climate support:

- First, in response to calls from Pacific governments to have greater autonomy over their climate response, New Zealand established its Country Flexible Finance programme. The programme provides finance directly through partner governments for use towards the climate priorities that they themselves have identified. It has been welcomed across the region and cited as an example for providers of finance to follow.
- Second, a programme which builds Pacific regional and national capacities to plan for and address loss and damage. This includes non-economic loss and damage, a priority for many SIDS that is often overlooked, by promoting and preserving cultural knowledge.
- And third, Weather Ready Pacific - a USD160 million, Pacific-designed and led programme, to enable Pacific SIDS to better anticipate and respond to high impact and extreme weather.

Economic and social vulnerabilities

Further, New Zealand supports the decades-long effort by SIDS to have their unique vulnerabilities to shocks appropriately recognised and addressed by the international development and climate finance systems.

The data produced by the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index should be helpful for SIDS and their partners in this regard.

Going forward we must enable SIDS to build more resilient economies to underpin the improved security and well-being of their peoples.

Greater connectivity, strengthened social protection systems, and boosted health, education, and food security programmes will further enhance SIDS well-being. Building capability, strengthening governance, and empowering people through a gender lens also be crucial.

Data and monitoring

At a very practical level, country-led data collection and analysis, and monitoring and evaluation, will be necessary to monitor SIDS' progress.

New Zealand is pleased to support the Pacific Data Hub, a regional mechanism for collating and building capacity for the collection and analysis of data and statistics.

We encourage development partners to both support and use partner-led data and statistics, and centralised data hubs – such as the proposed Antigua and Barbuda-based SIDS Center of Excellence.

The timely development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the the ABAS will be crucial to ensure concrete implementation and action.

Making commitments

Together we need to lock in roadmaps for action that address the threats of climate change and realise a sustainable and resilient future for the people of Small Island Developing States.

If we do not achieve the goals we have collectively set ourselves, then by SIDS5 in 2034, the impacts of climate change and the lived vulnerability to external shocks experienced by SIDS will be even more severe.

New Zealand is committed to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

Thank you.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus,
H.E. Ms. Maria Michail**

St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 28 May 2024

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Mr. Chair,

Cyprus aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union. Allow me to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Cyprus has cultivated a significant relationship with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), recognizing their shared vulnerabilities and the importance of collective action in addressing common challenges. As an island nation itself, Cyprus sympathizes with the unique socio-economic and environmental struggles faced by SIDS, including issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and access to resources. Climate change might be the most important challenge the SIDS are facing, as small islands are exposed to increasing extreme weather events and to sea-level rise. This shared identity fosters solidarity and cooperation between Cyprus and SIDS, forming the basis for a mutually supportive relationship.

Cyprus has demonstrated its commitment to supporting SIDS by advocating for their interests on the international stage, particularly in forums focused on sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk reduction. Through diplomatic channels and bilateral partnerships, Cyprus seeks to amplify the voices of SIDS and ensure that their concerns are heard and addressed in global decision-making processes.

Moreover, Cyprus extends practical support to SIDS through capacity-building programs, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Drawing on its own experiences in overcoming challenges related to island living, Cyprus offers expertise in areas such as renewable energy, water management, and sustainable tourism. By fostering collaboration and sharing best practices, Cyprus contributes to the resilience and sustainability of SIDS, helping them to navigate the complex landscape of global development while preserving their unique cultural and environmental heritage. Through these concerted efforts, Cyprus reaffirms its commitment to solidarity with SIDS and to building a more inclusive and equitable global community.

Mr. Chair,

Cyprus is committed to a continuous support towards the sustainable development needs of SIDS such as climate neutrality and resilience, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

I thank you.



REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

750 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL. (212) 744-2506

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4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States General debate, agenda item 8

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Szczerbski
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
to the United Nations**

Antigua and Barbuda, 28 May 2024

*Mr. /Ms. (Vice) President,
Distinguished Participants,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Small Island Developing States constitute one fifth of the world's countries, and although with small population, they bring to the international community unique cultural richness and diversity. They also remain guardians of valuable natural areas and biodiversity, especially marine life.

At the same time they face extraordinary challenges, resulting from both the location and limited own resources, which makes them more vulnerable to crises, as well as to the persistent global problems such as climate change and sea-level rise.

The challenges faced by SIDS require coordination and effective international cooperation at the global and regional level. Poland strongly supports joint and determined action of the international community in support of SIDS, and the mandate of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

We look forward to the implementation of The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, which constitutes a solid framework for decisive actions and close partnerships for the next decade. We also look forward to strengthening partnerships for individual SDGs, with the focus on access to quality education, digital transformation, blue economy, and climate action.

Distinguished Participants,

Poland strives to strengthen its relations with SIDS, in particular through the joint EU actions under the Samoa Agreement, which is the overarching framework for the EU relations with the Caribbean and Pacific island countries. We fully support the EU's vibrant cooperation with SIDS, including offering significant development assistance.

At the UN fora, as a current ECOSOC member Poland attaches particular importance to mainstreaming in the international debate issues such as:

reducing inequalities, building resilience and ensuring an uninterrupted global supply chains. All of them are particularly relevant in the case of SIDS.

Additionally, for many years Poland has made voluntary contributions to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund supporting the participation of those countries in the work of the Human Rights Council as a part of *Polish aid*.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The challenges that climate change and high vulnerability to natural disasters pose to island states cannot be ignored. We believe that building resilience and investing in people and smart solutions, especially for developing sustainable tourism and marine life protection, are crucial for SIDS.

Let me emphasize that climate considerations should be mainstreamed in all dimensions of the development agenda. Poland is doing so by making climate action a cross-cutting priority of the *Polish Multiannual Development Cooperation Program 2021–2030. Solidarity for Development*.

In the context of development assistance - we share the view that it is necessary to look beyond income indicators to assess needs of developing countries, including SIDS. Using the new Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) could help measure both vulnerability and resilience and complement GNI/GDP per capita in resource allocation processes. This would also help to estimate SIDS needs when it comes to climate-related disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation.

In conclusion let me state that despite some weakening of the international community's confidence in the UN system caused, among others, by Russia's disregard for the UN Charter due to illegal aggression against Ukraine, the Fourth Conference on SIDS is an opportunity to confirm our commitment to solve global problems together, based on a sense of solidarity, shared responsibility, trust, and goodwill.

SIDS4 confirms our common expectation for effective multilateralism. We hope that this momentum will not be lost, and that the Summit of the Future this September will bring a new opening, also for the benefit of SIDS.

I thank you.

أصحاب السعادة

السيدات والسادة

- في البداية، أعرب عن امتناننا العميق لحكومة أنتيغوا وبربودا على حسن الضيافة، ونشيد بجهودهم في الإعداد والتنظيم الذي أدى إلى نجاح مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة الرابع للدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية.
- تواجه الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية تحديات فريدة وملحة بسبب صغر حجمها وعزلتها الجغرافية وتعرضها للتحديات المختلفة ومنها تغير المناخ والكوارث الطبيعية. كما تواجه الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية تحديات اقتصادية، بما في ذلك التنوع المحدود في الصادرات، وارتفاع تكاليف النقل، والتعرض للتقلبات في أسعار السلع الأساسية العالمية. إن هذه القيود والظروف الاقتصادية تعيق جهود التنمية المستدامة، لذا لابد من إعطاء الأولوية لاحتياجات وتطورات الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية والسعى لدعم هذه الدول في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة الشاملة.

- إن التعاون والدعم الدوليين يسهمان بشكل كبير في التصدي للتحديات المتعددة التي تواجه الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، ومنها تقديم التمويل، ونقل التكنولوجيا، وبناء القدرات، والمساعدات الإنمائية المصممة خصيصاً لتعزيز القدرة على الصمود وتعزيز التنمية المستدامة.
- كذلك، لابد من دعم دور الدول النامية، ومنها الدول الجزرية الصغيرة، وإشراكها في عمليات صنع القرار، مما يعزز من دورها على المستوى الدولي، ويعكس اهتماماتها وتعلقاتها بالإضافة إلى مواجهة تحدياتها بشكل أفضل.
- وينبغي رفع الوعي بظروف الدول الجزرية الصغيرة والنامية الفريدة من نوعها، التي ستمكننا من تمكين تلك الدول لبناء مستقبل مرن ومستدام لشعوبها وبيئتها.
السيد الرئيس،
- إن المملكة العربية السعودية تولي أهمية كبرى لتعزيز العلاقات مع الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، وتحقيق التنمية الاجتماعية والاقتصادية، ودعم تحقيق أهداف الأمم المتحدة للتنمية المستدامة، وذلك من خلال عدد من الاتفاقيات المبرمة والتي تمثل خطوةً إيجابية في مجال التعاون الإنمائي بين المملكة العربية السعودية والدول

الجزرية في منطقة البحر الكاريبي وأمريكا الوسطى، والتي ستفتح الباب لمزيد من التعاون والشراكات في المستقبل.

- أيضاً، وفي إطار مهمة الصندوق السعودي للتنمية المتمثلة في تعزيز التنمية المستدامة العالمية، قام الصندوق بتمويل أكثر من 800 مشروع تنموي بقيمة أكثر من ٢١ مليار دولار أمريكي في أكثر من ١٠٠ دولة حول العالم، ويعمل الصندوق حالياً على توسيع نطاق عمله في منطقة البحر الكاريبي وتعزيز العلاقات مع عدد من الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، حيث قام مؤخراً بتمويل ٦٣ مشروع يدعم البنية التحتية والطاقة والقطاعات الرئيسية الأخرى في عدد من الدول الجزرية الصغيرة والنامية.
- وفي العام الماضي، وعلى سبيل المثال لا الحصر، تم توقيع اتفاقيتين لقروض تنمية بقيمة إجمالية تبلغ 140 مليون دولار أمريكي لدعم تطوير البنية التحتية مع حكومتي جزر البهاما وجمهورية موريشيوس، و 61 مليون دولار اتفاقيات قروض تنمية مع سانت فنسنت وجزر غرينادين، وبليز. حيث تم التوقيع على هذه الاتفاقيات التنمية كجزء من التزام المملكة بدعم التنمية المستدامة في البلدان النامية والدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية في جميع أنحاء العالم، وذلك للمساهمة في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة في تلك الدول.

- استضافت المملكة في العام الماضي الاجتماع المعنى بالتعاون والتنسيق بين الدول العربية ودول جزر الباسيفيك، وأثمرت نتائجه عن تعزيز التعاون وإقامة شراكات في مجالات متنوعة ومنها الاقتصاد، والتجارة، والاستثمار، والطاقة المتجددة، والسياحة والنقل، وحماية البيئة، والحفاظ على المناطق البحرية، والتنوع البيولوجي، والأرصاد الجوية، والاستجابة للكوارث الطبيعية، والعلوم والتكنولوجيا، والاتصالات، والثروات البحرية.
- وكجزء من استمرار دعم المملكة للدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، قدمت المملكة مساهمة بـ ١٠٠ ألف دولار لدعم تحضيرات هذا المؤتمر، إيماناً منها بأهمية دور الدول الجزرية الصغيرة والنامية، ولمد يد العون في ظل التحديات العالمية المتتصاعدة.
السيد الرئيس،
- تؤدي الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية دوراً محورياً في المحادثات العالمية المتعلقة بالتنمية المستدامة وتغير المناخ والحفاظ على البيئة. وعلى الرغم من التحديات التي تواجهها، فإن التراث الثقافي الغني، والتنوع البيولوجي للدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية يساهمان بشكل كبير في التنوع العالمي. إن الاعتراف بالاحتياجات والاهتمامات المحددة للدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية ومعالجتها

ليس واجباً أخلاقياً فحسب، بل إنه ضروري أيضاً لتحقيق مستقبل أكثر شمولاً وإنصافاً واستدامةً لجميع الدول.

وفي الختام،

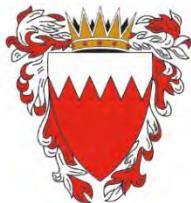
- إن باستطاعة المجتمع الدولي أن يعزز قدرًا أعظم من التضامن والتعاون والتقدم نحو الأهداف المشتركة المتمثلة في الرخاء والرعاية البيئية، ومن خلال إعطاء الأولوية لمصالح وتنمية الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية. ولا شك أن التعاون والتضامن الدولي هو الأساس لتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة وتعزيز النمو الاقتصادي والاجتماعي، وستستمر المملكة بالعمل على تعزيز الروابط مع الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، والتعاون معها للتصدي للتحديات المشتركة في سبيل التنمية والتقدم.

شكراً السيد الرئيس

البعثة الدائمة لمملكة البحرين

لدى الأمم المتحدة

نيويورك



بيان مملكة البحرين

في

المناقشة العامة

للمؤتمر الدولي الرابع المعنى بالدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية

27-30 مايو 2024م

أنتيغوا وباربودا

دولة السيد غاستون أفنوسو براون، رئيس وزراء أنتيغوا وباربودا الصديقة ورئيس المؤتمر الدولي الرابع

المعني بالدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية،

أصحاب الفخامة والمعالي والسعادة،

الحضور الكرام،

يطيب لي بداية أن أتقدم بخالص الشكر والتقدير إلى حكومة وشعب أنتيغوا وباربودا الصديقة لحفاوة الاستقبال وحسن التنظيم لهذا المؤتمر الهام الذي يُعقد في إطار الموضوع "رسم الطريق نحو الازدهار القادر على الصمود".

السيد الرئيس،

بعد ثلاثة عقود من المؤتمرات العالمية المعنية بالتنمية المستدامة للدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية في باربادوس في عام 1994، لا تزال الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية تشكل حالة خاصة في مجال التنمية المستدامة، وهو ما يستدعي تجديد تضماننا في ظل استمرار الآثار السلبية للتغير المناخي، بما في ذلك ما يتعلق بارتفاع مستوى سطح البحر والظواهر الجوية القصوى، وغيرها من التحديات البيئية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية، والتي أدت إلى أزمات عالمية متتالية، بما في ذلك جائحة كوفيد-19، إلى تفاقمها.

وتؤكد مملكة البحرين، بقيادة حضرة صاحب الجلاله الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة ملك مملكة البحرين المعظم، حفظه الله ورعاه، ومتابعة صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير سلمان بن حمد آل خليفة ولي العهد رئيس مجلس الوزراء، حفظه الله، التزامها ببيان تعزيز التنمية المستدامة وتدعيم الأجيال القادمة.

ومن هذا المنطلق، تستمر مملكة البحرين في تنفيذ مبادراتها للإسهام المؤثر في تعزيز الأمن البيئي في منطقتها والعالم، وتأكد على التزامها باتفاقية باريس وبمتابعة ما أعلنت عنه في "قمة غالاسكو" بشأن خفض الانبعاثات بنسبة 30% بحلول عام 2035، والوصول للحياد الكربوني في عام 2060.

كما أعلنت مملكة البحرين خلال الدورة الثامنة والعشرين لمؤتمر الدول الأطراف في اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية بشأن تغير المناخ ("COP28") التي عُقدت العام الماضي بدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، عن خطة العمل الوطنية، "Blueprint Bahrain"، لتحقيق الحياد الكربوني من خلال ثلاثة مسارات: الاقتصاد منخفض الكربون، والتكيف مع التغير المناخي، وخلق فرص مستدامة في الاقتصاد الأخضر الجديد.

وفي هذا السياق، قامت مملكة البحرين بتدشين استراتيجية وطنية للطاقة، وإطلاق صندوق لتقنيولوجيا المناخ بقيمة 750 مليون دولار، بالإضافة إلى تأسيس منصة "صفاء" لتعويض الانبعاثات الكربونية، وسيتم توجيه إيراداتها لتمويل مشاريع إقليمية دولية تختص في ذلك.

السيد الرئيس،

تدرك مملكة البحرين أن التغلب على تأثيرات تغير المناخ لا يمكن تحقيقه إلا من خلال التعاون الجماعي لتسريع الإنجاز ورفع مستويات الاستعداد، مع أهمية مواصلة جهود بناء اقتصادات قادرة على الصمود وتسخير التقنيولوجيا الرقمية، وذلك لتكون الشعوب كافة معاً على ذات المسافة في اتجاه الازدهار المنشود.

وختاماً، تؤكد مملكة البحرين على أهمية تماسك المجتمع الدولي في إطار تسويد قيم العدالة ووحدة العزم، وضرورة تعزيز الدعم للدول الجزئية الصغيرة النامية، بما في ذلك من خلال بناء القدرات

والشراكات الفعالة، على النحو الوارد في "خطة عمل أنتيغوا وباربودا للدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية"، من أجل عالم أكثر عافية ومستقبل تنعم فيه البشرية بالازدهار وقدرة الاستدامة. وشكراً.



Statement delivered by Msgr. Robert Murphy,
Head of Delegation of the Holy See,
in the General Debate of the Fourth International Conference on
Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)
St. John's, Antigua, 27 – 30 May 2024

Mr./Madam Chair,

The Holy See would like to express its gratitude to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for organizing and hosting the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) and to its people for the warm welcome.

This Conference is an opportunity to recognize the profound vulnerabilities and complex challenges that small island developing states (SIDS) face. The adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS is a momentous step towards renewed commitment and action by the international community. The Holy See would like to reaffirm its solidarity with SIDS as we mark a significant milestone on their path towards a more sustainable, equitable and secure future.

This week-long discussion also serves as a reminder of the escalating threats facing these islands. **For many SIDS, economic, social, and environmental development is largely dependent on natural resources.** It is becoming increasingly clear that rising sea, extreme weather events which are becoming more frequent and intense as a result of climate change, coastal erosion and biodiversity loss not only pose serious obstacles to SIDS'

development, but also amount to an existential threat, endangering the very existence of these irreplaceable island nations.

This unique combination of compounding vulnerabilities presents a challenge both for the SIDS and for the way in which sustainable development is measured and captured. In this regard, the Holy See welcomes the steps taken so far in establishing a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and looks forward to its timely implementation as a means of strengthening action on the path towards a sustainable future for all.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The pursuit of sustainable development is essential to the future prosperity of all SIDS. As we embark on a new programme of action for SIDS, facilitating the process of implementation is paramount. The Holy See holds that a bold approach to debt is an indispensable part of such support.

The escalating debt burden faced by SIDS is becoming more and more unsustainable. Debt obligations compel SIDS to make untenable choices between servicing mounting interest payments or allocating resources to invest in health, education, social protection systems and infrastructure. Moreover, debt perpetuates a cycle of dependency that hampers **SIDS'** ability to address pressing issues such as poverty eradication and climate change.

Debt relief or better more debt cancellation can give these Countries the fiscal space they require to invest in transformative programmes that meet the needs of their people. By alleviating the burden of debt SIDS can regain the freedom to pursue sustainable development pathways that uphold the dignity of all persons.

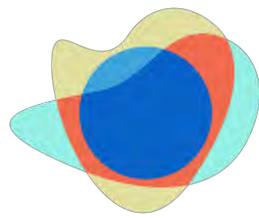
However, debt cancellation is not just a matter of economic or development policy, but a moral imperative rooted in the principles of justice and solidarity. Therefore, my Delegation echoes Pope Francis's appeal to wealthy **nations to** "acknowledge the gravity of so many of their past decisions and determine to *forgive the debts* of countries that will never be able to repay them."¹ As we usher in a new era for the development of SIDS, we urge developed States to rise to the challenge and consider debt cancellation as an enabler of 'resilient prosperity.'

Mr./Madam Chair,

The discussions at this Conference made it abundantly clear that the challenges facing SIDS are immense and multifaceted. However, in the midst of these challenges lie opportunities for bold action and radical solidarity. Now is the time to renew the sense of urgency and turn words into action and build a future where SIDS not only survive, but thrive.

Thank you.

¹ POPE FRANCIS, *Spes Non Confundit*, 16.



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Ireland – National Statement

FINAL

To begin with, I would like to express our condolences to the government and people of **Papua New Guinea** on the tragic loss of life in recent days. We have yet again seen the vulnerability to shocks that is a marked feature across small island developing states.

We have also seen, in **Haiti**, how insecurity can hamper freedoms and development, and how people can suffer as a result. We sincerely hope that peace and stability can be restored soon, and we stand with you in that.

Today is a momentous day for Ireland. Today the government of Ireland formally recognises the state of **Palestine**.

We will continue to work closely with the Palestinian Authority, and our EU and international partners, in creating a political path that can stop this horrific conflict and humanitarian disaster, ensure the release of all hostages, and realise a vision of a sovereign, independent Palestinian State – existing alongside the State of Israel in peace and security

Ireland's island nature has made us what we are, as a nation and as a people. Our size and our seas have always made it necessary to look beyond our shores – sometimes driven by wonder, sometimes by necessity.

This is the experience of islanders across the globe. We are wayfarers, seeking new bonds and opportunity. But in our seeking, we bring with us our spirit and experience, we

inherently understand the simultaneous distance and union of humanity, valuing the idea of home, wherever we may be.

When we gathered in Apia ten years ago, Ireland was at the beginning of a journey. We had long worked with our SIDS partners, sensing an inherent commonality of shared values, just as we share one ocean. We set out to form a stronger and more meaningful bond, weaving together strands of engagement to create a coherent and consistent partnership.

In 2019, Ireland hosted representatives from across all SIDS regions to launch our first National Strategy for Partnership with SIDS. We were one of the first countries in the world to develop a bespoke national strategy for SIDS. This was a catalyst for the transformation of our longstanding cooperation to a holistic and inclusive partnership - driven by our commitment to achieving the SDGs and our international climate action.

Last December at COP28 we launched Ireland's Second National Strategy for Partnership with SIDS. Developed together with SIDS. The Strategy comprises 57 commitments across four interlinking pillars – Building Our Partnership, Climate and Oceans, Capacity, and Advocacy – which align with the priorities of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

Ireland will work to further broaden and deepen our relationship with SIDS in all regions, putting in place structures and mechanisms to build a long-term and ambitious partnership.

We are working to ensure that the climate challenges faced by SIDS - and their ocean-related priorities - continue to be systematically reflected in our policy and funding decisions, including by strengthening ocean governance. We have been increasing our overall annual climate finance funding toward €225m per year and are ensuring it targets countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, prioritising SIDS.

Ireland is also proud to have an important role in shaping the Loss and Damage Fund.

Ireland will continue to develop tailored initiatives to strengthen capacity in our SIDS partners at country and regional level, and to facilitate their participation and roles in international policy discussions. Professional and education exchanges are strengthening our shared capacity and understanding and we are proud to now have a family of over 60 Ireland Fellows from 26 SIDS since we extended this programme for masters level scholarships to SIDS in 2020.

Ireland will continue to be an advocate for SIDS, using our influence within the UN, the EU, the OECD, the World Bank and elsewhere to ensure SIDS' needs and priorities are better understood and addressed.

A constant across the Strategy is a partnership approach. Earlier this year, for example, we opened a new Office for the Caribbean in Miami, with a specific mandate to deepen our relationships with this important region.

We are determined to deepen our dialogue and identify opportunities for cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum, consistent with the PIF's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

We are committed to supporting sustainable and inclusive economic development in SIDS, including through support for initiatives such as the SIDS Global Business Network, with the Forum this week representing an important element of our work here in Saint John's.

Importantly, we are also focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment in our regional partnerships, including through support for local community organisations.

Our new strategy also includes commitments in relation to culture, for example the protection of SIDS' cultural heritage, another key point of affinity between Ireland and our fellow islanders.

Ireland is honoured to have been appointed by the President of the UN General Assembly as co-chair of the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, along with Palau. As co-chairs, we hope that the Committee can be a meeting point to share experiences and support what we need most now - *implementation*.

We strongly welcome and endorse the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, but the real work starts once this conference concludes. Ireland will play its part in ensuring that we collectively track progress and ensure commitments are delivered on.

Our overarching commitment is to be a partner that is ready to listen, learn and respond as we continue to work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the ABAS commitments.

We have charted the course to the resilient prosperity of SIDS, let us now make the journey together.

Mr. Secretary – General,

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

It is an honor to speak on behalf of Belgium at this once in a decade opportunity. At a time when the rules-based multilateral system is under threat, the SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda ought to serve as an example that today's global challenges can only be met by multilateral responses, with every country engaged, no matter its size. Our priorities at SIDS4 must be threefold. First, we must address the unique challenges faced by SIDS. Secondly, we must continue the work enabling SIDS to enjoy prosperity, interconnectivity, and the full attainment of the SDGs in the long term. And third, we must allow the SIDS to fully deploy their potential and to play their rightful role in the protection of the world's oceans.

In terms of challenges, SIDS face specific vulnerabilities. SIDS are the frontline witnesses of climate change, despite being responsible for less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. They also bear the brunt of plastic pollution, environmental degradation and threats to biodiversity. The knock-on effects, such as food insecurity, are equally severe. Belgium stands as a partner across these fronts, hearing your voices, and engaging with SIDS not as victims, but as actors of innovation. Last year, Belgium contributed 6,68 million euros and very recently a further 4,2 million euros to the Systematic Observations Financing Facility, designed to close major data gaps for weather and climate observations with a focus on SIDS and LDCs. Belgium is also actively engaged in the fight against ocean plastics

pollution and cracking down on illegal fishing activity. During the Climate negotiations in Dubai, the SIDS and the EU were part of the alliance that managed to forge a breakthrough. Belgium also co-sponsored the resolution requesting an advisory opinion of the ICJ regarding States's obligations regarding climate change, and was the first country, along with Vanuatu, to criminalize ecocide.

As a seafaring country, Belgium maintains an active marine policy to protect the ocean and its biodiversity. Since 2005, our Project Office for the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Programme of UNESCO's 'Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission' (IOC) has developed into a hub of oceanic expertise. In 2019, Belgium launched the Blue Leaders Initiative, which advocates for protecting thirty percent of the world's ocean by 2030. Together with the SIDS, we were among the top promoters of a treaty for the protection of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Our joint endeavors have now been internationally endorsed in the BBNJ treaty. To continue putting our marine expertise at the service of oceans' protection, Belgium is offering to host the BBNJ Treaty's secretariat.

This conference serves as an opportunity to look forward to the unique contributions SIDS can make toward the SDGs. Next year, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first EU-OACPS cooperation agreement, which articulated the foundation of our partnership on sustainable development. Today, Agenda 2030 remains crucial; advances in technical know-how, digital connectivity, green technologies, decarbonization of transport, and innovative circular models, show that vulnerabilities can breed ingenuity.

We are also convinced that fostering women empowerment and gender equality are key to generating sustained economic growth. To pursue these objectives, you can keep counting on us. With 1 billion EUR per year, the EU is – and intends to remain – the second biggest partner for the SIDS. We are committed to keep exploring all possibilities to alleviate public debts, facilitate access to international development financing and attract private investments.

Throughout this Conference, let us show the world that, given their outsized potential for developing solutions to global challenges, SIDS, rather than “small” states, are actually Large Ocean Nations.

Belgium remains ready to engage with partners on pushing for the needs of the SIDS to be understood and resolved, and to elevating SIDS driven solutions that will contribute to the attainment of the SDGS for all.

I thank you.



SIDS4

Australia's National Statement

Date: TBC

Statement by H.E. Mr James Larsen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

Check against delivery

Excellencies and distinguished delegates;

Australia extends its condolences to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea and stands in solidarity as they recover from this tragedy.

Excellencies,

Australia has long been a champion and close partner of SIDS.



We have all benefitted from the leadership of SIDS in finding innovative solutions and driving action on sustainable development.

Excellencies,

SIDS are among the most remote and climate-vulnerable countries in the world.

SIDS have led the way on climate action for a long time. They have delivered significant global outcomes.

Because of SIDS leadership, the world is striving to keep 1.5 alive.

Because of SIDS leadership we are establishing a loss and damage fund.

And because of SIDS leadership we have groundbreaking legal initiatives through the ITLOS and ICJ Advisory Opinions.



SIDS leadership has also been influential in Australia's recent and significant step up in climate change action.

Australia is supporting SIDS leadership and innovative thinking in our immediate region.

I was pleased to hear our friends from the Cook Islands and Tonga highlight the importance of the Pacific owned and led Pacific Resilience Facility. Australia will make an anchor investment of \$100 million. We encourage others to invest alongside us.

We recognise the urgent need to invest in locally-led approaches which build resilience to climate change, reduce disaster risks, and respond to loss and damage.



And globally, we have re-joined the Green Climate Fund. And we have advocated strongly for SIDS to be at the front of the queue for both GCF and loss and damage funding.

But one of the most important actions the Australian Government is taking is to reduce Australia's own emissions and to build our clean energy industries and working with our key trading partners to help them transition their economies.

Excellencies;

Our understanding of the impacts of remoteness on SIDS has traditionally centred around supply chains and access to markets. We feel this does not comprehensively capture the breadth and depth of the challenges SIDS face.

The unique characteristics of remoteness add an additional dimension of vulnerability for SIDS.



Australia is committed to better understanding how to support states with these unique challenges.

Central to this commitment is Australia's long-held position that decisions about eligibility for international support mechanisms for SIDS should not rely solely on income measures such as Gross National Income [GNI].

Australia continues to advocate for an improved understanding of vulnerability across the multilateral system and international organisations. We see the UN Multidimensional Vulnerability Index process as an important first step.

Excellencies;

The “The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS [ABAS] – Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity” is anchored in the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs].



This programme of action is our blueprint to turn political commitments into action – for SIDS and with SIDS.

Engagement, commitments, and deliverables must be balanced across all dimensions of development: the economic, environmental, and social.

Climate action and resilience, biodiversity conservation, sustainable economic governance, data and statistics, and global partnerships are integral to our work. And they must be achieved with consistent respect for human rights, including gender equality.

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is essential for sustainable development.

If we closed the gender gap in economic participation, we would add at least twelve trillion US dollars a year to global GDP. Closing the gender gap would generate three times more money than the amount needed to achieve the SDGs.



Let me conclude by thanking the government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for your warm Caribbean hospitality and congratulate you on hosting this important Conference.

I would also like to acknowledge the substantial contribution of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Australia reaffirms our steadfast commitment to ensuring SIDS perspectives are genuinely heard and understood by all partners.

Thank you.

أصحاب خاصه و لامعالي فياسعاده

لاريدي لوريسي

لاريادات فياسعاده

في البدية اودت ونها دولة التيغوا وبودا تعيينه قطيم هذا لامقرن لعام لكم اود للترجي ب بكل لالش ارلهي نتهاي الهم للفقي في اعمال هذه الدورة من مقرن.

وفي هذالاصدد اود إشارة لى أنه رغم الاجمود الذي يبيه اصناع القرارات وجيع الفالهين تعيين مستوى لالعلم في هذا مقرن 1992 لمعني بالبيئة والتكنولوجيا من أجل تحقيق أهداف التقنية للمستدامة 2030، ال يزال ملتقى دمحي هذا المعاشر بطيئاً دون لمستوى نظر الله حي ات ولمنعقات لالاجمة عن لظروف لالعلم في نفس واعلاني لاريسيه والفقصاية والاتجاهات وألبيه والتسلق وتجي دون أنفسى لكن لاعوامل لالطبوعي كل مفع عالج غافيل هذه الدول ما يزيد من مخاطر التغير لالفاخي وخاصه تلوف اعم مستوى لالحر لالذوي عدد هذه الدول بالغرق.

كل هذه الاتفاقيات مشكلة ان لم يسبق طفي لالدول الاجزيرية ولم ما لالدول لاساليه عامة وخاصة لالاهيء هيها وزادت من صعوبه قي رفرصتنموية هناسيفت لهنف من بين المقدرات ولابطوج لى الخدمات المثلثة اعية.

ومما زاد لوضعيه ملقطه سوءاً موجات لاهجرة والتواترات أللبيه والعسركرية التي تتشدد هذه الدول، هذه لالإضطراف لالصالح المصالح ادى لاللغ لالذيل حقب هذه لالدان خاصة لئنه وبعد جلحة لتفيد 19.

لاريدي لوريسي

لاريادات حضور الكري

في هذا الإطار يندرج واجفنا لليوم مواصله الاجمود الذي يبتليناها ونهاه هذا مقرن بيرو 1992 ونكم الشاور ومشاركة آلراء من أجل تقويم التحول لامقترحات التي من شأنها أن تؤدي لى وضع استراتيجي اتفعله تقويم ماتم لجائزه بجهين موقع الطلع

ومح اولة للتغیب نھیه حجی ثیوقیع اني خرج ال موق مربخ طة متنقلیه مرکزه ونفق نھیه ا نھیه
المستوى ال حکومي لدلي ل تكون بمثابة هشاق يلهم ال جيعبه من أجل للن هوض وتحقیق
ا هداف للتنھیه

تمشي ا مع هذا للتوجیف ترحب بالدي جملة من التوصیات :

1- اصالح لنظام الاملاكي العللمي حيث أن لنظام اسنان دات لعلھیه والنظم المصرفیة أنتخف نھیه
لنھیه و فاینھیه اس واقل اسن دات لعلھیه والنظم المصرفیة أنتخف نھیه
الموال للفافیة لمرحلة "الحاق" بلانمو المتوفع من للتنھیه الممتداة، لكن هذا ل
يحدث بالیز الدفع الموال من اس واقل اسن دات ولینوك لعلھیه لى للدان لنھیه
ضریفیاً و لمھیاً المقتضی، وغير متقدّر حيث في عالم المقتضیون من للدان لنھیه
اسع ارفیدة سنويه ا نھیه بین 50% لى 10% غلباً مقارنة بتلكی فالقتراض التي
تتحقھیه ا للدان لنھیه، مذابلاً ضرافة لى بعی لليون وعجز لاكثر من للدان لنھیه
عن تسھیداً.

فيعد التمهیل شرطاً أساسياً للستثمار في رأس المال الشري لاصحة والتغییم، وللنھیه
الأساسيه فھی مجالت لطقه، والت حول لوقمي، وللقل، وللنھیه أساسياً فلاح ضریفة،
بسکلی راعي شروط الستدماه وخفف للثروت لنھیي.

2- بما أن للدان ال جزئی لنھیه وللدان لنھیه هي التمضرر الأول من الكوارث
الطبیعیة لناجمة عن للتغیر لفی اخي لذیی سببه الاحتباس الحراري للكوب وتلکب کم
و قعه ال جغافیف هي مددۃ أكثر من غيره لباتجاه لفیات حتس طح لم جیط، لیک
يجب حشد وتجیه لدعم حوالى للدان ال جزئی بشکل خاص وللدان لاس الحیة انھیه
تواجف فس لتهید حجیثی شیر ال خراء لى أن نظم وسط غصمة مویتیها مددۃ
بالغ رقیي أي وقت، لذای جب أن تكون ال جهود ال جماعیة مضطھفة أكثر من أي وقت
مضی من اجل ضمان ال حضور والمتنقل وأن ال بیان أحد عن لركب، خاصة
من خ في طور اللاحضین لقمة المتنقل المدققة في سبتمبر 2024.

وفي ال تمام اسمحولي أن أشير لى أن فاك لاكثر من ال مال لمعقدة نھیه
موقمنا هذا حيث عول سکان للدان لنھیه اال جزئیة وللدان لنھیه نھیي مخرجات
هذا ال موق مرتیس ا هفیي للتغییف من حدة أضرار للتغیر لفی اخي وفع للتحیات التي
تحول دون تحقیق ا هداف للتنھیه الممتداه ال جندة 2030

STATEMENT BY
H.E. MUHAMMAD RADZI JAMALUDIN
AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING
STATES (SIDS4)
SAINT JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
27 - 30 MAY 2024

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing Malaysia's utmost appreciation to the President of the "**4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)**", the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, for the excellent arrangements of the Conference, and the warm hospitality accorded to the Malaysian delegation.

Mr. President,

2. After ten years, we gather again to reflect on the challenges and progress made since 2014. This Conference, under the theme of "**Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity**" serves as a moment of introspection, as we confront the global challenges, especially in the fragile, uncertain economic climate, resulting from the threats of geopolitical instability in some regions of the world. SIDS4 will allow us to work collectively and cohesively in policy development and establishment of concrete action plans for the international community to address these challenges.

3. Malaysia believes that economic viability and sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) warrant our focused attention and special consideration. In this regard, Malaysia continues to support existing blueprints that we have adopted since 1994 and we look forward to adopting **The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity** at the end of this Conference. To achieve the goals outlined in ABAS, investing in human capacity building and technical assistance are very important.

Mr. President,

4. Soon after our last Conference in Apia, Samoa in 2014, Malaysia has fulfilled its pledge of USD 1 million in capacity building programmes for SIDS members, welcoming over 1,100 participants to Malaysia since 2014. These programmes have covered various areas such as public administration, management, science and technology, economy, and environment, based on the needs of the SIDS. We are confident that these programmes have played a pivotal role in empowering SIDS to confront pressing challenges such as economic instability, environmental degradation, and social inequality over the past decade.

5. Therefore, in the next decade, Malaysia wishes to renew its commitment for closer cooperation with SIDS in the spirit of the South-South Cooperation (SSC). Under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Malaysia will continue to provide capacity building and technical assistance programmes to be valued at USD 2 million over the next 10 years.

6. I concurred with the views expressed by speakers before me. Challenges faced by SIDS Member States are unique. To mitigate and address these challenges, Malaysia will work together with the Member States to identify technical assistance programmes that are tailored to the goals outlined in the ABAS blueprint. These will encompass areas such as science and technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM), renewable energy, food security, trade and investment, women and youth empowerment, all crucial for the advancement of SIDS.

7. Through these programmes, Malaysia aims to contribute significantly in building resilient economies; fostering safe, healthy, and prosperous societies; ensuring a secure future; promoting environmental protection and planetary sustainability; and advancing science, technology, innovation, and digitalization as envisioned by SIDS.

Mr. President,

8. Before I end my remark, I wish to reiterate Malaysia's firm belief in human capital investment by equipping the workforce with necessary skills and knowledge.

Human capacity building would not only aid in the communication and understanding of needs, but can also expedite in the effective execution of policies and bridge policy gaps.

9. As Malaysia is also preparing to assume the Chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2025, we are aware of even more challenges ahead of us. Technology has developed by leaps and bounds, hence it is timely that we take advantage of this platform to further strengthen our cooperation. In this regard, we look forward to working closely with SIDS in achieving the goals as outlined in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) - a Renewed Declaration of Resilient Prosperity, together for a prosperous and resilient future.

With that, I thank you, Mr. President.

***** END *****

648 words

**4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4),
Antigua and Barbuda, 27-30 May 2024**

Remarks of H.E. Theodore Tsakiris, Ambassador of Greece

**Plenary:
"Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity"**

Dear Excellencies, distinguished participants,

It is a great honour to address the Plenary of this high level Conference on SIDS. The theme of this conference "Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity" is highly relevant to the challenges facing both the SIDS and many EU member states. I would like to emphasize that Greece welcomes the designation of 2024 as the International Year of the SIDS, providing a key opportunity to mainstream SIDS perspectives on the international agenda.

My country, Greece, consists of over 29.000 islands and islets scattered in its surrounding seas. We have therefore great understanding of the challenges faced by SIDS across the three dimensions of sustainable development, alongside their propensity to climate shocks and natural hazards.

As we all know, many SIDS are exposed to the whims of the weather, leading to extreme meteorological conditions, also at the expense of economic stability and well-being. Vast maritime resources surround these island states, which figure among the most biodiverse places on our planet.

Distinguished Participants,

In the light of Greece's candidacy for obtaining a seat as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in the coming two years, the climate-security nexus is one of our priorities, exactly because we fully understand the implications posed by the rise in sea levels or the increase in temperatures. In addition, we are aware of the stark interrelation amongst security turmoil and disruptions in global value chains.

Three words are the compass for Greece's candidacy for the Security Council. Three words that start with "D", the Greek Delta: "Dialogue, Diplomacy, Democracy". In this context, we shall place particular emphasis on fostering respect to the principles of the UN Charter, international law and especially the law of the sea, as well as further advancing the UN's work on six priority areas:

- Peaceful settlement of disputes,
- Respect for International Law and the rules and principles of the United Nations Charter,
- Women, Peace and Security,
- Climate change and Security,
- Maritime security, and, finally,
- Children in armed conflict.

My country follows a consistent, rules- and principles- based, foreign policy. In this framework, as an EU member state, we stand ready to possibly act as a communication channel with regard to ensuring the promotion of SIDS' concerns at the EU level.

Cognizant of the adverse impact of the climate crisis on developing and developed economies alike, Greece remains committed to collective efforts towards the attainment of the Paris Agreement targets. In this context, Greece has initiated its efforts to decommission all lignite-powered plants by 2028, moving away from using fossil fuels.

A concrete example of how development cooperation efforts with broad-based partnerships (private sector and government) promote the green and digital transformation of Greek islands refers to the so called "GR-Eco Islands Initiative". This Initiative aims at promoting sustainable development, green economy, energy autonomy, decarbonization and digital innovation in the Greek Islands by 2030. It constitutes an innovative policy approach that can inspire and instigate change being duplicated in related contexts across the world, and certainly in SIDS. The "GR-eco Islands" Initiative, together with other initiatives, will lead Greek islands to a sustainable development pathway and Greece to a leading position in the overall EU efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

The vision translates into a series of ambitions that are distinguished in eight focus areas:

- Climate neutrality and adaptation to climate change impacts,
- Energy transition,
- Sustainable resource management,
- Environmental protection,
- Entrepreneurship and innovation,
- Digital transformation,
- Accessibility,
- Human resource empowerment

To achieve these, various concrete interventions will need to be implemented on the islands to be funded through targeted subsidies and custom-made programs, with more than 150 M EURO secured already from European funding sources. In its pilot phase, the "GR-eco Islands" Initiative focused specifically on small, non-interconnected and/or isolated islands, defining a group of islands that meet population criteria, taking also into account the plan for their electrical connection to the mainland system, their natural resources, their environmental and climate profile, their energy needs, tourist traffic and their accessibility.

Furthermore, Greece organized with an overwhelming widely acknowledged success the 9th "Our Ocean Conference" (OOC-9th), in Athens, on 16-17 April 2024, gathering more than 3500 participants from 130 countries and 10 International Organizations. The Youth Leadership Summit of the OOC-9th which was held on April 15th, assembled participants from more than 60 countries, setting the tone for future actions. Bringing together governments, academia and private sector, in order to make concrete, cost-evaluated and with exact deadline commitments to protect the ocean, the 9th Our Ocean Conference closed with 469 new commitments worth at least USD 11,35 billion.

Distinguished Participants,

This is a critical moment for the existence of SIDS. For some, by the time of the next conference (in 2034) the effects of climate change may have reached a point of no return. Greece is committed to playing a constructive role during and after the 4th International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4), across the four priorities identified:

- Resilient economies;
- Safe and prosperous societies;
- A secure future;
- Environmental protection and planetary sustainability.

Looking ahead, Greece as other EU m-s are committed to strengthening its partnership with SIDS through cooperation and dialogue, technical assistance and capacity development support, building on agreements at the 2023 SDG Summit and SIDS4 to ensure a successful Summit of the Future in September 2024. We look forward to further cooperate with partners at bilateral and multilateral level to working for the benefit of SIDS.

Finally, I would like to stress that there can be no sustainable development without security and vice versa. In pursuing a rules-based global order, adherence and respect to international law provisions and principles remains imperative. We do have the UN Charter, we do have UN Conventions, such as the UN Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS). We need to focus on implementing the provisions and fulfilling the universal aspirations of such legal texts. For instance, Greece reaffirms its intention to ratify the Agreement under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), prior to the UN Ocean Conference 2025.



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT (5 mins)

**General Debate of the
4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States
(SIDS4)**
27-30 May 2024 | St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda

To be delivered by
Mr. JESUS ENRIQUE G. GARCIA II
Minister and Head of Delegation
Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York

Mr. President, Excellencies,

We thank the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the gracious hospitality and arrangements made for this historic 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, for which we made a modest financial contribution.

Our hearts and sincere condolences go out to the victims of the tragic landslide in Papua New Guinea and their families.

Excellencies,

The Philippines stands in solidarity with SIDS.

We welcome the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS – a comprehensive program of action for continued international

support for the fulfillment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and beyond.

The Philippines appreciates the work of the co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee, the Maldives and New Zealand, in steering the finalization of the outcome document in New York.

We recognize that SIDS are the **primary authors of their story**, and it is **their voices and unique needs and aspirations**, we must heed, in the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda.

In a spirit of friendship and South-South cooperation, the Philippines is committed to working closely with SIDS to enhance resilience, innovation, and sustainable development.

The Philippines and SIDS are at the frontlines of the climate crisis despite being least responsible for it. Extreme weather events, such as typhoons and hurricanes, and rising sea levels, adversely impact communities, livelihoods, and infrastructure – stretching limited resources and capacities.

As an archipelagic and maritime nation, we are one with SIDS in promoting **the primacy of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea** and calling for resolute climate action in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and climate justice. The far-reaching consequences of climate change are realities we share with SIDS as we present our candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2027-2028.

With 19.1% of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones, SIDS are partners in bolstering ocean governance and preserving marine biodiversity.

The Philippines joined the requests made by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) for Advisory Opinions from the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of states in relation to climate change.

And, as a member of the inaugural Board of the Loss and Damage Fund, we are a partner in strengthening financing mechanisms and compensation for losses attributed to climate change.

We strongly support calls for reform of the international financial architecture, and concessional financing and debt relief for SIDS, including middle-income SIDS.

Excellencies,

Our common challenges create opportunities for strengthened collaboration.

The Philippines will host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in October this year, and will work with SIDS in building resiliency anchored on inclusion, locally-led action, and accessible financing. As we leverage data-driven tools and technologies for disaster management, we look forward to sharing knowledge and good practices with SIDS, including in early warning systems, data collection, and digital inclusion.

The Philippines can also share its experiences in sustainable tourism that preserves cultural heritage and empowers local communities, including the youth and indigenous peoples, for economic development and environmental protection.

The Philippines hopes to make meaningful contributions to the national and collective efforts and journeys of SIDS in achieving the SDGs and ensuring growth, peace, stability and prosperity of their societies.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our unwavering friendship and support to all SIDS as a development partner for a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable international order in which no one, **especially no SID**, is left behind.

Thank you.



4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)
27-30 May 2024 - Antigua and Barbuda

Delivered by: H.E. President Surangel Whipps Jr.

Mr. Chair, Secretary General, Excellencies, Colleagues,

I'd like to begin by expressing our deepest condolences to the people of Papua New Guinea in the wake of the recent catastrophic mudslide that has tragically claimed thousands of lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. Mr. Chair, I also wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to you, the people and government of Antigua and Barbuda for your exceptional warmth and hospitality.

Mr. Chair, in my country we have a saying "A ungil el merreder a ua chull el melemedem ra daob." It translates to "a good leader, like rain, stills the ocean." We islanders know that rain falling during an ocean squall often seems to wipe away the winds and still the ocean. The issues we face from climate change are evocative of an ocean squall - the sea level rise that threatens our shores, the storm surges that have encroached our lands and polluted our aquifers, our hot, warming ocean that has bleached our corals and impacted our livelihoods.

We are all too familiar with the rhetoric about the challenges we face with climate change that we have brought to many high-level meetings, and we have now brought to Antigua & Barbuda. It is here that we adopt ABAS and focus on solutions.

Mr. Chair, Palau as the Co-Chair of the Ocean Panel, we know of the ocean's promise as a solution for us SIDS. Palau is incredibly proud to be the first country to have ratified the BBNJ Treaty. Twenty years in the making, we now have an instrument as a global community for protecting biodiversity in the high seas. The high seas are 64% of the global ocean, and it is the tie that binds us. We call on all countries to ratify BBNJ, so we can reach the threshold of 60 countries for it to enter into force. But Mr. Chair, it would be ineffective to protect the water column in the high seas and embark on unregulated deep sea mining. Therefore, we also call for a moratorium on deep sea mining until a regulatory framework is set with science-backed evidence.

At a regional level, Palau, together with our Pacific Island neighbors was also proud to launch the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity at COP29 in the UAE. [16] pacific island nations came together in agreement to conserve at least 30% of our land and

sea, in line with the Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework. The Pacific had the political will to make this investment, but we won't be able to implement it without partners. We thank the Bezos Earth Fund's fast commitment to making this initiative a reality. We are calling on our partners to join them to help us implement this Plan, with a goal to raise \$[500]M, by this August in time for the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in Tonga. Inaction has a cost, ladies and gentlemen; we have ABAS agreed. This plan is a great effort towards the implementation of it, and we call on the global north for your commitment and support to help us reach our goals and shared prosperity. Mr. Chair, we are honored to be the Chair of AOSIS next year, and we feel the gravity of guiding our SIDS family in implementing ABAS. But like rain, it isn't a single raindrop that stills the ocean. It is many MANY droplets, with sustained effort, that finally calms the waves. We call on us as leaders to collectively calm the ocean, so as SIDS we can set sail to a resilient and prosperous future.

Thank you.

Excellencies, colleagues,

My keywords here today are urgency, opportunity, and collaboration.

Urgency based on science and the need to drastically reduce emissions and tackle the devastating impacts of climate change on people's livelihoods and security today. The most vulnerable – oftentimes with the smallest carbon footprints – are hardest hit, not least Small Island Developing States.

Opportunity based on the new jobs and growth that the transition to climate neutrality brings.

Collaboration as global challenges require global solutions. We need to accelerate the implementation of past joint commitments and raise ambitions to ensure the necessary green transition, allow for enhanced adaptation efforts and build resilience.

The science is clear. We all need to set policies that ensure that we collectively limit the global temperature rise by cutting emissions and phasing out fossil fuels. Sweden aims to be climate neutral by 2045 at the latest, with negative emissions beyond that. I encourage other countries to beat us in the race to climate neutrality.

We might have different timelines and pathways to net-zero. But our common goals are clearly defined in the Paris Agreement. Limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees, build more resilient societies – and

transform financial flows in support of those goals. In this regard I want to express my appreciation for the critical role SIDS play in the global discussions on climate. By speaking with one joint and loud voice you push the world to take decisions that are brave and ambitious. To this end, Sweden is your partner.

Sweden stands with the most vulnerable to enhance adaptive capacities, build resilience globally and respond to losses and damages associated with climate change.

Sweden is a leading donor of climate finance, in both absolute terms and relative to our size. And the government has committed to increase its climate-related ODA even further and to enhance its effect, strengthening synergies with innovation and trade. However, to reach the scale of finance needed for the green transition we know that our development cooperation must be truly catalytic and mobilise more private capital. Official development assistance will never be enough.

As a leading donor Sweden is working within the major climate funds to simplify procedures and enhance access to climate finance. Those most in need should be first in line!

Excellencies, colleagues, friends,

When tackling climate change, all actors – government, development partners and the private sector – have their roles to play. We must jointly develop enabling environments with reduced risks and increased

incentives for the private sector to invest in a green and just transition and provide decent work opportunities.

We must also work together to transform all financial flows and enhance the efficiency of the international financial system to achieve the green transition and to better take into account climate-related risks and opportunities. Sweden welcomes new tools such as the World Bank's Climate Resilience Debt Clause and the progress made on the UN Multi Vulnerability Index.

Let me end by also stressing the importance of the Ocean, something SIDS know best of all. You depend on the Ocean and the Blue economy for your survival. To protect the Ocean and marine ecosystems and advance sustainably produced blue food is vital in the fight against climate change, both in terms of mitigating emissions and in building resilience against a changing climate. Sweden is proud to have pushed for the importance of the Ocean in the climate change negotiation process and to be a founding member of the “Friends of Ocean and Climate”-group. We are also proud to have hosted – together with Fiji – the first UN Ocean Conference.

To Antigua and Barbuda— thank you for hosting us for this important conference.

To all participants –, let this conference be one of collaboration to deliver for SIDS.

To all civil society actors and businesses – we look forward to hearing your voices, inspiring us to do more, faster, together.

Let us embrace the urgency and opportunities of climate action.

Thank you.



Solomon Islands Government's National Statement on 4th International Conference on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).

Theme: "Charting the course toward resilient prosperity"

27th – 30th May, 2024

Mr/Madam President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me convey warm greetings from the Government and the people of Solomon Islands to the SIDS family and everyone here. Thank you Antigua and Barbuda for the generous hospitality accorded to us thus far, and congratulations for successfully hosting this SIDS landmark event. We also commend the support of the UN DESA & UNOHRLLS, for the successful execution of this 4th SIDS Conference.

Mr/Madam Chair, allow me to join in sharing our deepest heartfelt condolences, to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, for the tragic landslide disaster, that resulted in the loss of innocent lives recently in Papua New Guinea. Our thoughts and prayers goes out to the affected families and wantoks during this difficult time.

Mr/Madam President,

This week marks a significant milestone in the journey of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), in determining and shaping the future that we collectively want. We're further encouraged by the forward-looking perspectives shared thus far since the conference started.

We are here in beautiful Antigua and Barbuda, to endorse the bold and forward looking, Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) for the next 10 years. ABAS provides the basis to reinvigorate our shared commitments, and forge renewed dual partnerships for implementation that will bring transformative changes to SIDS.

Mr. President,

The world we live today is vastly different to when SIDS first gathered in Barbados and Mauritius or in Samoa 10 years ago. The impact of increasing multidimensional crisis, pandemics and conflicts contributed immensely to most of our countries' record of being off track in achieving the SDG targets. After three decades and three programmes of actions, SIDS development trajectory is still characterised as follows; First, it remains a special case for sustainable development. Second, SIDS continue to be disproportionately exposed, to external shocks that occur with increasing frequency, and causing damage that not only, impede overall socio-economic progress achieved, but often reverses the hard-earned development gains made.

Climate change continues to exacerbate this volatility and vulnerabilities. While the challenges persist, they are not insurmountable with SIDS's determination.

Solomon Islands is confident that ABAS provides the vision for 'Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity' for SIDS. This framework provides the platform, for transforming these challenges into opportunities, through durable partnerships with targeted result-based interventions and investments.

Be rest assured of Solomon Islands support.

Mr. President

For Solomon Islands, our National Development Strategy, 2016-2035 remains the key framework for Sustainable Development. Like other SIDS, our national economy had been hit hard by internal and external economic shocks. Our graduation out of the LDC category has been delayed on several occasions as well.

A mid-term review of the National Development Strategy was undertaken last year. The review report prioritized key transforming sectors infrastructure resilience, digital connectivity, technology transfer, investment, trade and energy reforms, as the way forward to ensure a resilient, sustainable and irreversible graduation process. Solomon Islands will present its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the upcoming High Level Political Forum in July 2024. The outcome of these two processes will inform the country's, Smooth Transition Strategy in readiness for graduation in 2027. We are committed to align the ABAS to our national development

framework, and to establish a mechanism that would render oversight on its implementation domestically.

Mr/Madam President,

SIDS are the stewards of the resources representing 16% of the world's exclusive economic zones. It also hosts some of the world's richest ecological diversities for both land and sea. These have helped to build thriving sectors in tourism and fishery in many SIDS.

Our Pacific Islands region has the largest and healthiest stocks of tuna in the world. In 2022, the value of the tuna catches, taken by national fleets of the Forum Fisheries Members was US\$1.8 billion. This highlights the significance of tuna fisheries to the Pacific Islands region, in sustaining the livelihoods of Pacific peoples and strengthening economic recovery in our national economies. In recognition of the unique opportunity Fisheries provides to SIDS economies, the Solomon Islands Government in collaboration with the Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Office of the UN Envoy for Oceans, will hold a Summit on SDG14.4 in Honiara in early 2025. The focus will be on the sustainable management of the fishery resources in SIDS. This Summit will reinforce the importance placed, for the sustainability and effective conservation of marine and land resources in the Programme of Action. Furthermore, it will serve as a springboard to highlight fishery management issues leading to the 3rd UN Ocean Conference.

Plastic pollution is a major concern for our environment as well and Solomon Islands calls for the timely conclusion of the negotiations of the proposed Treaty on this.

Mr/Madam President,

Climate Change remains the greatest existential threat, to the wellbeing and livelihoods of our people and communities.

Solomon Islands is located in hot spot, where the impact of climate change is three times the global average. The 2021 World Risk 4 Report, identified Solomon Islands, as the second most exposed country to disaster. Addressing Sea level rise, ocean acidification, frequent flash flooding and intense cyclones, places immense financial pressure on the Government and it keeps us on constant recovery mode. We have a runaway climate change increasing SIDS vulnerabilities. In this connection, Solomon Islands welcomes the convening of the High-Level meeting on Sea Level rise and the Climate Summit in September this year.

Mr. President,

Given the persistent challenges faced by SIDS, its economic resilience will be dependent on access to affordable financing and transformative partnerships to translate ideas into actions. Like many SIDS, for Solomon Islands to reach its development objectives, affordable and sustainable finance that is fit for purpose, tailored to the small size and capacity constraints, needs to be provided to propel our economic recovery.

Solomon Islands struggles with high debt levels and the debt servicing obligations only reduces further government's provision of necessary basic services. In short, it is the people who are paying the price. We therefore support the call for debt restructure for SIDS.

In addition, these persistent systematic and the cross dimensional vulnerabilities of SIDS necessitate the reform of the international financial architecture. Solomon Islands supports the call for the establishment of a SIDS permanent seat in the decision making body, within the international financial architecture to ensure inclusivity. In a similar manner, we support the call for the adoption of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and its operationalization and effective implementation.

Other financing mechanisms, such as Loss and Damage facility needs to be resourced and less restrictive on its conditions, to enable greater accessibility by SIDS.

Mr. President,

The successful implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda is our collective responsibility. Solomon Islands acknowledges the continued support and commitment from our development partners in the implementation of our National Development Strategy. We look forward to renewed engagement in transformative partnership models, focused on initiatives to drive economic growth, resilience, and sustainability. This is critical for improved delivery of health care systems, social services, opportunities for education and strengthening of national institutions.

Solomon Islands acknowledges that the SIDS Partnership Framework is a useful platform for catalysing new and innovative actions for the implementation of ABAS for the next decade.

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands support the ABAS vision for institutionalizing the review process under the HLPF, which will ensure measured progress annually against commitments made. We further support the call for a Secretary General's progress report because it encourages greater accountability and transparency for SIDS, the partners and the stakeholders.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Solomon Islands reaffirms its cooperation and solidarity, with the SIDS family for the successful implementation of the ABAS. We have a great opportunity to make transformative changes in the lives of our people and humanity. Let's seize that opportunity - starting here at St. Johns.

I thank you Mr. President.

Discours de l'Ambassadeur Chanfi Issimaïl, Représentant Permanent des Comores auprès des Nations Unies prononcé à la 4e Conférence International des Petits Etats Insulaires en Développement, tenue du 27 au 30 mai 2024, à Saint John's, Antigua et Barbuda.

**Excellence Monsieur le Président de la 4^{ème} Conférence International des Petits Etats Insulaires en Développement,
Excellences Messieurs les Chefs d'Etats et de Gouvernement,
Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs et Chers collègues,**

Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs

Assalam Anlekum... !

Le Président de l'Union des Comores, son Excellence Monsieur AZALI Assoumani, m'a chargé de vous transmettre, ainsi qu'aux membres des délégations ici présentes, ses meilleures salutations et ses vœux de succès et de réussite, dans la conduite des travaux de cette conférence, très attendue, sur le thème « **tracer la voie vers une prospérité résiliente** ».

Etant retenu au pays, dans le cadre de son investiture pour un nouveau mandat de cinq ans, Son Excellence Monsieur AZALI Assoumani m'a crédité de l'honneur et du privilège de vous livrer le message de son Gouvernement.

Mais avant d'entamer mon allocution, permettez-moi, au nom de ma délégation, d'adresser au peuple et au Gouvernement de Papouasie-Nouvelle Guinée, ainsi qu'aux familles éprouvées, nos très sincères condoléances et notre sympathie, à la suite du terrible éboulement survenu dans ce pays frère, ayant causé la perte de milliers de vies humaines.

Permettez-moi, ensuite, au nom du Gouvernement de l'Union des Comores, d'adresser nos chaleureux remerciements aux Chefs d'Etats et de Gouvernement et aux délégations des pays amis et des partenaires au développement, qui ont bien voulu, de leur présence, rehausser l'importance de la cérémonie d'investiture organisée à Moroni, le 26 mai 2024.

Permettez-moi, enfin, de remercier le peuple et le Gouvernement d'Antigua-et-Barbuda, pour l'accueil chaleureux et fraternel réservé à nos délégations depuis notre arrivée en cette belle capitale de Saint-John's, et pour les excellentes dispositions prises, en vue de garantir le bon déroulement et le succès de nos travaux.

Je saisir cette opportunité pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, au nom de ma délégation, pour votre élection à la présidence de ces travaux d'importance planétaire. La délégation de mon pays vous assure de son plein soutien.

Monsieur le Président,

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Cette conférence, en ce lieu symbolique pour des échanges portant sur le devenir des Petits Etats Insulaires en Développement, est l'aboutissement d'un long processus.

Un processus qui a pris son premier souffle en 1992, avec l'élaboration de la Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques.

C'est à cette phase que s'est manifestée la nécessité d'une prise en compte des défis de développement des P.E.I.D qui, comme nous le savons tous, sont les plus exposés aux effets néfastes du climat.

En 1994 à la Barbade, en 2004 à Maurice, et en 2014 à Samoa, se sont tenues successivement, la première, la deuxième et la troisième Conférence Internationale des Petits Etats Insulaires en Développement.

Après le Programme d'Action de la Barbade et la Stratégie de Maurice, la conférence de Samoa a dégagé une ligne de conduite ambitieuse : « La voie à suivre de SAMOA ».

Cette voie a pris en considération la particularité des Petits Etats Insulaires en Développement, en matière de développement durable, compte tenu de leurs vulnérabilités uniques et particulières.

L'adoption de cet accord intergouvernemental, équilibré et frappé du sceau de l'ensemble des Etats-Membres, a été considéré comme un succès par les P.E.I.Ds qui ont noté, avec satisfaction, la prise en compte des circonstances spéciales et des vulnérabilités inhérentes à leur condition commune, échappant à leur volonté et à leur contrôle.

Monsieur le Président,

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Si des efforts louables et des avancées notables peuvent être relevés dans la mise en œuvre des orientations adoptées par

ces différentes conférences, il n'en demeure pas moins que le chemin à parcourir pour l'atteinte de nos objectifs fixés, reste encore très loin.

Voilà pourquoi la présente Conférence doit être celle de l'Engagement de tout un chacun, celle de l'Espoir pour tous, celle de la Voie enfin trouvée.

D'abord, nous devons prendre en compte tous les paramètres de développement des P.E.I.Ds, et être capable d'ouvrir, en leur sein, les portes d'un présent et d'un avenir possibles, réels et tangibles.

Ensuite, nous devons permettre aux Etats Insulaires en Développement de participer, activement et pleinement, aux efforts en cours dans le monde, en vue de réaliser les Objectifs de Développement Durable.

Ainsi, devons-nous donner aux P.E.I.Ds les moyens de tracer cette voie nouvelle, vers une prospérité résiliente, en investissant dans de nouvelles décennies de partenariats et de solutions rendant irréversible leur engagement résolu dans la voie du développement harmonieux et durable.

Par ailleurs, il nous faut examiner, de près, la fragilité et la dépendance des économies des P.E.I.Ds, en définissant les moyens leur permettant, à la fois, de construire des économies durables, et de mieux faire face aux défis, tels que le Changement climatique ou encore les conflits géopolitiques.

Dans cette démarche, le rôle des Nations Unies et des partenariats publics-privés est essentiel pour réaliser et renforcer, cette résilience économique.

Les domaines clés de soutien incluent, le renforcement des capacités, la résilience climatique, l'énergie durable et l'économie bleue.

En effet, les répercussions économiques et sociales de la COVID-19, et le poids de la dette continuent à affecter lourdement les économies des P.E.I.Ds.

Sachons, Mesdames et Messieurs, que la prochaine décennie sera cruciale pour ces États. Et que, dans la voie que nous traçons aujourd'hui, une attention particulière devra être accordée à la protection et à la valorisation des écosystèmes naturels, tels que les récifs coraliens et les mangroves.

Ces écosystèmes sont essentiels, non seulement pour préserver la biodiversité, mais aussi pour la protection contre les catastrophes naturelles.

Il va sans dire, que le développement d'une infrastructure résiliente au climat, en particulier pour les transports maritimes et aériens, est primordial, pour maintenir le commerce et soutenir le tourisme.

Encore une fois, ces efforts doivent être accompagnés de partenariats internationaux solides et de stratégies adaptées aux aux réalités spécifiques de chaque Etat Insulaire pour garantir un avenir prospère et durable.

**Monsieur le President
Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,**

En quittant cette conférence, les P.E.I.Ds doivent se sentir fortement confortés, dans leur aspirations légitimes, à plus de participation à la marche actuelle du monde.

Je remercie et félicite, au nom de l'Union des Comores, toutes les équipes qui, dans nos pays respectifs et au niveau du Secrétariat Général des Nations Unies, ont œuvré d'arrache-pied, pour nous soumettre une déclaration finale, qui prend en compte l'ensemble des défis auxquels sont confrontés les P.E.I.Ds, dans une approche mettant en avant notre ambition commune et légitime, pour des P.E.I.Ds en plein essor.

Ainsi, l'Union des Comores souscrit entièrement à cette déclaration et demande que, dans nos conclusions, une mention soit accordée à « La Déclaration de Moroni » sur l'économie bleue.

Nous souhaitons, effectivement, qu'un appui conséquent soit mobilisé en faveur de la mise en œuvre des orientations adoptées, le 14 juin 2023 à Moroni, à l'issue de la Conférence Ministérielle sur « l'Economie Bleue ».

Cette Conférence a mis l'accent sur l'Economie Bleue et l'Action pour le Climat en Afrique, avec un focus sur l'initiative de la Grande Muraille bleue.

Elle a souligné la nécessité de protéger les pays africains des effets du changement climatique et des catastrophes naturelles, en renforçant les communautés côtières et insulaires locales.

Elle a, enfin, mis en évidence, l'importance stratégique de la collaboration des États pour mettre en œuvre cette Économie Bleue.

**Monsieur le Président,
Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Pour conclure, permettez-moi de souligner qu'il est crucial, que la présente conférence sache, se distinguer, de toutes les autres, et qu'elle nous engage, tous, sur des objectifs clairset mesurables, dans le temps.

Rappelons-nous, en effet, que pour les Peuples qui vivent sous la menace du niveau de l'élévation de la mer, il ya urgément, urgence ! Car, la prochaine vague pourrait bien être la dernière.

Il est vrai, que le contexte post covid 19, est particulièrement sévère pour une mobilisation optimale en faveur des P.E.I.Ds.

Toutefois, face aux vagues qui menacent d'engloutir des pans entiers de notre cité commune, nous n'avons pour atout que notre sursaut collectif et l'affirmation, du degré le plus élevé, du potentiel, de notre instinct de survie!

C'est là, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, où nous en sommes aujourd'hui.

Et, dans ce combat qui est désormais le nôtre, il n'y aura de succès que par l'union efficace des Nations.

Je vous remercie.



SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, BOLA AHMED TINUBU
GCFR, THE PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN CHIEF OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AT THE
4TH NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES HELD IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA FROM
27TH – 30TH MAY, 2024.

PROTOCOL

Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Esteemed Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honor to address this august assembly at the 4th Nations International Conference on Small Island Developing States. As we gather under the theme "*Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity,*" we must remind ourselves of the collective responsibility to support the sustainable development of small island nations that face unique and devastating challenges.

2. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are at the frontline of global environmental crisis due to climate change and other factors such as pollution and loss of biodiversity. Despite contributing less than one 1% percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, these nations suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change resulting to rising sea levels, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and the degradation of marine ecosystems. These factors pose existential threats to the livelihoods and cultures of millions of people in these region. Innovative adaptation strategies as well as robust international support and partnerships are essential to enhance and build resilience in these vulnerable islands.

3. Nigeria stands in solidarity with SIDS and is committed to contributing to global efforts aimed at mitigating climate impacts and promoting sustainable development. Despite these challenges faced by SIDS, they also have opportunities to move towards a green economy, they possess both unexploited terrestrial and oceanic natural resources such as fish stocks, minerals, potential pharmaceutical products, renewable energy such as wind, sun, ocean, wave, hydro and geothermal. If harnessed properly, SIDS have the potentials to take a lead in defining models of sustainability

and human well-being whilst moving towards a Green Economy. Nigerian Government addressed environmental issues such as pollution and flooding in our major island in Lagos state by establishing and empowering Government Ministries and Agencies that are related to environment to implement robust waste management programmes.

4. Ladies and Gentlemen, the challenges faced by small island developing states are a reflection of broader global issues that require collective action. By supporting SIDS, we are also advancing the broader agenda of sustainable development and environmental stewardship. We must collaborate with SIDS and prioritize investments in climate resilience infrastructure which includes building sea defenses, developing early warning systems, and implementing sustainable land and water management practices. Collaboration with international financial institutions and the private sector is essential to mobilize the necessary resources. The economic vulnerabilities of SIDS are exacerbated by their heavy reliance on tourism and external markets. Diversifying their economies through the promotion of sustainable industries, such as renewable energy, fisheries, and agriculture, can create more resilient economic structures.

5. Access to concessional financing is critical for SIDS to address their development challenges. We must advocate for tailored financial mechanisms that recognize the unique circumstances of SIDS and provide them with the fiscal space needed to invest in sustainable development and create more climate resilient environment. Strengthening regional cooperation among SIDS and fostering partnerships with larger economies can drive innovative solutions and share best practices. Nigeria is committed to working with SIDS and other nations to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity-building initiatives.

6. In conclusion, let us reaffirm our commitment to the principles of equity, justice, and shared prosperity. The Lands, Water and Air all belongs to humanity and together, we can chart a course toward a more resilient and sustainable environment for our future and generations to come.

Thank You and God Bless.



Intervención del Excelentísimo Señor Raúl Li Causi, Viceministro para el Caribe de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

durante el Debate General de la

“Cuarta Conferencia Internacional sobre los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo: Trazar el rumbo hacia una prosperidad resistente”

St. Johns, Antigua y Barbuda, 28-30 de mayo de 2024

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Señor Presidente,

1. Permítame, primeramente, transmitirle el afectuoso saludo del Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros quien, a su vez, hace votos por el éxito de este histórico encuentro que representa una oportunidad privilegiada para que la comunidad internacional apoye a los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo en su camino hacia el logro pleno del desarrollo sostenible.
2. Asimismo, expresamos nuestra solidaridad y condolencias a la población de Enga, Papua Nueva Guinea, por las devastadoras consecuencias del deslizamiento de tierra que lamentablemente cobró vidas humanas y ha generado el desplazamiento de miles de familias papúes.
3. En ese mismo orden, quisiera también, en nombre del Pueblo y Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, expresar nuestra satisfacción por la impecable organización de esta Conferencia Internacional, así como agradecer al hermano pueblo y gobierno antiguano, con el cual nos unen profundos lazos históricos de amistad y cooperación, sus innumerables muestras de hospitalidad y generosidad para con nuestra delegación. Tengan por seguro que Venezuela siempre estará agradecida con la región caribeña.

Señor Presidente,

4. El mundo en desarrollo enfrenta hoy enormes desafíos para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible en sus tres dimensiones. Desde el cambio climático, que se constituye en una amenaza incluso existencial para los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, pasando por las crisis alimentaria y energética, la degradación ambiental, hasta los graves desequilibrios macroeconómicos y el aumento de la deuda externa. Resulta una tarea con serios retardos y desigualdades que debe ser ejecutada por los países potencias, que son los principales depredadores y beneficiarios de los recursos naturales de nuestras poblaciones, causando en ese proceso daños irreparables, repercutiendo negativamente en nuestras poblaciones y especialmente, en nuestra calidad de vida.
5. Ante ese escenario, marcado por una crisis global multifacética, que, sin duda alguna, tiene un impacto más pronunciado sobre los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, nuestro llamado es a redoblar los esfuerzos solidarios y la cooperación internacional, especialmente con nuestra hermana región del Caribe quienes sufren el impacto de las consecuencias de la voracidad económica de países potencias contra los recursos de nuestro Caribe, las cuales se hacen evidentes en las fuertes sequías, inundaciones, el cambio climático y las bruscas variaciones de la temperatura y la progresiva destrucción de nuestras especies marinas y submarinas.

Señor Presidente,

6. Ciertamente, el cambio climático es uno, sino el principal, desafío que enfrentan hoy los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo. Se trata de una realidad que profundiza la vulnerabilidad de las islas y las zonas costeras, incluyendo como resultado de la subida del nivel del mar. Es por ello que resulta fundamental que los países desarrollados cumplan sus obligaciones y compromisos, y que asuman sus responsabilidades históricas, especialmente respecto a los medios de implementación, incluyendo para la mitigación y la adaptación, y en lo que tiene que ver con el financiamiento del Fondo por Pérdidas y Daños.
7. Por otra parte, no podemos dejar de referirnos al impacto negativo que sobre los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo tienen, sea directa o indirectamente,

las medidas coercitivas unilaterales que son hoy aplicadas contra más de treinta países y que afectan la vida diaria de más de un tercio de la humanidad. Estas medidas criminales, violatorias de toda norma del derecho internacional y de la propia Carta fundacional de las Naciones Unidas, no sólo socavan los esfuerzos nacionales en materia de desarrollo, sino que pretenden limitar el comercio, la cooperación, la transferencia de tecnología, la asistencia técnica y otros tantos elementos que resultan vitales para que los países del Sur Global podamos lograr nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo. Desde esta tribuna, reiteramos, pues, nuestro llamado al levantamiento completo, inmediato e incondicional de estas mal llamadas sanciones que son hoy aplicadas contra Cuba y Venezuela.

8. Es preciso mencionar que desde la República Bolivariana de Venezuela por medio de la Diplomacia Bolivariana de Paz se han realizado múltiples esfuerzos y alianzas inéditas para cooperar entre todos nuestros Estados caribeños y del mundo, en pro de nuestro desarrollo y bienestar, de salvaguardar la integridad de nuestros recursos y garantizar el futuro de nuestras poblaciones.

Señor Presidente,

9. Concluimos reafirmando nuestro compromiso de apoyar soluciones innovadoras, eficaces e inclusivas, que contribuyan a honrar nuestra promesa de no dejar a nadie atrás antes de que sea muy tarde para actuar, evitando un costo mayor para las generaciones del futuro y que, en ese sentido, los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo alcancen resultados tangibles que les permitan no sólo hacer del derecho de sus pueblos al desarrollo una verdadera realidad, sino también fortalecer y expandir la cooperación Sur-Sur, la cual es fundamental para alcanzar a tiempo los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.

Mr President,

- Let me start by fully endorsing what has been said here on the outstanding hospitality extended to us by the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda. My congratulations and expressions of gratitude, on behalf of my government, are addressed in particular to His Excellency the Prime Minister and his government, as well as to the Secretariat of the United Nations, for their joint efforts in organizing this important Conference. I would like to acknowledge also the relentless efforts by Ambassador Rabab Fatima and her team, as well as the staff of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, led by Mr Li Junghua, so that we achieve a successful outcome of this process.
- Brazil's participation at this debate testifies to our commitment in deepening the dialogue and partnership with all Small Island Developing States. Our longstanding relations with their governments are a reflection of the bonds among developing countries. We firmly believe that many opportunities are open to strengthen our ties, not only on global issues such as climate change and the reform of the international financial system, but also on South-South

cooperation, notably on our common quest in fighting poverty and ensuring health and food security.

- This Fourth International Conference is an important and necessary follow-up of previous international deliberations held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa. Although much has been achieved in the last three decades in advancing sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, challenges are ever more defying given the effects of climate change and limited resources available. Under the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the international community ought to intensify efforts to support SIDS in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in tandem with other developing countries.
- The Antigua and Barbuda Strategy shall be a crucial milestone in advancing our common endeavors in this sense. We recognize how hard and delicate was the preparatory process, which demanded a collective effort to reconcile national positions and priorities with the legitimate demands of SIDS, grounded on their needs and interests. Fortunately, we were able to come to

this Conference with a consensual outcome document, which reflects a common platform for further action within the United Nations and beyond.

- The priorities set out by the Brazilian G20 presidency – just energy transition, poverty and hunger eradication and global governance reform – are fully in line with and supportive of the new Agenda. On that note, we hope that SIDS will engage wholeheartedly in initiatives to be launched by Brazil in the context of the G20, particularly the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty and the Call to Action on Global Governance Reform, which will be open for all countries to join.
- I also note that Brazil has placed the oceans agenda, including the BBNJ Agreement, front and center on our sustainable development program at the G20. This is another area in which we look forward to exploring synergies with our SIDS partners.
- Brazil also recognizes the imperative of sustainably using and conserving our oceans in light with the three dimensions of the sustainable development, namely social, economic and environmental. This is

particularly important to the ongoing discussions in the International Seabed Authority on moving from exploration to the exploitation of the resources of the seabed, based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including sharing benefits of the common heritage of humankind, while paying due consideration to the protection of the marine environment.

- In light of our unequivocal commitment with the provisions of UNCLOS, Brazil has decided to nominate Ms Leticia Carvalho for the position of Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, at the elections to be held in Kingston, Jamaica, during the 29th Session of the International Seabed Authority scheduled for July 2024. Brazil is recognized for its human and technological capacities in the exploration and exploitation of deep-sea resources.
 - The candidacy of Ms. Carvalho is the natural corollary of Brazil's commitment to the ongoing discussions of the Authority. The election of Ms. Carvalho shall bring a fresh breath for the International Seabed
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Authority, where open-mindedness and capability of hearing and dialogue are fundamental to its institutional strengthening.

- Moreover, Brazil's candidacy pays the due regard to the principles of geographical rotation, representativeness and gender balance expected at ISA, including at the most senior levels. The honourable position of Secretary-General has been previously occupied by nationals from Fiji (1996-2008), Ghana (2009-2016) and the United Kingdom (2016-present).

The time has arrived for a national from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, according to well-established practices of geographical balance.

Mr. President,

- Another key area in which SIDS and Brazil should enhance dialogue and cooperation are the ongoing discussions around deep-sea mining. We share the view that it is crucial to ensure long-term sustainability for our oceans and all those who depend on them, most notably SIDS.

- Brazil is committed to strengthening international cooperation for the sustainable development of SIDS, in special those in the Caribbean, both bilaterally and through regional organizations. Under the Technical Cooperation Agreement between Brazil and the Caribbean Community, signed in 2010, we are negotiating possible initiatives in water resource management, health (including Human Milk Banks), school feeding and labor, as well as trainings in risks and disaster management. These proposals shall address common challenges faced by the Caribbean states, including those regarding food insecurity and climate change.
- Brazil and the Association of Caribbean States have finished drafting an agreement on technical cooperation, due to be signed in July this year, which will support the implementation of a future Brazil-Caribbean Cooperation Program. The initiatives that will comprise this Program shall encompass areas of interest to the Caribbean region, such as the commercial use of seaweed, sustainable tourism and risks and disaster management.

- In closing, let me express how glad we are that the Conference is living up to the broad ambition and expectations reflected in ABAS. You can count on my government's support to its thorough follow-up.
- Thank you, Mr President.

Intervention orale de S.E. Rita Häggerli-Weschke, représentante de la Suisse, lors de la 4^{ème} conférence des Nations Unies sur les petits états insulaires en développement.

St. Johns, Antigue et Barbude, 27 mai 2024, à partir de 15 :00.

Tirer parti de la résilience : Le fondement du développement durable pour les petits États insulaires en développement

Madame / Monsieur le Président,

C'est un honneur pour moi que de prendre la parole à cette occasion. Nous sommes ici réunis pour mettre en lumière plusieurs des défis auxquels les petits États insulaires en développement sont confrontés. Permettez-moi d'aborder deux points que je trouve particulièrement importants : la réduction des risques de catastrophe et le changement climatique.

Dans un contexte où le déficit de financement est significatif, le financement du climat, de la réduction des risques de catastrophe et de la biodiversité devrait être prioritaire dans les pays et communautés les plus vulnérables, y compris les petits États insulaires en développement, les pays les moins avancés et les pays touchés par la fragilité et les conflits.

En effet, la réduction des risques de catastrophes et le renforcement de la résilience sont essentiels pour les petits États insulaires en développement en raison de leur vulnérabilité aux catastrophes naturelles et aux effets du changement climatique.

La Suisse aide ces États insulaires à renforcer leur résilience, notamment par le biais de l'initiative [CREWS](#) (Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems), un mécanisme qui aide

les petits États insulaires en développement et les pays les moins avancés à développer les capacités humaines nécessaires afin d'identifier les risques climatiques et météorologiques et les communiquer en temps voulu et de manière efficace, contribuant ainsi à réduire de manière significative les impacts humains et économiques des événements extrêmes liés au climat.

En tant qu'hôte et coprésidente de la 8^{ème} session de la Plate-forme mondiale pour la réduction des risques de catastrophe, qui se tiendra à Genève en juin 2025, la Suisse invite les représentants des petits États insulaires en développement, gouvernements et autres acteurs, à participer activement aux discussions en vue d'accélérer la mise en œuvre du Cadre de Sendai. Il s'agit également de partager les bonnes pratiques pour mettre en œuvre des appels à l'action. Ils joueront un rôle crucial en apportant les principaux enseignements tirés du renforcement de la résilience dans les petites nations afin de contribuer à la plateforme mondiale pour la réduction des risques de catastrophe en 2025.

Pour terminer, Monsieur / Madame le Président, laissez-moi mentionner le réseau de Santiago, dont le secrétariat sera hébergé à Genève, en Suisse. Il peut jouer un rôle central dans la promotion de la résilience à long terme des petits États insulaires en développement en facilitant le partage des connaissances et le renforcement des capacités, en fournissant une assistance technique, en promouvant l'innovation et le transfert de technologies, et en renforçant la coopération régionale.

Merci de votre attention



Apresentação / Intervenção quarta Conferencia Internacional de SIDS em St. John, Antigua and Barbuda, May, 2024

Hon. Melford Nicholas, Minister of Information, Communication Technologies (ICTs), Utilities and Energy, Antigua and Barbuda

Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships, IRENA

H.R.H. Prince Jaime de Bourbon de Parme, Climate Envoy of the Netherlands

Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, on behalf of the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe and on my behalf, I greet and thank IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) for inviting me to this side event of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island States, which is another moment of reflection for all member countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Like some SIDS, São Tome and Príncipe has a heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, despite sufficient renewable energy resources that can be fully developed to meet its energy needs. In fact, the energy sector is one of the fundamental pillars for growth and the promotion of sustainable development in STP.

However, these same challenges can be considered as justification for the increasing development of its potential to face the desired energy transition, given that electricity production capacity in recent decades has been predominated by diesel generation.

Although the country is limited to government funding to reach the level of implementation of renewable energy, some mechanisms and strategies have been developed by the Government together with partners with regard to the implementation of the necessary measures to accelerate the decarbonization of the energy sector and thus fulfill the expected energy and sustainable transition, with emphasis on IRENA, but that is still insufficient.

In addition, São Tomé and Príncipe intends to actively contribute to the recommendations of the Conferences of the Parties (COP), based on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

However, Sao Tome and Principe was chosen as the demonstration site for the development and deployment of the world's first commercial floating Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) platform, a 1.5-megawatt power plant called "Dominique". But in order for us to achieve the objectives of this project, we have to work together on the next critical step to put the "Dominique" in the ocean, whether they are private financing or development partners who care to meet climate causes, taking into account SIDS as the most vulnerable.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is moment, as it serves as a platform to provide partnerships and facilitate support for decarbonization in island States and overcome human, technical and financial capacity limitations, and to seize existing opportunities to

promote innovative, integrated and inclusive solutions for a green and blue transition in a sustainable way.

I believe that these actions are necessary to facilitate fair, equitable and accessible financing mechanisms, in a gender-balanced approach, with a view to strengthening climate resilience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

São Tomé and Príncipe always counts on the collaboration of IRENA and others, in various aspects, especially in applications of Renewable Energies and Technological Solutions, Financing, Training and Studies. We are confident that this is the right way to be aligned with the common gain for global environmental sustainability, particularly for the future of the energy transition at the level of SIDS.

I am also pleased to say that my presence here is precisely to demonstrate that my government, with less than 2 years of governance, is actively integrating projects related to renewable energies and energy efficiency. In the field of renewable energies, we are promoting investments in solar thermal, solar photovoltaic production at the level of distributed generation and ocean generation, but specifically in Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion. And in Energy Efficiency we are focusing on clean cooking and electric mobility. And regarding them, we already have the strategies and plans prepared for their implementation, but only the financing is missing to be materialized.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While we are hopeful that finance institutions and development banks will join us in responding to our request for climate finance, we are moving forward with our loyal partners. We, the SIDS, know for sure that the ocean is our last and most abundant resource that can "chart the path to resilient

prosperity" and "revitalize the economies of SIDS for accelerated and sustainable growth", which is the theme of this Conference, in several aspects, but I highlight here the part that concerns renewable energies.

Before concluding, I would like to thank our good friends and leaders of the financial institutions and development banks responsible for supporting our sustainable development for a great deal of attention, in order to support the financing of the fight against climate change, of the SIDS.

I would like to conclude by reiterating the wishes of thanks and the commitment of IRENA and others present here to strengthen international cooperation in the field of energy and climate with Sao Tome and Principe.

"The transition to renewables is not just a choice, it's a necessity for a sustainable future."