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Agenda item 18 (b)

**Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation
of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)
Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the
Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2024

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/79/437/Add.2](#), para. 16)]

**79/203. Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated
Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius
Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of
Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island
Developing States**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity,¹ which sets out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States and which will guide the international community's collaboration and partnership with small island developing States over the next decade,

Reaffirming also the continued applicability of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,² the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States³ and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁴ and noting that despite the considerable progress small island

¹ Resolution [78/317](#), annex.

² Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

³ Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.



developing States have made over the past three decades the vision of these programmes of action remains unmet,

Recognizing that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁶ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁷ and the Paris Agreement,⁸ as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁹ the New Urban Agenda¹⁰ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹¹ and that implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States will enable small island developing States to make progress towards these agendas,

Reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development due to their unique vulnerability to exogenous shocks owing to, *inter alia*, their small size, geographical remoteness, highly dispersed populations, the limited scale and undiversified nature of their economies, high dependence on external markets, and extreme exposure to disasters and natural hazards and the effects of climate change,

Noting with concern that, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of multiple crises, in particular environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks, small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, which has fallen from 4.5 per cent to approximately 2.3 per cent in 2023, and their external debt sustainability deteriorated in 2023 as external debt service surged by over 50 per cent year over year and public and publicly guaranteed debt service rose by 33.4 per cent year over year, with the ratio of total debt service to export revenues in small island developing States rising to 20.3 per cent in 2023 from 12.6 per cent in 2022, and with the liquidity buffer of reserves to short-term external debt continuing to decrease, to 133.1 per cent in 2023 from 152.4 per cent in 2022, in stark contrast to the average from 2000 to 2023 of 200.7 per cent, making small island developing States particularly vulnerable to external financial shocks,

Acknowledging the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

Noting the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, owing to their unique characteristics, dependence on and particular exposure to the ocean and its biodiversity, and noting also the central role of the ocean in the culture, livelihoods and sustainable development of the peoples of small island developing States,

Noting with concern the uneven progress towards achieving sustainable development and that, with five years remaining to implement the 2030 Agenda, small island developing States, which are inherently and uniquely vulnerable, are off track

⁵ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁶ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁸ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁹ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

¹⁰ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

¹¹ United Nations Environment Programme, document [CBD/COP/15/17](#), decision 15/4, annex.

to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and therefore reaffirming the aspiration of small island developing States to achieve a resilient form of prosperity, where economic growth and well-being are sustained and their economies are robust, diversified, adaptable and able to withstand shocks, ensuring social equity and promoting environmental sustainability,

Welcoming the hosting of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda, from 27 to 30 May 2024, and the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the facilities, staff and services provided to support the Conference and for the warm hospitality and generosity extended to all participants,

Expressing its appreciation to partners for their contributions in kind and to the trust fund for small island developing States, to the members of the Bureau of the Conference, to the Secretariat of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Special Adviser for the Conference, the specialized agencies, the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes, for their contributions to the success of the Conference,

Welcoming the launch of the Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which includes a small island developing States data hub, a technology and innovation mechanism and an Island Investment Forum, and the global small island developing States debt sustainability support service, by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda,

Acknowledging the importance of advancing small island developing States' priorities in all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Baku from 11 to 22 November 2024, and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, including the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, to be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Seville, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2025, and the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar from 4 to 6 November 2025, and the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2 to 4 December 2026, and noting the convening of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹²

¹² [A/79/527](#).

2. *Welcomes* the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, and calls for its full, timely and effective implementation;
3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the call to action on mobilization of resources for small island developing States¹³ and its call on leaders of international financial institutions, development banks, United Nations entities, the private sector and donor partners to take concerted and urgent action to enable small island developing States to finance implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;
4. *Calls upon* the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner, in line with their commitments to support the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;
5. *Encourages* the international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to incorporate the priorities of small island development States, as outlined in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, into their relevant strategic and programmatic documents, in line with their respective mandates, and to ensure representation and participation of small island developing States, as well as other developing countries, in decision-making in their institutions;
6. *Reiterates* the request to the United Nations development system entities to integrate the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States into their strategic plans and workplans, including through United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks at the country level, in accordance with their mandates;
7. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;
8. *Looks forward* to the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence,¹⁴ and reiterates the call for the Centre to collaborate with universities, academic institutions, regional organizations and the private sector to avoid duplication and ensure coordinated and coherent support for small island developing States;
9. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions, development partners and the private sector to contribute technical assistance, capacity-building and expertise, as well as financial resources, to support the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence;
10. *Invites* the international community to support the Centre's dedicated small island developing States debt sustainability support service to enable sound debt management and devise effective solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term, building on and avoiding duplication with relevant dedicated initiatives;

¹³ Launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda on 28 May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda.

¹⁴ The Centre of Excellence includes a small island developing States data hub, a technology and innovation mechanism and an Island Investment Forum, and the global small island developing States debt sustainability support service.

11. *Emphasizes* that the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, to be developed by the inter-agency task force, should promote national ownership of the Agenda and drive accountability, and in this regard looks forward to the development of the framework no later than the second quarter of 2025, in line with paragraph 38 of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, and invites the inter-agency task force to consider opportunities for the Centre of Excellence to contribute to the framework;

12. *Takes note* of the call for a coordination mechanism for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea small island developing States to support the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, and in this regard further reiterates the request to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish dedicated small island developing States divisions, within existing resources, to coordinate monitoring, evaluation and reporting for that region, in accordance with paragraph 41 of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;

13. *Continues to be concerned* about the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, reiterates that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multiannual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, *inter alia*, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macrofinancial stability;

14. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolution [78/322](#) of 13 August 2024 on the multidimensional vulnerability index, calls for the full and effective implementation of its mandate, and in this regard notes that small island developing States look forward to participating in the piloting of the index, and encourages the participation of other interested developing countries as well;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the partnership initiative between the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Alliance of Small Island States launched at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States aimed at delivering solutions to some priority areas for small island developing States, encourages other new, innovative and bold approaches to partnership to support the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, acknowledges the important role that the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework is playing in monitoring the progress of partnerships, and in this regard reiterates the request to the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, including through the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States, to present recommendations for the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework and the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network and its Forum;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to use the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, hosted by Costa Rica and France, to enhance the capacity of small island developing States in ocean conservation and sustainable use, as outlined in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;

17. *Looks forward* to the convening of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain;
18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, beginning from 2026, to submit an annual report to the Economic and Social Council, and to the subsequent session of the General Assembly, on the follow-up to and implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, for their further consideration;
19. *Reiterates* the request to the Secretary-General, within his annual report to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session on the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, to present proposals to ensure a coordinated, coherent and effective United Nations system-wide capacity-development approach to small island developing States and to enhance the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, including a potential single entity dedicated to small island developing States in the Secretariat;
20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, and on the implementation of the present resolution;
21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity”.

*54th plenary meeting
19 December 2024*
