



**Zero Draft Outcome Document:
Fourth International Conference on Small Island
Developing States**

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I. The SIDS Story

1. In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, we, the international 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. This was further promulgated in the first decennial United Nations conference on SIDS in Barbados in 1994, and was subsequently reiterated at the second SIDS conference in Mauritius in 2005 and the third SIDS conference in Samoa in 2014.

2. After three decades and three programmes of action, we are concerned that SIDS given their unique vulnerabilities remains a special case for development. We note the remarkable successes and progress that they have made over these years and recognize and welcome in this regard, the ownership, leadership and considerable efforts that have been demonstrated by SIDS, along with the support provided by the international community.

3. We further recognize that during this period, SIDS have and continue to provide stable and democratic governance for their citizenry, and have strived to provide productive economies and safe societies throughout unrelenting turbulent global times, they were heavily affected by two¹ “once in a generation”, crises that struck in 2008 and 2020, while grappling with even more intense and frequent disasters and natural hazards. In addition, they have assumed leadership roles in areas such as finance, climate change and plastics, and are stewards of the ocean, including by managing 16.1 percent of the world’s Exclusive Economic Zones and the resources they hold. SIDS have paved the way for many of the most progressive movements in these areas in policy development and the establishment of concrete actions in the multilateral arena.

4. We acknowledge that SIDS are inherently and uniquely vulnerable to exogenous shocks and that 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. Recognizing vulnerability does not mean that SIDS exhibit weakness or lack potential for development. Rather, it means that they are disproportionately exposed to external shocks that occur with greater frequency and cause damage – whether in terms of physical destruction or economic losses – on a relative scale that is far greater than elsewhere.

5. We remain concerned that SIDS are facing the unrelenting and compounding impacts of climate change, disasters and natural hazards, health and other social related challenges and economic vulnerabilities, as well as the progressive deterioration in their ability to withstand external shocks and enhance their resilience. Successive global crises, along with the COVID-19 pandemic have further exacerbated and negatively compounded the sustainable development of SIDS. At the same time the international financial architecture does not adequately account for their unique development predicament and makes accessing concessional development finance and climate finance difficult, in turn aggravating their fiscal constraints and, in many cases, indebtedness. All of these constraints continue to impede their overall progress and reverse hard-fought development gains, will have far-reaching and potentially enduring consequences. The special case of SIDS must continue to be recognized by the international community and must take into account these new and emerging challenges.

¹ Financial Crisis and COVID-19 Pandemic

6. We emphasize that SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the threats and adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise, which represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, and express deep concern that the impacts of climate change on SIDS could have possible implications to their security, including humanitarian, economic, social, cultural and ecological consequences on their sustainable development.

7. We recognize that the next ten years are critical to SIDS' existence, and that the Fourth SIDS Conference comes at a crucial juncture in their history, and without the full support of the international community, SIDS will endure potentially far-reaching consequences. A new context is emerging wherein the economic, geopolitical and environmental threats to small island development are so great that they can only be ameliorated by a reinvigorated enabling environment that gives meaningful effect to their special case for sustainable development. SIDS aspire to a resilient form of prosperity, that is reflected in healthy environments and sustainable development for all in their countries, where economic growth and well-being are sustained and their economies are robust, adaptable and able to withstand shocks, ensuring social equity, and promoting environmental sustainability. We commit to support SIDS on their path to achieving sustainable development, where the prosperity of today does not compromise the possibilities of tomorrow.

8. We reaffirm the continued applicability of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) adopted in 1994, the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) of 2005, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway of 2014 as blueprints setting out the sustainable development priorities of SIDS.

9. We recommit to the full and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant intergovernmentally agreed development outcomes, and we emphasize that global progress in the implementation of these agreements need to have positive dividend for SIDS.

10. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

11. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the participation of civil society, the private sector, youth and other relevant stakeholders, firmly reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS.

12. We recognize that the future of SIDS is increasingly dependent on the capacity of the international community to unite and act as one against challenges and threats, now and in the future, ensuring sustainable development and towards achieving shared and resilient prosperity for all people, leaving no one and country behind.

13. We commit to pursuing long-term sustainable development and resilient prosperity for SIDS and will support them as they exercise full ownership of their new agenda and seek to establish partnerships as equals, upholding values of equity, mutual respect and cooperation and promoting benefits across priority areas in their new 10-year agenda.

14. We recognize that in order for SIDS to achieve sustainable development and resilient prosperity, we must strengthen productive capacities, upholding social justice and cohesion, and assuring the wellbeing of all, and by undertaking resolute climate action. Towards that end, SIDS need strengthened governance including efficient resource management, data and innovation capacities, digital transformation, strategic partnerships, continued and enhanced access to financing and a conducive regional and global context in order to achieve resilient prosperity.

15. We resolve to advance their vision of sustainable development and resilient prosperity by transforming their inherent multidimensional vulnerabilities of smallness, remoteness, and high exposure to adverse impacts of climate change and other external shocks into opportunities through targeted, results-focused interventions and investments as follows:

II. What Do SIDS Want?

A. Resilient economies

16. We acknowledge that despite advancements in economic development and domestic resource mobilization, SIDS remain highly dependent on strategic imports such as fuel, food, industrial supply and emergency medical services, while exports remain limited primarily to tourism and labour. As a result, fiscal imbalances and extensive reliance on remittances and development assistance make SIDS highly vulnerable to external shocks.

17. We emphasize that high debt levels, limited fiscal space and challenges accessing finance are major constraints to sustainable development and growth in SIDS access to affordable borrowing to refinance outstanding debt obligations, pay for imports, recover from disasters and invest in sustainable development is a critical component in SIDS achieving resilient prosperity.

18. We commit to take the following actions to strengthen resilience and foster economic diversification in SIDS, while harnessing the potential, and recognizing the linkages among, inter alia the ocean-based, creative and digital economies, including the establishment of the *SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub* at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in Barbados and its role in providing support towards SIDS-SIDS Cooperation, capacity building and knowledge exchange in line with its objectives:

i. Economic diversification

a. Support SIDS to build their productive capacities, including by supporting the undertaking of National Productive Capacities Gap Assessments (NPCGAs) and implementing Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programmes (HPCDPs) to address the gaps and limitations in SIDS respective productive capacities;

b. Invest in higher productivity sectors including in advanced technologies and digital economy to provide better paying jobs for people in SIDS and reduce brain drain and labour mobility; and

c. Support SIDS in designing prioritized trade and investment strategies to consolidate market opportunities in existing sectors and markets, and identify opportunities for economic diversification to reduce vulnerability.

ii. Trade and investment

- a. Reinstate previous preferential access to international trade markets and optimize the utilization of existing preferential market access, increasing the preferential trade treatment developing countries, particularly SIDS, receive for their goods and services, and developing trade rules that take into account the special circumstances of SIDS;
- b. Strengthen local, national, and regional institutions as well as the regulatory and domestic policy environment and trade facilitation bodies in SIDS in order to strengthen the capacity of SIDS to interact with and influence norms governing international trade, such as the World Trade Organisation and foster enabling business environments for private sector investment, entrepreneurship, cooperatives and enterprise development, especially for women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and youth, and promote trade that is conducive to the attainment of sustainable development;
- c. Provide capacity building for resource mobilization, investment flows monitoring, firm-level data collection and analysis, as well as trade related support to strengthen investment promotion agencies in SIDS to attract stable and development-conducive foreign direct investment and other private capital flows, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and legislation;
- d. Support the biennial Island Investment Forum in the SIDS Center of Excellence as a dedicated platform for promoting sustainable economic development in SIDS by promoting investment opportunities, knowledge exchange, and collaborative initiatives, addressing the unique challenges faced by SIDS and contributing to their long-term resilience and prosperity; and
- e. Encourages the review and reform of old-generation investment treaties that are in force for SIDS, where desired, with the aim of safeguarding policy space to pursue sustainable development objectives, climate action and a rapid, just, equitable and secure energy transition for SIDS.

iii. Tourism

- a. Promote resilient and sustainable tourism, targeting a range of sectors, minimizing pollution and waste, de-risking investments and modernizing the sector and related up and downstream services, including addressing the negative impacts on local populations in this context, welcome the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 77/269 designating 17th February each year as Global Tourism Resilience Day, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of sustainable tourism;
- b. Develop creative and innovative employment solutions, including for informal workers, to provide resilience to the workforce, taking into account national circumstances; and
- c. Enhance entrepreneurship, education and training in cultural and heritage management and preservation, and in specific domains of the creative industries, as well as promote and invest in the resilience of cultural heritage, traditions and customs, assets and infrastructure.

iv. Ocean-based economy

- a. Assist in pursuing the opportunities in the context of the sustainable ocean-based economy, including in relation to fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture, marine and coastal tourism, environmentally friendly maritime transport, ocean renewable energy and mineral and other related resources, smart shipping and ports, finance and high-integrity blue carbon markets, trade of blue carbon credits in regional and global exchange markets, ocean conservation credits and employment generation for inclusive growth;
- b. Establish public-private sector partnerships and appropriate capital market instruments and provide technical assistance to stock exchanges and security market regulators to enhance bankability and feasibility of sustainable ocean-based economy projects in SIDS;
- c. Create and support an enabling policy environment such that diaspora remittances, investment, skills and experience can be maximized for innovation, economic development and diversification, including the development of the ocean-based economy and a shift towards environmentally sustainable practices and technologies for SIDS; and
- d. Assist SIDS to harness the demographic dividend by equipping youth with skills to pursue opportunities in traditional, emerging and innovative economies, including ocean-based economies, and support youth-driven startups, providing financial backing, mentorship, and resources to cultivate a new generation of entrepreneurs and steer SIDS toward economic resilience and diversification through innovation.

B. Safe and prosperous societies

19. We stress the need to support the efforts of small island developing States in promoting peaceful, prosperous, inclusive societies and safe communities on their paths toward sustainable development.
20. We acknowledge that health and social protection systems remain inadequate in SIDS, posing a threat to sustainable development and economic productivity and disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable.
21. We acknowledge that SIDS continue to face capacity constraints due to their unique and particular vulnerabilities, which, in turn, limits the effectiveness and quality of the performance of their public sector.
22. We highlight the need to prevent, prepare for, and respond to current and future pandemics, other health emergencies, and the risk of climate change.
23. We remain concerned that poverty, including extreme poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion continue to disproportionately affect people in vulnerable situations, particularly women, children and youth and persons living with disabilities, reducing the potential productive capacities in SIDS. These challenges are compounded by youth unemployment, loss of skilled and semi-skilled labour, through labour mobility, and gender inequality.

24. We therefore commit to:

i. Strengthen health systems

a. Strengthen health systems, with primary health-care (PHC) at the core, to ensure equitable and timely access to quality health-care services in SIDS, in order to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), leaving no one behind;

b. Expand access to domestic and international financing to strengthen health and nationally-appropriate social protection systems in SIDS, including through the integration of climate and health policies and the One Health approach and other holistic approaches;

c. Enhance health emergency preparedness in SIDS to better cope with future epidemics, pandemics and climate change-related health impacts through capacity building, upgrading of surveillance and early warning systems, and adapting sustainable infrastructure and equipment so that it is climate-resilient, low-carbon and sustainable;

d. Integrate essential non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health services into PHC and UHC and provide assistance, including inter alia financial and capacity building support to SIDS to prevent and address the impact of NCDs and mental health conditions, including in support of the Barbados Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health, as well as enhancing health literacy to promote health lifestyles and preventive measures to address NCD risk factors, including unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol, tobacco use and exposure to air pollution and addressing the linkages between the environment and nutrition;

e. Recognizing the important contribution that the promotion of eye health can make to accelerating action towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, establish a integrated and whole-of-government approach to address the growing challenges of vision impairment in SIDS, particularly myopia and other preventable conditions, including integrating comprehensive eye care services as part of PHC and UHC; and

f. Build and sustain a trained, skilled, efficient and motivated health workforce in SIDS that provides essential and specialized health-care services at all levels.

ii. Strong institutions

a. Increase public participation, including by promoting civic education and engaging civil society organizations to actively participate in policy and budget decisions, including by establishing citizen participation mechanisms by creating spaces for dialogue and public consultations;

b. Strengthen coordination among government institutions, invest in continuous education and training and professional development programs for public servants, and build public sector skillsets for the future, including in improving the agility of public service delivery; designing systems to generate effective policies and investment decisions; incorporating e-governance and digital solutions and working beyond traditional boundaries to unify capabilities across agencies, sectors and society;

c. Boost state capacity to effectively implement policies through the strengthening of public sector reforms, improving transparency, introducing and strengthening electronic government (E-Government) as a means of overcoming accessibility, scale and dispersion of population, bridging the digital divide and supporting the institutional capacity of local and national government institutions; and

d. Support small island developing States' efforts in strengthening national and regional institutions to combat transnational crime and violence, including drug trafficking, and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, taking into account the varied national circumstances of small island developing States.

iii. *Achieve gender equality, empower youth and leave no one behind*

a. Promote and protect the full realization of the human rights of women and girls, address discrimination and develop and implement action plans to eliminate violence against all women and girls;

b. Increase women's leadership, and promote their meaningful and effective participation and representation at all stages of decision-making processes;

c. Invest in policies and programmes in productive capacities, education and social skills of the youth that would also address emerging issues among boys and young men, taking into account national circumstances;

d. Involve youth in decision-making processes, including through youth councils, advisory committees, supporting youth-led initiatives and by creating opportunities for engaging youth in development;

e. Promote and protect the full realization of the human rights of people with physical, sensory, cognitive, psychosocial and intellectual disabilities in SIDS and enable their participation and representation in decision-making, addressing stigma and discrimination, eliminating violence, and increasing their access to economic opportunities, education and health care;

f. Strengthen adaptive social protection systems to promote the realization of equity and equality, particularly among the most vulnerable, including to women, children, youth, persons living with disabilities and the elderly;

g. Invest in developing the skills of and fostering opportunities to pursue alternative livelihoods for communities displaced by disasters or climate change, ensure their financial, economic and social inclusion so that they can leverage their talent and ideas to contribute to their new communities; and

h. Support the advancement of sports as an important enabler of sustainable development, including for its growing contribution to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.

C. A secure future

25. We recognize the need to provide SIDS with access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy, particularly renewable energy, as they are facing significant barriers related to accessing finance, cost of capital, and upskilling and reskilling workforces needed for a rapid, just, equitable and secure energy transition. In this regard, we will ensure that there is adequate financing, transfer of technology and capacity building from developed countries to SIDS.

26. We recognize that various anthropogenic pressures and the effects of climate change, as well as global shocks continue to impede water, food and energy security.

27. We acknowledge that the adverse effects of climate change, including, inter alia, erratic precipitation, increasingly frequent and extreme weather phenomena, more frequent and severe tropical cyclones, floods and drought, diminishing fresh water resources, desertification, land degradation and sea-level rise can lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, and large scale displacement, particularly affecting women, children, ethnic minorities and the most vulnerable and potentially contributing to the risk of conflicts. We further acknowledge the need for appropriate actions to be taken by the UN system and the international community to address this situation.

28. We stressed the importance of enhancing inter-island connectivity and linking the economies of small island developing States to regional markets and global supply chains, including by integrating them into existing and emerging maritime and multimodal transport and economic corridors, and encouraging sustainable transport initiatives to support SIDS in this regard.

29. We acknowledge that collectively these challenges impact the sustainable development of SIDS and impede their secure future.

i. Renewable energy

a. Urgently enhance just energy transition partnerships, upscale investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, particularly renewable energy infrastructure, technology and training, and addressing the underlying barriers in accessing and mobilizing finance, including enabling environments and regulatory frameworks;

b. Develop SIDS-specific technologies and applications for renewable energy deployment and reduce the cost of capital for renewables in SIDS; and

c. Provide support to overcome the structural barriers that hinder a just, resilient and equitable energy transition, including grid stabilization and upgrading.

ii. Water-food-energy

a. Develop policies, legislative frameworks, institutional and human capacities for the effective, inclusive and sustainable management of water resources and facilitate the expansion of wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse;

b. Significantly reduce climate-induced water scarcity by enhancing climate resilience to water-related hazards towards a climate-resilient water supply and, sanitation, and access to safe and affordable potable water for all;

- c. Develop and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies that consider the food-water-energy nexus, such as integrating climate-resilient infrastructure and promoting sustainable agricultural practices that are resilient to the impacts of climate change;
- d. Increase sustainable agricultural and fisheries productivities, food security and nutrition and incomes in SIDS in a manner that helps with climate adaptation, mitigates emissions and promotes sustainable use of biodiversity including through incubation, diversification, local value addition, climate-resilient best practices, promotion, scaling up and replicating locally grown ideas to accelerate the achievement of agriculture, food security, and good nutrition;
- e. Support the development of climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food; and
- f. Provide appropriate gender-sensitive facilities and infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management systems.

iii. Resilient infrastructure

- a. Scale up planning, development and management of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and energy efficient land, marine and air transportation systems; and
- b. Apply the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure in SIDS to create risk-informed policy, investment decisions and systems in sectors including transportation, energy, communications, water, health and education, with a view to nurturing a culture of maintenance for resilient societies.

iv. Transport and connectivity

- a. Invest in sound, safe, and affordable land, air, maritime and inter-islands transportation infrastructure, including traditional and sustainable modes, that is inclusive for all, with a focus on community engagement and empowerment;
- b. Develop and implement climate and disaster resilient, safe, affordable, accessible and well-maintained transportation infrastructure in SIDS, in line with the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure, including to remote and underserved communities, taking into account the local impacts of climate change, to ensure the longevity of transport infrastructure;
- c. Support the establishment of integrated and sustainable maritime and air transportation systems to foster regional economic and value chain integration. Improving inter-island connectivity, modernizing transport fleets and equipment; and
- d. Develop coordinated regional transportation fostering connectivity between SIDS and neighbouring regions to strengthen economic ties and facilitate movement of goods and people.

D. Environmental Protection and Planetary sustainability

30. We acknowledge that the widespread, rapid and adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose increasing risks to SIDS and their efforts to achieve sustainable development, while representing, the greatest threats to their survival, viability and environmental protection.

Even with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, SIDS will continue to incur severe loss and damage and exceeding this limit will be catastrophic for their future.

31. Reaffirming the Paris Agreement temperature goal, and underscoring that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5 °C compared with 2 °C, SIDS are gravely concerned, that global emissions are not in line with modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, and that there is a rapidly narrowing window out to 2030 to raise ambition and implement existing commitments in order to keep warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels within reach, which is crucial to the survival of SIDS.

32. SIDS have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity that, in many cases, is fundamental to their livelihoods, culture and identity, but SIDS' vulnerabilities are drastically limiting the resources and means by which they can protect their ecosystems and the natural environment. The ocean and its resources are under considerable stress from anthropogenic sources, impacting SIDS which are especially dependent on their maritime resources for their food security and livelihoods.

33. We therefore commit to:

i. Urgent action on climate change

a. Accelerated actions on the effective implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC, guided by science and agreed principles;

b. Urgent actions to close the emissions gap to keep the global average temperature 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels within reach, reflecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;

c. Support the recruitment, remuneration and development of technical expertise in SIDS to support the development of loss and damage response plans and actions, including risk assessment, loss modelling, governance, management, disbursement, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on loss and damage solutions and impacts;

d. Timely operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation through the implementation of the GGA framework to assess collective progress on meeting the GGA;

e. Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions taking into account the Paris agreement, different national circumstances and pathways, and to scale up investments in renewable energy technologies and their integration into the power system, reducing the cost of capital for renewables in SIDS, improving energy efficiency, and encouraging international cooperation to develop and enable SIDS' just and equitable transitions;

f. Accelerating and substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including in particular methane emissions by 2030, while providing targeted support to enable small island developing states to address non-CO2 emissions, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition for SIDS;

g. Improve the availability of and access to enhanced financial and capacity-building support for small island developing States, for implementing and scaling up prioritized

technology measures, including those identified in technology needs assessments, technology action plans and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies that align with national circumstances; and

h. Recognize the important role of forests in climate mitigation and adaptation, including through promoting the adoption and implementation of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, on the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests in developing countries, as well as other alternative policy approaches in small island developing States, including those with high forest low deforestation (HFLD) regions, as per article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement, on national or, an interim basis, subnational jurisdictional scales, can foster information exchange, expertise-sharing and collective problem-solving, fostering a united effort in addressing climate mitigation and adaptation goals, and also noting it is essential for those small island developing States that have maintained forest cover and other ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass, peatlands, old-growth forests, and marshes, over decades of sustainable management and use to pursue opportunities to mobilize financing in this regard.

ii. Conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources

a. Support SIDS to build capacity in understanding their rights, obligations and responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) including to enable their effective participation in activities under UNCLOS;

b. Support SIDS to build 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 of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, including conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

c. Ensure the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture and tourism for mutually reinforcing economic and environmental benefits for SIDS;

d. Improve access to financial and technical resources to support SIDS' efforts to address biodiversity loss caused by harmful human activity including inadequate waste management and unsustainable production and consumption; maritime security; overfishing; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, coral bleaching, ocean acidification, eutrophication and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), coastal erosion, including through measures such as satellite monitoring and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);

e. Increase funding for the efficient and effective operation of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental shelf; and

f. Strengthen partnerships at the sub-regional, regional and international levels to control the sources of marine plastic pollution, and support investment in modern integrated solid waste management systems.

iii. Restore biodiversity

a. Support SIDS to develop and apply environmental statistics frameworks in their national statistical systems, such as National Capital Accounting Framework including ecosystems services

valuation, to assess the contribution of natural ecosystems economies and inform policy decisions and development;

b. Support SIDS to identify financing and capacity gaps in meeting biodiversity objectives and develop partnerships, particularly with the private sector, to develop innovative strategies to bridge these gaps;

c. Update the programme of work on island biodiversity in the context of supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the development of an island biodiversity capacity-building and development action plan, on the basis of the review of the capacity, legislative, institutional settings and technology transfers and absorptive frameworks, research and sustaining abilities of SIDS, and in line with the programme of work on island biodiversity; and

d. Incorporate local and traditional knowledge and practice of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in SIDS for adaptation measures, including biodiversity and nature-based solutions and cultural heritage preservation.

iv. Mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction

a. Support increasing national and regional capacity, particularly among key national agencies in SIDS, to improve coordination with international, regional and humanitarian partners and donor governments, as appropriate, in response to intensifying disaster events in SIDS. Ensure ex-ante financing to enable the systemic reduction of disaster risk and resilience building, including the disclosure of disaster risk;

b. Provide financial assistance, technical assistance and capacity building for more robust multi-hazard risk governance in SIDS, including development of national legislative frameworks for disaster risk reduction and strengthened local authorities and community-based disaster risk management approaches that can capture whole of government and whole of society actions;

c. Strengthen disaster preparedness and early warning systems and capacity to take early action and respond to post-disaster needs assessments in SIDS, including through initiatives such as the Early Warning for All or measures such as planned relocation of communities;

d. Implement creative arrangements and risk reduction mechanisms that allow SIDS to access low and concessional financing rates, including government guarantees and insurance schemes; and

e. Provide financial assistance, technical assistance and capacity building to reduce disaster risks, including by building protective infrastructure and systems for managing evacuations and the distribution of basic relief support.

III. How Do SIDS Get There?

34. We recognize there are critical enablers which have the potential to deliver transformative change for SIDS over the coming decade. Progress in these areas is key to realizing the [SIDS Agenda] and helping SIDS on their path toward sustainable development and resilient prosperity.

i. Access to finance

35. SIDS have limited capacity to mobilize domestic resources to meet their development objectives, compounded by restricted access to international financing mechanisms.

36. We commit to taking the following actions to reform the international financial architecture to support better access to finance for the sustainable development of SIDS:

a. We invite the international financial institutions to consider how best multidimensional vulnerability could be incorporated into existing practices and policies for development support, including access to concessional finance and debt treatment mechanisms. We look forward to the intergovernmental process on the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which can also provide a basis for moving forward in this direction;

b. Address the gaps and shortfalls of the current international financial architecture including by providing emergency liquidity to countries in need, expanding multilateral lending to Governments by US\$1 trillion, and activating private sector savings for climate mitigation and fund reconstruction after a climate disaster, with a view to strengthening support for SIDS in achieving resilient prosperity;

c. Support 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 as part of a global financial compact for SIDS;

d. Strengthen the ability of SIDS to withstand economic shocks by improving their representation and participation, as well as of all developing countries, in current and future governance and decision-making bodies in the international financial system, through the reform of the international financial architecture;

e. Strengthen the synergy between public planning and financing through integrated national financing frameworks to increase the expenditure efficiency of public resources in SIDS, as a complement to resource mobilization from all sources;

f. Promote a risk-informed approach to investment and financing in SIDS to ensure that all development finance builds resilience and accelerates the development aspirations of SIDS; and

g. Improve donor's aid effectiveness, development cooperation and donor coordination in line with SIDS' national and regional priorities.

ii. *Scaling-up climate finance*

37. The full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement by SIDS requires that SIDS receive adequate and predictable support from the international community, especially developed countries, including climate finance.

38. We commit to take the following actions to enhance climate finance to SIDS by developed countries, in line with existing obligations under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, including the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances:

a. Increase pledges to existing climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and Special Climate Change Fund;

b. Streamline and simplify the application requirements for climate financing instruments, as well as guaranteeing a minimum funding floor for SIDS that would allow for reduced requirements to address the current high barriers to access given SIDS' small financing project sizes;

c. Provide technical support for the further development of private financial products that channel climate finance to SIDS, including the development of global carbon markets in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and green bonds;

d. Urgently provide sufficient, new, additional, predictable, and accessible financing to address the significant finance gaps that remain in responding to loss and damage, and the associated economic and noneconomic losses with special consideration for SIDS;

f. Urgent capitalization of the new Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring SIDS needs are also considered in the context of access and resource allocation; and

g. Support towards addressing the significant challenges small island developing states face in accessing finance for implementing their national adaptation plans.

iii. *Strengthening data collection*

39. SIDS face significant challenges in data collection, analysis, technical and institutional capacity, which hinders evidence-informed policy making, monitoring progress and accessing development financing.

40. We welcome the proposal by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to establish a SIDS Center of Excellence at the Fourth International Conference on SIDS, which will include, inter alia, a global SIDS Data Hub.

41. We commit to take the following actions to foster more and better data generation, use and understanding in SIDS:

a. Invest in building human and institutional capacity in SIDS to collect quality, accessible, timely and reliable, disaggregated data, according to their national contexts, to measure progress and to ensure that no one is left behind;

b. Enhance the capacity of Statistical Offices in SIDS and strengthen and modernize national data infrastructure and systems to better integrate data into development planning;

- c. Enhance science based and innovative approaches, including responsible use of artificial intelligence, for the collection, storage, analysis, disaggregation, dissemination and use of demographic data in SIDS, including use of geo-spatial technologies;
- d. Enhance the sharing of best practice, expertise and data in order to facilitate SIDS peer-to-peer learning, including through the SIDS Center of Excellence;
- e. Increase financing to improve SIDS' data collection and analysis on hazards, disaster loss and risk and their impacts, including quantifying losses and damages in SIDS; and
- f. Provide high quality spatial data for SIDS and work to downscale global datasets to provide accurate information for SIDS.

iv. Science, technology, innovation and digitalization

42. SIDS face substantial structural challenges building the necessary ecosystem, institutions and capacity for promoting and using science, technology, innovation and digitalization to drive economic growth and sustainable development.

43. Although many SIDS have undergone digital transformations, digital technologies and infrastructure are not leveraged to their full potential and accessibility to digital technologies remains a challenge. Improving access to and boosting capacity to utilize digital technologies can result in transformational action for SIDS.

44. We commit to take the following actions to harness the potential of Science, Technology and Innovation and spread the benefits of digitalization in SIDS:

- a. Provide SIDS the necessary means of implementation to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities;
- b. Assist SIDS in developing national roadmaps for digitalization, science, technology and innovation (STI) and to support SIDS to build up national capacities for developing and utilizing the state-of-the-art technologies, including renewable energy technologies, marine technologies for the ocean-based economy and other areas significant to sustainable development, including digital technologies;
- c. Develop policies and legislation to facilitate an enabling environment to boost digital transformation, innovation, enhance digital infrastructure and connectivity, bridge digital divides, and leverage emerging science and technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), taking into account the unique needs of SIDS;
- d. Support the SIDS Center of Excellence through its innovation and technology mechanism to provide learning opportunities, exchange experiences and support innovation, so as to enhance capacity building and narrow the digital divide;
- e. Develop digital solutions to expand commerce to overcome the adverse impacts of remoteness and other structural constraints in SIDS, including digital tools related to trade regulations and market access information;
- f. Build capacity among SIDS populations to access new and emerging technological innovations, improving digital literacy and skills, to ensure that everyone, especially the most

vulnerable, have access to services, both offline and online, and benefit from economic opportunities; and

g. Engage actively in the intergovernmental discussions on the Global Digital Compact, which should specify concrete actions to harness digital technologies to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and strengthen digital cooperation, and leverage its recommendations to advance digital technologies and infrastructure, bridge the digital divide, build resilience and sustainable development in SIDS and ensure an open, secure and inclusive digital future for all.

v. *Productive populations*

45. Poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion continue to reduce the potential productive capacities in SIDS.

46. We commit to take the following actions to build productive populations in SIDS:

a. Empower SIDS to capture the benefits of digital technologies and resources for inclusive, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, including through distance learning;

b. Provide education opportunities for children and youth at risk and develop strategies to address the underperformance, especially of boys in school, to ensure they are educated with skillsets to enable them to successfully enter the labour market, taking into account national circumstances;

c. Develop policies and strategies aimed at reducing unemployment and underemployment, by promoting skills development and productivity, technology transfer and experience-sharing that respond to evolving job markets and reducing barriers to employment, especially for youth; and

d. Increase investment in the quality of education, re-skilling and lifelong-learning opportunities especially for children, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, people living with disabilities, migrants and displaced people and other people in vulnerable situations.

vi. *Partnerships*

47. The challenges SIDS face require new, innovative and bold approaches for economic, social and environmental transformation, recognizing that partnerships with relevant stakeholders, and cooperation that leverage a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach are critical in building resilience, reducing disaster risk, and achieving sustainable development and climate change adaptation.

48. We commit to take the following actions to mobilize partnerships in SIDS:

a. Expand and diversify partnerships with local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the private sector and international financial institutions to develop new, innovative and bold approaches to implement the [SIDS Agenda];

b. Leverage North-South, Triangular and South-South cooperation, including SIDS-to-SIDS to mobilize human, financial, technical, and technological resources, while recalling that South-

South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation; and

c. Request the United Nations Secretary-General, in consultation with States, to present recommendations for the strengthening of the SIDS Partnership Framework.

IV. A More Effective UN In Support of SIDS

49. We value the role of the United Nations system in supporting SIDS to achieve their sustainable development objectives, and request all United Nations development system entities to contribute to the implementation of, and to integrate, the [SIDS Agenda] into their strategic and work plans, in accordance with their mandates.

50. We call upon the United Nations system to ensure country and multi-country offices of all United Nations entities operating in SIDS are well resourced, with staff with the appropriate skills, experience, country-context and capacities to operate effectively, and to avoid vacancies at the country-level, particularly in Resident Coordinator Offices.

51. We request the Secretary-General, within his annual report to the General Assembly for the 80th Session on the implementation of the [SIDS Agenda], to present proposals for a potential single SIDS-dedicated entity at the UN Secretariat, in order to ensure a coordinated, coherent and effective UN system wide capacity development approach to SIDS and to enhance the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the [SIDS Agenda].

V. Monitoring and Evaluation

52. We commit to engaging in systematic monitoring and evaluation of the [SIDS Agenda] over the next 10 years. We request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to convene an inter-agency task force to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets and indicators, for adoption by the United Nations General Assembly by no later than the second quarter of 2025. The framework should build on the monitoring and evaluation framework for the SAMOA Pathway, in line with the targets and indicators of the SDGs, and use data from existing reporting mechanisms where possible and should not be overly burdensome or create new processes or requirements for SIDS.

53. Following the adoption of the monitoring and evaluation framework, we call upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to conduct workshops to familiarize SIDS with the application of the framework and build capacity to collect and submit their data.

54. We call for the annual SIDS Segment of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, to be repurposed to review annually progress against commitments in the [SIDS Agenda] that are aligned with the SDGs under review. To support this, we request the SIDS Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to prepare an annual report on progress implementing the [SIDS Agenda], drawing on data from the monitoring and evaluation framework.

55. Beginning in 2026, we call upon the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for

Africa to conduct a comprehensive biennial review of progress in each SIDS in their respective regions, which should inform the United Nations Secretary-General's report on follow-up of the [SIDS Agenda]. In this regard, we call for the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea region to support implementation of the [SIDS Agenda] and contribute to its monitoring and review. Until such a mechanism is established, we request the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish SIDS Divisions, within existing resources, to coordinate monitoring, evaluation and reporting for AIS member states.

56. We call for the United Nations General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of the [SIDS Agenda], informed by Regional Preparatory Meetings, to highlight solutions to address the gaps and challenges implementing the [SIDS Agenda] and identify priorities for the final five years of its implementation.