



Interactive dialogue 1:  
Interactive Dialogue on Revitalising SIDS' Economies for Accelerated and  
Sustainable Growth

*11am – 1pm 28 May 2024*

Key points

Mr President,

As we conclude the Fourth International Conference on SIDS, let me extend our deepest gratitude to the Government and the wonderful people of Antigua and Barbuda, the UN Secretariat and every single person who contributed to this Conference.

Interactive Dialogue One on “Revitalising SIDS’ Economies for Accelerated and Sustainable Growth” was held on 28 May 2024, co-chaired by the President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Dr.

Mohamed Muizzu, and the Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering, Republic of Finland, His Excellency Anders Adlercreutz.

The Dialogue featured a fireside chat between the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Gaston Browne, and the Secretary of the Interior for the United States Department of the Interior, Her Excellency Debra Anne Haaland, which was moderated by the Administrator of United Nations Development Programme Mr. Achim Steiner. This was followed by interventions from the Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, and the Director General of United Nations Industrial Development Organization Mr. Gerd Müller

Twenty-one participants made interventions during the Interactive Dialogue, including representatives of Member States, intergovernmental organizations, UN System agencies and other stakeholders.

During the discussions, several participants reflected on the importance of building SIDS' productive capacities to enable them to better address the impacts of external shocks and stressors, and by extension contribute to their resilience. Some stressed the importance of using SIDS natural resources to advance their economic transformation with particular reference to the ocean. The potential of the blue economy in driving economic growth and sustainable development in SIDS should be harnessed, while at the same time preserving and regenerating marine ecosystems. Participants also called for a paradigm shift in development assistance, moving towards a more holistic approach that takes into consideration the vulnerabilities of SIDS.

Participants also stressed the importance of ensuring that profits generated from the tourism sector are retained and reinvested locally. The need to diversify local economies including sustainable fisheries,

agriculture and aquaculture, amongst others was also highlighted. Several participants also noted the importance of investments in digitalization and digital infrastructure, as well as the need for the further inclusion of SIDS in global value chains.

The issue of financing for development was also discussed. Greater efforts are required to unlock additional financing for investments in SIDS as well as to increase inflows of private capital. At the same time, special provisions on SIDS' external debt must be taken into consideration, through restructuring the debt of countries that have been hit by natural disasters, and by compensating carbon sequestration through dedicated credit instruments.

We must now take forward these solutions as we implement the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

I thank you.

