

**Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS  
Ambassador Level Meeting**

**Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the  
United Nations**

**11 April 2024, 10am, Trusteeship Council Chamber**

- Welcome to all Ambassadors and colleagues who have joined us today, as well as Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- I extend my thanks to the PGA for appointing myself and Ambassador Seid of Palau to lead the Committee over the coming years and commend the previous co-chairs, Ambassador Luteru of Samoa and Ambassador Zacharias of Portugal, for their work in leading the Steering Committee over the last two years.
- Today we will hear updates from DESA and OHRLLS on a number of important developments since the Committee last met, and what opportunities and key moments lie ahead over the remainder of 2024.
- This Steering Committee has been established now for eight years. As we prepare for a new chapter of SIDS development at the UN, there is an opportunity to reflect on how this Committee functions, and how its work can support delivering on the SIDS4 outcome.
- We encourage reflection in the months ahead and throughout our discussions in Antigua on how the work of the Committee can be enhanced in line with its mandate, and how it can contribute to the follow-up and review processes for SIDS4.
- The annual Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue during the HLPPF in July comes shortly after SIDS4. This year's Dialogue can be an important moment for linking the SIDS4 outcome and the 2030 Agenda, identifying synergies while also recognising that the new SIDS4 framework charts a future which goes beyond 2030.
- In closing, I want to stress that Ambassador Seid and I are determined to grow the contribution of this important Committee during our time as co-chairs. With your support, we want to maximise its impact in building awareness and action in the run-up to the SIDS4 Conference and in delivering on its outcomes.
- Hopefully our discussion today will contribute to these goals, and we look forward to your insights and contributions.

Thank You