



*Office of the Prime Minister
Antigua & Barbuda*

*Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's, Antigua
Email: pmsecretariat@ab.gov.ag*

*Tel. (268) 460-5100
Fax. (268) 462-3225*

12th November 2021

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York

Excellency,

I have the honor to write to you with regards to the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that will take place in 2024, following the conclusion of the commitment period of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) that emerged from the Third International Conference on SIDS.

As you are aware, the needs and priorities of SIDS have drastically evolved since the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway, due to the exacerbation of existing challenges, as well as new and emerging issues that have far-reaching impacts on our ability to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other agreed internationally agreed goals, including the principles of the Paris Agreement.

The High-Level Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway in 2019 took stock of where we are as SIDS and found that we are not on track to achieving the principles of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals. The multiplicity of crises, including the impact of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting socioeconomic crisis warrants a redoubling of efforts by the international community.

Based on the adoption in the Second Committee and the upcoming adoption in the General Assembly of the resolution on the 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, there should be no delay in starting the preparations for the Fourth International Conference on SIDS. To ensure that we emerge with a comprehensive, action-oriented, and implementable outcome document and based on the principle of regional rotation, I wish to convey the offer of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the Fourth International Conference on SIDS in 2024, in accordance with the modalities of the resolution that will be determined by the UN General Assembly at a future date.

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I have begun consultations with the Caribbean region and the wider SIDS to ensure that we proceed with the preparations of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS expeditiously. I also offer my assurance that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is fully committed to facilitating the necessary arrangements for a successful Conference, in close collaboration with the UN Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your continued advocacy and support for SIDS and look forward to continuing to work closely with you on these matters.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Hon. Gaston Browne
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Minister of Finance,
Corporate Governance and Public Private Partnerships.



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Permanent Mission to the United Nations
305 E. 47th Street, 6th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

Telephone: 212-541-4117
Email: unmission@ab.gov.org
Website: <http://www.abgov.org>

PM/NS/093/2021

The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations presents its compliments to the office of the SIDS Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations and has the honor to provide a copy of the attached letter to His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, from His Excellency, Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

For further information and follow-up regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. Tumasie Blair, Counsellor within the mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations at tumasie.blair@ab.gov.ag or 917-863-1700.

The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the to SIDS Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

**SIDS Unit - UNDESA
of the United Nations
New York, NY 10017**

December 10th, 2021

