

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Nicole Leotaud – Executive Director

SIDS4 Conference 1st Prep Com – video message

Good day. I am Nicole Leotaud from the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and I am submitting recommendations on Revitalizing SIDS Economies together with:

- Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation – Jamaica
- Environmental Awareness Group – Antigua and Barbuda
- Environment Tobago – Trinidad and Tobago
- Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) - Haïti
- Laborie Development Foundation – Saint Lucia

Revitalising economic development in SIDS and making this inclusive, environmentally sustainable and climate resilient requires a strong focus on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector.

MSMEs are vital for development priorities like poverty reduction, social development, and environmental conservation. The micro-enterprise sector, especially the informal sector, is crucial to address discrimination, exclusion, inequalities, and vulnerabilities.

SIDS should emphasise local green-blue enterprises delivering triple bottom line benefits for People, Planet, and Profit. These enterprises utilise green business models, green products, sustainable practices, and stewardship approaches. They especially benefit rural communities, women, youth, Indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups.

To revitalise SIDS economies, these enterprises require enabling policy frameworks, tailored financing, comprehensive business support, access to financial and other technology, and access to specialised markets.

Achieving this requires partnerships with civil society delivering financing and business support to local green-blue enterprises, for example in tourism, agriculture and fisheries.

Prioritising local green-blue enterprises and partnerships with civil society will deliver resilient, environmentally sustainable, inclusive and vibrant blue, green, and circular economies in SIDS.