



19th January 2024

Youth Intervention at the SIDS4 Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM), New York

Thank you chairs,

I am Chelsea Antoine from Trinidad and Tobago, speaking on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth and the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC). First, we highlight that our unique islands are woven with a thread of triumphs and challenges, where young people are the driving force towards a resilient course forward. It is imperative that our voices create a lasting legacy of action and accountability.

Second, we are pleased to share that youth organizations will be hosting a series of preparatory youth consultations, culminating in a SIDS Youth Forum planned at the margins of SIDS4. We call upon member states and organizations to provide financial support toward the youth preparatory process for the Summit, and to ensure that voices and demands of children and young people across our nations are heard.

Third, we highlight the altered global landscape since the SAMOA Pathway was adopted - our small islands have been hit hard by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and impacts of climate change.

Fourth, we call for UN-wide coherence. SIDS4 should not happen in a silo. The outcomes of the SIDS4 should inform the upcoming negotiations in ECOSOC review, HLPF and Summit of the Future. A new development agenda for SIDS must prioritize digitization and transformation in strategic areas, which includes strengthening youth voices in development planning, bridging the digital divide and ensuring access to education.

Finally, upholding the rights of SIDS to sustainable development and protecting their futures is an issue of intergenerational justice. Consequently, we call upon the SIDS4 committee to ensure youth inputs are meaningfully reflected in the upcoming negotiations and outcomes of SIDS4. We stand at a dangerous precipice - to fail to act is to risk our futures and our very survival. This is a fight we cannot afford to lose.

Submitted by:

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