

Statement by Ms Angélica Jácome Director of the Office of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States 22 January 2024

SIDS confront multiple interconnected challenges including vulnerability to climate change, natural disasters and external economic shocks; fragile ecosystems; heavy reliance on food imports, high rates of malnutrition- including overweight and obesity- and non-communicable diseases as well as high levels of debt.

Charting the course toward resilient prosperity toward sustainable development in SIDS requires integrated, inclusive and transformative actions, increased coordination and partnerships, and robust financing- where agrifood systems are seen as part of the solution.

In recognition of the above, FAO has prioritized the transformation of agrifood systems in SIDS through various programmes and initiatives, including Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the Digital Villages Initiative and the Blue Transformation Roadmap.

It also established an Office of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries, launched the SIDS Solutions Platform and convened FAO High-Level Ministerial Event Transforming agrifood systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda: Harnessing the potential of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries", where Ministers issued a Call for Action and requested the establishment of a Ministerial Network.

FAO has also supported SIDS to acquire climate change investment robust and growing climate financing portfolios with a total of 133 million from the Green Climate Fund, as well as USD 280 million in grants and USD 1.4 billion in co-financing from the Global Environmental Facility.

Most recently, at COP 28, FAO launched part one of the Global Roadmap: Achieving SDG 2 without breaching the 1.5C threshold aimed at offering a package of solutions to provide good food for all, today and tomorrow. This Roadmap will be presented at a side event on Wednesday at 1:15 pm in Conference Room 8.

Before concluding, FAO reiterates its commitment to support SIDS to transform their agrifood systems to be MORE efficient, inclusive, sustainable and resilient, as well as to develop and implement, hand-in-hand with SIDS, an action-oriented blueprint for the next decade.