

**First Session of the Preparatory Committee meeting for the
4th International Conference on Small Island Developing
States (SIDS4)**

Monday 22 January 2024, 10:00 - 13:00

UN HQ, Conference Room 4

National Statement by Ireland

**Ambassador Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of
Ireland to the United Nations**

- Thank you.
- Ireland fully aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
- Co-chairs, let me first thank you both for taking up this vital role. I have every confidence that you will guide us wisely in the months ahead as we prepare for the 4th SIDS Conference.

- The ten years spanned by the SAMOA Pathway has seen a step-change in Ireland's engagement with SIDS at the global, regional and national level.
- Last month, our Deputy Prime Minister launched Ireland's second Strategy for Partnerships with SIDS. The new Strategy sets the contours of Ireland's SIDS engagement for the coming years, building on the achievements of our 2019 Strategy.
- The Strategy comprises 57 distinct commitments – and our partnership with SIDS at the UN underpins all of them.
- The 4thSIDS Conference provides an important opportunity for SIDS to, as the title suggests, chart the course toward resilient prosperity. And it is an opportunity too for Ireland to further deepen our partnerships.

- Given the critical role SIDS4 will play, I am delighted to inform you that Ireland will be providing €1 million in support of the Conference.
- The plan of action which we must agree here in advance of SIDS4 comes at a critical time. The world will undergo great change in the coming ten years, and we must harness and direct this change as much as we can in support of the sustainable development of SIDS.
- It is essential that the new SIDS Agenda has the SDGs at its core, underpinned by the three fundamental pillars - social, economic and environmental – as well as the principles of the UN Charter, human rights, and gender equality.
- The new SIDS Agenda needs to focus on action. Too many promises have gone unmet from our meetings in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa over the last 30 years.

- I was honoured to have been asked by the PGA to co-chair the Steering Committee for SIDS partnerships for the coming years, with my dear colleague Ambassador Seid of Palau.
- We are determined to use the Steering Committee to support the SIDS4 outcomes, and to ensure that the momentum we build in the coming months is not allowed to dissipate once the conference has ended.
- In closing co-Chairs, let me thank you, and the other members of the Bureau, for your work and your leadership. I look forward to engaging closely with you in the months ahead.