



**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE  
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**ON**

***AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE  
BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES AND THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE***

**IN THE  
FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FOURTH  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

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**Check against delivery**

**Excellencies,**

Jamaica joins other delegations in extending congratulations to Ambassador Schwalger [of New Zealand] and Dr. Zuhuree [of the Maldives] on their appointment as Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee. Jamaica welcomes the confidence entrusted in them to guide the processes towards the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference.

Concurrently, we extend commendations to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the generous offer to host the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on SIDS in St. John's, under the theme "*Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity*".

We align with the statements delivered by St. Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of CARICOM, Samoa on behalf of AOSIS and Uganda on behalf of the G77 and China.

SIDS, like Jamaica, continue to face significant challenges in achieving their development objectives owing to their vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks, with which they often have no causal relationship. Such shocks have had lasting impacts reversing hard won development gains in critical areas.

Income inequality, and gaps in health, education, and citizen security are recognized as key constraints requiring structural transformations if we are to harness our full potential, achieve sustainable development towards the 2030 Agenda and prepare a solid foundation for future generations.

Despite myriad global shocks, SIDS have exhibited strong leadership and ownership of our developmental imperatives, built resilience in our economies, and maintained stable governance and safe citizenry for the peoples of our regions. We are island States but, as the saying goes, we do not and cannot stand alone.

Jamaica attaches significant importance to the Preparatory process leading up to the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference as it represents a crucial inflection point for the SIDS Community. The

SAMOA Pathway has served the purpose of providing a framework to address the unique challenges of SIDS through a coordinated programme of action, including mainstreaming issues of importance to SIDS into the work of the United Nations and facilitating advocacy for addressing these issues with the support of international partners.

In charting our future, we are transitioning to ensure that the collective development gains from past Programmes of Action are concretized in a set of blueprints of the sustainable development agenda for SIDS for the next ten years. The elements of the draft outcome document and theme for the Fourth International Conference are reflective of the vision and aspirations of SIDS, and are necessary to position us to overcome the multiplicity of challenges.

Our priorities are focussed on addressing the financial needs of SIDS, post COVID recovery, which includes the strengthening of health systems, use of science and emerging technology, strengthening of institutions and enhancing data capacity for SIDS. Building resilience at all levels is a key priority to enable SIDS to pivot, while ensuring that our economies are robust, adaptable and able to withstand exogenous shocks, promote social equity and environmental sustainability.

We are resolved that this ten-year blueprint must be action oriented and robust. We are confident that this new Programme of Action is achievable and adaptable to withstand the emerging global trends to turbocharge our path to resilient prosperity.

Jamaica looks forward to the advancement of fruitful discussions during our engagements on the outcome document.