

**New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations  
Te Aka Aorere**

**United Nations General Assembly:  
Preparatory Committee for the fourth  
International Conference on Small Island  
Developing States**

**New Zealand Closing Remarks delivered by  
Permanent Representative, H.E. Mrs. Carolyn Schwalger**

Friday 26 January 2024

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**



## **New Zealand closing remarks for January SIDS 4 Prepcom - 26 January 2024**

- We have been encouraged by the strong messages of support for SIDS that we have heard throughout the week - during the formal and informal segments, and in the margins.
- This constructive approach reflects a continuation of the support we witnessed over the summer during the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings.
- What we have heard is a clear recognition of the unique challenges faced by SIDS, and the fact that many of these challenges are not of their own making.
- What we have heard is an enduring acceptance that SIDS remain a special case for development due to their vulnerabilities.
- We have also heard the criticality of the next decade for SIDS' very existence.
- And, we have seen firm indications that the zero draft, developed by AOSIS and submitted to the Preparatory Committee by the G77 and China through the co-Chairs, is a solid basis for inter-governmental negotiations on the SIDS 4 Conference Outcome Document.
- So, while, this Preparatory Committee meeting is closing, in a way the work on the outcome document is only truly beginning.
- The general voices of support we have heard over the summer and this week now need to translate into our negotiations if we are to realise an ambitious, targeted and pragmatic ten year programme of action for SIDS.
- The programme of action represents the best opportunity the international community has in the near future to reaffirm its commitment to resilient prosperity for SIDS.
- I wish to thank all the Member States who have engaged in the preparatory process for SIDS 4 so far – going back as far as May last year. In particular, I wish to acknowledge those who travelled from outside of New York to be with us this week. That demonstrates true commitment.
- The turn out over the summer and, in particular this week, by the UN

system gives me great confidence that your organisations, too, are genuinely committed to supporting SIDS sustainable development objectives.

- Effective multi-stakeholder engagement and meaningful participation of stakeholders in the Conference and its preparatory processes will be crucial to ensure a successful outcome.
- As we have already said this morning, we – as co-Chairs, remain committed to engaging throughout this process in a spirit of transparency and inclusion, with Member States, the UN system, and the range of interested stakeholders.
- In particular, as we roll up our sleeves and move into in-depth conversations to develop the Outcome Document text, we will – as co-Chairs – try to create the conditions necessary to deliver an ambitious outcome for SIDS which goes beyond business-as-usual, while also reaching consensus outcomes that we can all be proud of.
- In return, we ask you, Member States, to come ready to engage with the content, and each other. We will be seeing a lot of each other in advance of the April Preparatory Committee meeting, and on the road to SIDS 4.
- Before I conclude, allow me to reiterate our sincere gratitude to the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, UN DESA, OHRLLS and DGACM for their support and advice.
- As we say in New Zealand, he waka eke noa, we are all in this canoe together.