

**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 Statement delivered by
Deputy Permanent Representative, H.E. Mr. Justin Fepuleai**

Monday 22 January 2024

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

New Zealand aligns itself with the statements delivered by members of the Pacific Islands Forum and CANZ. I have the honour to deliver some additional remarks in my national capacity.

SIDS issues are a long-standing focus for New Zealand, here at the UN and globally. Our appreciation of these issues is rooted in our strong relationships in our own Pacific region, where we have deep partnerships, cultural and historical ties. It also builds on our own experiences as an island nation.

We are honoured to Co-Chair the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International SIDS Conference. New Zealand is grateful for the trust placed in the Co-Chairs to help shepherd this process. As outlined in Ambassador Schwalger's opening remarks, we are committed to achieving an ambitious outcome and a successful conference.

As part of that commitment, New Zealand contributed USD 420,000 to enable SIDS participation in preparatory meetings in 2023 and to support SIDS reporting against the SAMOA Pathway. We are pleased to advise that New Zealand will be contributing a further NZD 200,000 to enable SIDS participation at the Conference itself. Attendance by SIDS is crucial to build linkages, share experiences and, ultimately, to deliver a successful conference.

New Zealand also acknowledges the significant burden placed on the hosts of major UN Conferences. To this end, we are pleased to announce that New Zealand will provide NZD 600,000 via UNDP to support Antigua and Barbuda's efforts.

Co-Chairs,

We find ourselves at a turning point in SIDS' development. We urge delegations to aim high and work to take forward the spirit of partnership from the SAMOA Pathway into negotiations.

Thank you.