



REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Preparatory Committee for the
fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States**

First session, General discussion

**Statement by Ms. Joanna Skoczek,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
to the United Nations**

New York, 22 January 2024

*Mr. Under-Secretary-General,
Distinguished Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee,
Excellencies and Delegates,*

We thank distinguished Co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States for convening its first session and for the opportunity to express our position in the general debate. Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to offer additional remarks.

Poland recognizes that small island developing states are facing a plethora of challenges, some of them systemic, unique to their location, and some caused or greatly exacerbated by recent multiple global crises. Out of them the climate crisis is perhaps the most urgent one for SIDS, and their situation proves particularly visibly that climate considerations should be mainstreamed into the global development agenda. For this reason Poland supports the assistance given to SIDS by the international community in the context of climate change. I would also like to underline that climate action is a cross-cutting priority of the Polish Multiannual Development Cooperation Program for 2021–2030 – “Solidarity for Development”.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Poland believes that in order for SIDS to achieve much needed adaptation to climate change and other external shocks, including economic ones, innovative and scaled-up investments in resiliency of their states, economies and societies are necessary. Poland stands ready to offer solutions to this end, for example in the area of domestic resource mobilization, or private sector engagement, which are some ways to guarantee sustained financing for SIDS.

However, international community has to support domestic efforts undertaken by SIDS and other stakeholders. In this context, we are not indifferent to the challenges faced by SIDS. For many years Poland has made voluntary contributions to the “Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council.” We do so convinced that this fund is one avenue to give SIDS voices in this important international arena.

To conclude, let me assure you that Poland remains committed to ensuring the ambitious outcome of the 4th International Conference on SIDS. It is our hope and desire that the conference will address the multitude of challenges and safeguard a sustainable future for SIDS.

I thank you.