



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

**First session of the Preparatory Committee meeting for the 4th
International Conference on Small Island Developing States**

Agenda item 4: General discussion

Conference Room 4, UN HQ, New York
10h00-13h00 & 15h00-18h00, Monday, 22 January 2024

**Remarks delivered by the Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations, Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias**

Check against delivery

- Excellencies, colleagues,
- I thank the co-chairs and the Bureau for their work leading up to this first session.
- Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to add the following three messages in its national capacity.
- First, the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 4) provides us with a key opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. We must seize it.
- The success of the SIDS in achieving these landmark agreements is also our own, as partners and stakeholders in the collective promise that are the SDGs.
- The Outcome Document of the Conference will lay down the vision and commitments for the next decade.



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

- We must move forward together. For that, we need to listen to SIDS, their challenges and needs, and engage in an inclusive and constructive dialogue to craft effective solutions and partnerships.
- Second, the 2030 Development Cooperation Strategy of Portugal defines SIDS as a key partner at all levels, including here at the UN.
- From fighting climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution to protecting the ocean, promoting disaster risk reduction, and investing in green and blue economies, as well as capacity-building, we see eye to eye.
- We recognize the difficulties of SIDS on accessing financing for development and the importance of international financial architecture reform to better support the SDGs, while bearing in mind the specificities of SIDS, among other groups of vulnerable countries, including through the acknowledgment of multidimensional vulnerability.
- Here, too, innovative solutions are necessary. This is why Portugal recently signed debt-for-swap nature agreements with key SIDS partners – Cabo Verde and São Tomé e Príncipe.
- Thirdly and finally, you can count on us to continue playing an active and constructive role in this preparatory process.
- We contributed financially with a grant of 100,000 EUR to support the participation of SIDS at the Conference, as well as advocacy, outreach and communication efforts and stakeholder engagements.



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

- We participated in all regional and interregional preparatory meetings. And we will be integrating the EU negotiation team of the draft Outcome Document, along with Malta and the EU Delegation.
- We look forward to engaging with you all over the next months.
- I thank you.

389 words, 3 minutes