



SPAIN

**STATEMENT
COUNSELLOR OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Ms. RAQUEL ROMERO PÉREZ

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

New York, January 22, 2024

MISION PERMANENTE DE ESPAÑA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
245 East 47th Street, 36th Floor, Nueva York, N.Y. 10017
Email: rep.nuevayorkonu@maec.es Tel: (212) 661-105

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Spain aligns itself with the intervention formulated by the EU.

The challenges faced by SIDS can only be solved with the involvement of the entire international community, and the United Nations is the institution with the mandate to do so.

The Union of Island States, initiated more than forty years ago, is a positive example of partnership between the UN and a particularly vulnerable group of nations, and this Fourth Conference is a clear example of the benefits of multilateralism.

Spain welcomes the first draft outcome document of the conference. Paragraph 49 and following paragraphs contain initiatives to strengthen institutional collaboration between SIDS and the United Nations, initiatives to which we need to pay special attention.

It is necessary to continue working to change the eligibility criteria for access to concessional financing. Spain considers that some vulnerabilities of SIDS are not well reflected in current indices such as gross domestic product or national income per capita. We will contribute to the success of the ongoing work on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index. We believe that its application will help to better identify the needs of SIDS and their development situation.

Spain takes note of the proposals included in paragraphs 35 and following paragraphs of the declaration to improve access to funding for these States. Spain has committed to reallocate up to 50% of our Special Drawing Rights. So far, these have been allocated to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust Fund and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust, from which many SIDS can benefit.

Spain also supports the participation of SIDS in the Common Framework for Debt Restructuring and Relief. Debt contracts with SIDS should also include contingency clauses, such as the so-called "hurricane clauses". And we will continue to provide funding to the Alliance of Small Island States.

We also encourage SIDS to establish robust tax systems that through equity secure more domestic fiscal resources.

We must cooperate with SIDS states to establish resilient progress that withstands climate shocks and enables well-being. Spain collaborates with SIDS in the framework of its Coalition for Nature and on data, areas of particular interest and potential.