

## United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) statement at the First Preparatory Committee for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 4)

22 January 2024

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

- We know that SIDS are among the most vulnerable countries in the world.
- UNIDO is committed to playing its part in helping SIDS to build **resilient economies**.
- We support SIDS in enhancing their local productive capacities and diversifying their economies in an environment-friendly manner.
- This is essential for SIDS to reduce vulnerability to shocks in the context of the climate change and other crises.
- To achieve this, UNIDO has a dedicated **SIDS strategy**, which builds on the SAMOA pathway and will be further aligned with the outcomes of SIDS 4.
- Our focus is on a **two-pronged approach**.
  - On the one hand, we promote sustainable energy to reduce the dependence of local industries on fuel imports.
  - On the other hand, we support the integration of SIDS into global value chains, through trade capacity-building, investment promotion and blue economy initiatives.
- Allow me to mention **three examples** of how we implement this in practice:
  - One is the **Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers**, jointly managed by UNIDO and SIDS regional economic communities.

- Another example is the **Global Ocean Energy Alliance**, launched by UNIDO and SIDS DOCK at the 2022 UN Oceans Conference.
- A third example is the '**ACP Business Friendly**' programme, in which UNIDO, the World Bank and ITC support the integration of SIDS into value chains through inclusive policies and investment promotion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Allow me to conclude by reiterating that SIDS are important constituents of UNIDO.
- We will continue to work closely with our partners to address their challenges through practical solutions.
- And we look forward to engaging with all of you in the lead up to SIDS 4 and beyond.

Thank you.