



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES

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Statement on behalf of PSIDS
First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the
Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States
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I have the honour to deliver this statement as Chair of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States represented in New York. We align ourselves with the statements delivered by Cuba on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Samoa on behalf of AOSIS, and Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

On behalf of PSIDS, I extend our appreciation to the Co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee for the draft outcome document and for assembling this important meeting.

As custodians of the Blue Pacific Continent, we make up a tiny fraction of the world in terms of population, land, and economic output. Yet our countries hold unparalleled ecological treasures both on land and sea, through a culture of sustainable resource use that transcends millennia. Unfortunately, climate change threatens our future as temperatures are projected to rise alarmingly unless drastic collective action is taken. We have been playing our part through our sustainable consumption culture and expect others to do the same. Our economies are often challenged by single disaster events or with GDP growth being set back by disaster recovery efforts instead of development.

Our Leaders have declared that our statehood and sovereignty and all the rights and entitlements that flow there from under international law will continue and be maintained, notwithstanding the impact of climate change-related sea-level rise. Nevertheless, our unique challenges render our people, natural environments, and overall sustainable development vulnerable to many threats and this will persist. We therefore demand a fundamental, bold and progressive shift in approach. The upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda presents a vital opportunity to have an ambitious and action oriented plan of action for SIDS for the next 10 years and beyond. A new charter for the SIDS must ensure and continue to emphasize the following:

1. Urgent action on climate change, including increased financing for loss and damage; equitable phasing out of fossil fuels to reduce emissions, with accelerated action in the current critical decade; just transition to affordable and accessible renewable energy; and disaster risk reduction;
2. The great value on the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources through sound, responsible ocean governance.
3. Enhanced access to finance for SIDS through frameworks like the MVI and urgent reform of the international financial architecture.

Achieving resilient prosperity demands not just ambitious goals, but effective implementation mechanisms. The outcome must be one that is fit for purpose to address the unique challenges of SIDS, which its key enabler includes genuine support from all corners of the international community; private sector, academia, youth and other key sectors including strategic partnerships and a more responsive UN system through the leadership of the RC system at the country level is crucial.

The PSIDS calls for a collective resolve, to recognize that our development and resilient prosperity aspirations will benefit us all.

Let us seize this opportunity to act collectively, and usher in a brighter future for SIDS and the entire planet.

I thank you.