

Statement for the SIDS 4 Stakeholder Briefing

Good Morning, I am TeHilla Maloney from Trinidad and Tobago, speaking on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth and the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC). In 1994, the inaugural SIDS conference in Barbados laid the groundwork for promising development efforts in SIDS territories. Reflecting on this milestone, the Zero Draft Outcome Document highlights key priorities like cultural preservation, robust health infrastructure, and ensuring safe societies similar to that of the Barbados Plan of Action produced then. It's concerning that many of us who weren't born then must now take up the mantle of addressing similar regional issues in the same context of the SIDS conference, for which contingencies should have been placed at that point in time.

We emphasize the United Nations' recognition of the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS, marked by their geographical isolation, limited resource base, and susceptibility to external pressures. It is crucial that we jointly tackle these challenges SIDS face and the barriers hindering effective implementation of solutions. The Zero Draft Document provides a broad roadmap for our advancement. However, it's equally important to confront the lack of democratic, data-driven research infrastructure that continues to pose a significant challenge to the goals outlined in Section 2, as well as in Section 5 which discusses Monitoring and Evaluation systems that the document attempts to install. This lack of participatory research methodologies and lack of solutions to address data marginalization continues to be a primary concern for us as a globalized generation. This becomes extremely prominent in Section 3 part 3 where it keenly outlines improving data collection systems without acknowledging that biases that can emerge from this system against youth, women and economically marginalized populations replicating some of the existing issues in regional and global data ecosystems. Without such action, the proposed recommendations will merely exist as suggestions without tangible impact. Additionally, we also noted that in an increasingly violent world, more specific solutions for the particular violence being faced by youth across economic and sexual diversities has not been adequately acknowledged in Section 1, Part B 'Safe and Prosperous Societies'. Most importantly, it's time to shift our focus towards on-the-ground action to ensure the long-term viability and prosperity of SIDS.

Submitted by:

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