

**Draft Outcome Document:  
Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States**

**Revised text  
8 March 2024**

**I. The SIDS Story**

1. In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, we, the international community formally declared Small Island Developing States (SIDS) a special case both for environment and development and committed to assist them to meet their sustainable development objectives. This was further promulgated in the first decennial United Nations conference on SIDS in Barbados in 1994 and was subsequently reiterated at the second SIDS conference in Mauritius in 2005 and the third SIDS conference in Samoa in 2014. *(Previous 1)*
2. After three decades and three programmes of action, SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development given their unique vulnerabilities. We note the remarkable successes and progress that they have made over these years, including on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, and welcome in this regard the ownership, leadership and considerable efforts that have been demonstrated by SIDS, along with the support provided by the international community. *(Previous 2)*
3. During this period, SIDS have and continue to provide stable and democratic governance for their citizenry and have strived to provide productive economies and safe societies throughout unrelenting turbulent global times. SIDS were heavily affected by two “once in a generation”, crises that struck in 2008 and 2020, while grappling with even more intense and frequent disasters and natural hazards. In addition, they have assumed leadership roles in areas such as finance, climate change and plastics, and are stewards of the ocean, including managing 19.1 percent of the world’s Exclusive Economic Zones and the resources they hold. SIDS have paved the way for many of the most progressive movements in these areas in policy development and the establishment of concrete actions in the multilateral arena. *(Previous 3)*

4. SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the threats and the widespread, rapid, intense and adverse impacts of climate change, change including, inter alia, erratic precipitation, increasingly frequent and extreme weather phenomena, more frequent and severe tropical cyclones, floods and drought, diminishing fresh water resources, desertification, coastal erosion, land degradation and sea-level rise, which represent the gravest of threats to the survival and viability of their people, natural ecosystems, and overall sustainable development. Climate change has humanitarian, economic, social, cultural, health, ecological and security consequences for SIDS. Even with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, SIDS will continue to incur severe loss and damage and exceeding this limit will be catastrophic for their future. *(Previous 6, 27 and 30)*
5. SIDS have extraordinary and rich marine and terrestrial biodiversity that, in many cases, is fundamental to their livelihoods, culture and identity, but SIDS' vulnerabilities are drastically limiting the resources and means by which they can protect their ecosystems and the natural environment. The ocean and its resources are under considerable stress from anthropogenic sources, negatively impacting SIDS which are especially dependent on their marine and maritime resources for their food security and livelihoods. *(Previous 32)*
6. The full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement, and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and other international frameworks by SIDS requires that they receive adequate and predictable financial support from the international community. *(Previous 37)*
7. In order for SIDS to achieve sustainable development and resilient prosperity, we must diversify economies, and strengthen state and productive capacities. At the same time the international financial architecture should go further to fully address SIDS' unique development circumstances. We recognize that accessing concessional development finance and climate finance remains difficult, which increases SIDS fiscal constraints and, in many cases, indebtedness. All of these constraints continue to impede their overall progress and reverse hard-fought development gains. *(Previous 5, and 14)*
8. SIDS are inherently and uniquely vulnerable to exogenous shocks owing to, inter alia, their small size, geographical remoteness, highly dispersed populations, the

limited scale and undiversified nature of their economies, high dependence on external markets, and extreme exposure to disasters and natural hazards, and the effects of climate change. Recognizing vulnerability does not mean that SIDS exhibit weakness or lack potential for development. Rather, it means recognizing that they are disproportionately impacted in terms of physical destruction and non-economic and economic losses to a far greater scale than elsewhere. *(Previous 4)*

9. We recognize the need for access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy, particularly renewable energy. SIDS are facing significant barriers related to accessing finance, cost of capital, market readiness, and upskilling and reskilling workforces needed for just, inclusive, and resilient energy transitions. *(Previous 25)*
10. Enhancing inter-island connectivity and linking SIDS economies to regional markets and global supply chains, including by integrating them into existing and emerging maritime and multimodal transport and economic corridors, and encouraging sustainable transport initiatives to support SIDS remains key. *(Previous 28)*
11. We remain concerned that poverty, including extreme poverty, unemployment, inequality in unpaid care and domestic work and exclusion continue to disproportionately affect marginalized populations and people in vulnerable situations, particularly women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, reduces the potential productive capacities in SIDS. These challenges are compounded by youth unemployment, loss of skilled and semi-skilled labour, through labour mobility, and gender inequality. *(Previous 23)*
12. We underscore that SIDS face substantial structural challenges building the necessary ecosystem, institutions and capacity for promoting and using science, technology, innovation and digitalization to drive economic growth and sustainable development. *(Previous 42)*
13. We recognize challenges in data collection, governance and analysis, and technical and institutional capacity, which hinders evidence-informed policy making, monitoring progress and accessing development financing. We call for support for the efforts of SIDS in establishing a SIDS Center of Excellence in Antigua and Barbuda which will include, inter alia, a SIDS Data Hub, a

technology and innovation mechanism and an Island Investment Forum. *(Previous 39, 40)*

14. The inadequacy of SIDS' health and social protection systems, and the prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in SIDS, pose a threat to sustainable development and economic productivity, disproportionately affecting the poorest and those in vulnerable situations. Promoting eye health can make an important contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. *(Previous 3bis, 20, 24 (i)(e))*
15. We underline the need to promote peaceful, prosperous, inclusive societies and safe communities for achieving sustainable development, and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Good governance, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair and independent justice systems, and measures to combat corruption and curb illicit financial flows will be integral to our efforts. We recognize that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the full realization of their human rights has a transformative multiplier effect on sustainable development and is a driver of economic growth in SIDS. *(Previous 24 (ii a. pre)) (Previous 24 (ii c. bis)) (Previous 24 (iii a. pre)) (Previous 19)*
16. We underscore the importance of including SIDS needs and priorities in the outcomes of all relevant United Nations processes, including Summit of the Future, Global Digital Compact, oceans conferences, and the "High-Level plenary meeting on addressing the existential threats posed by sea-level rise". *(Previous 44 (g), 44 (g bis) and 44 (g bis alt))*
17. The next ten years are critical for SIDS. A new context is emerging wherein the economic, social and environmental as well as geopolitical threats to SIDS development are so great that they can only be ameliorated by a reinvigorated enabling environment that gives meaningful effect to their sustainable development. Without the full support of the international community, SIDS will endure potentially far-reaching consequences. *(Previous 7)*
18. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the participation of civil society, the private sector, youth, academia and other relevant stakeholders, firmly reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable

development and resilient prosperity of SIDS. Through targeted, results-focused interventions and investments, we will support SIDS as they exercise full ownership of their new agenda and seek to establish partnerships as equals, upholding values of equity, mutual respect and cooperation and promoting benefits across priority areas in their new 10-year agenda. *(Previous 11 and 15)*

## II. What Do SIDS Want?

19. Acknowledging that SIDS are highly dependent on imports, with limited export capacity, and face current account imbalances and limited fiscal space, compounded by restricted access to concessional financing, SIDS seek the support of the international community to: *(Previous 16 and 17)*

### A. Build Resilient Economies

- i. Develop and expand their productive capacity by:
  - a. Undertaking National Productive Capacities Gap Assessments (NPCGAs); *(Previous 18 (i)(a))*
  - b. Implementing Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programmes (HPCDPs); and *(Previous 18 (i)(a))*
  - c. Investing in higher productivity sectors including in advanced technologies and digital economy to provide better paying jobs for people in SIDS and reduce brain drain and labour mobility. *(Previous 18 (i)(b))*
- ii. Increase trade and investment by:
  - a. Designing prioritized trade and investment strategies to consolidate market opportunities in existing sectors and markets and identify opportunities for economic diversification to reduce vulnerability; *(Previous 18(i)(c))*
  - b. Enabling market access in goods and services by developing trade rules that take into account the special circumstances of SIDS, and optimizing the utilization of existing preferential market access; *(Previous 18(ii)(a))*

- c. Strengthening local, national, and regional institutions as well as the regulatory and domestic policy environment and trade facilitation bodies; *(Previous 18(ii)(b))*
  - d. Enabling business environments for private sector investment, entrepreneurship, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives and enterprise development; *(Previous 18(ii)(b))*
  - e. Strengthening capacity for resource mobilization, investment flows monitoring, and firm-level data collection, analysis and use; *(Previous 18(ii)(c))*
  - f. Supporting the establishment of the biennial Island Investment Forum in the SIDS Center of Excellence as a dedicated platform for promoting sustainable economic development in SIDS by promoting investment opportunities, knowledge exchange, and collaborative initiatives, addressing the unique challenges faced by SIDS and contributing to their long-term resilience and prosperity; and *(Previous 18(ii)(d))*
  - g. Reviewing and reforming old-generation investment treaties that are in force for SIDS, where desired, with the aim of safeguarding policy space to pursue sustainable development objectives. *(Previous 18(ii)(e))*
- iii. Promote resilient and sustainable tourism by:
- a. Minimizing pollution and waste, enhancing environmental awareness, conserving and protecting the environment, respecting wildlife, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity; *(Previous 18(iii)(a))*
  - b. De-risking investments, strengthening cross sector collaboration between tourism and other sectors, and modernizing the sector and related up and downstream services, including addressing the negative impacts; *(Previous 18(iii)(a))*
  - c. Raising awareness of the importance of resilient and sustainable tourism, including through the Global Tourism Resilience Day<sup>1</sup>; *(Previous 18(iii)(a))*
  - d. Developing creative and innovative employment solutions, including for informal workers, to provide resilience to the workforce, taking into account national circumstances; *(Previous 18(iii)(b))*

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 77/269

- e. Enhancing entrepreneurship, education and training in cultural and heritage management and preservation, and in specific domains of the creative industries; and *(Previous 18(iii)(c))*
  - f. Promoting and investing in the resilience of cultural heritage, traditions and customs, assets and infrastructure. *(Previous 18(iii)(c))*
- iv. Promote sustainable ocean-based economies by:
- a. Assisting in the pursuit of opportunities, using nature based solutions and an ecosystem-based approach for human activities at sea, in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture, marine and coastal tourism, environmentally friendly maritime transport, ocean renewable energy and mineral and other related resources, smart shipping and ports, finance and high-integrity blue carbon markets, trade of blue carbon credits in regional and global exchange markets, employment generation for inclusive growth and new mechanisms such as ocean conservation credits, including by integrating climate change resilience strategies into ocean-based economic activities; *(Previous 18(iv)(a))*
  - b. Establishing public-private sector partnerships and appropriate capital market instruments and provide technical assistance to stock exchanges and security market regulators to enhance bankability and feasibility of projects; and *(Previous 18(iv)(b))*
  - c. Creating and supporting an enabling policy environment to maximize diaspora remittances, investment, skills and experience for research, innovation, economic development and diversification to shift towards environmentally sustainable practices and technologies. *(Previous 18(iv)(c))*
20. Acknowledging the efforts of SIDS to improve the health and social protection systems, boost state capacity in the public sector, reduce poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion, SIDS seeks the support of the international community to: *(Previous 19 - 23)*

## **B. Foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies**

- i. Strengthen health systems by:
  - a. Ensuring equitable and timely access to affordable and quality health-care services and products, in order to achieve universal health

- coverage (UHC), leaving no one behind, with external financing aligned with national and regional priorities; *(Previous 24(i)(a))*
- b. Developing nationally-appropriate, inclusive social protection systems, including through the integration of climate and health policies, the One Health approach and other holistic approaches; *(Previous 24(i)(b))*
  - c. Enhancing prevention, preparedness and response to better cope with health emergencies, epidemics, pandemics and climate change-related health impacts through capacity building, strengthening core health capacities, and upgrading of surveillance and early warning systems, including in alignment with WHO International Health Regulations obligations; *(Previous 22, 24(i)(c))*
  - d. Adapting health infrastructure and equipment to be low green house gas emission, climate-resilient, and sustainable; *(Previous 24(i)(c))*
  - e. Integrating essential non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health and psychosocial support services into PHC and UHC; *(Previous 24(i)(d))*
  - f. Enhancing health literacy to promote healthy lifestyles and preventive measures to address NCD risk factors, including obesity, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol, tobacco use and exposure to air pollution and addressing the linkages between the environment and nutrition; *(Previous 24(i)(d)) (Previous 3 bis)*
  - g. Establishing an integrated and whole-of-government approach to address the growing challenges of vision impairment, particularly myopia and other preventable conditions, including integrating comprehensive eye care services as part of PHC and UHC; and *(Previous 24(i)(e))*
  - h. Building and retaining a trained, skilled, efficient and motivated health workforce that is equipped to meet the health needs of the population at all levels. *(Previous 24(i)(f))*
- ii. Build strong institutions by:
    - a. Increasing public participation and consultation, promoting civic education and engaging civil society organizations to actively and meaningfully participate in policy and budget decisions, including by establishing citizen participation mechanisms and creating spaces for inclusive dialogue; *(Previous 24(ii)(a))*



- b. Strengthening coordination and collaboration among government institutions and working beyond traditional boundaries to unify capabilities across agencies, sectors and society; *(Previous 24(ii)(b))*
  - c. Strengthening the synergy between public policy planning and financing through integrated national financing frameworks to increase the expenditure efficiency of public resources, as a complement to resource mobilization from all sources; *(Previous 36(e))*
  - d. Investing in continuous education and training and professional development programs for public servants, and building public sector skillsets for the future, including in improving the agility of public service delivery and public procurement; *(Previous 24(ii)(b))*
  - e. Designing systems to generate effective policies and investment decisions; *(Previous 24(ii)(b))*
  - f. Boosting state capacity to effectively implement policies through the strengthening of public sector reforms, building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and improving transparency and accountability; *(Previous 24(ii)(c))*
  - g. Incorporating and strengthening e-government and digital solutions as a means of overcoming accessibility, scale and dispersion of population, bridging the digital divides and supporting the institutional capacity of local and national government institutions; and *(Previous 24(ii)(c)and(b))*
  - h. Assisting national and regional institutions to combat transnational crime and violence, including drug trafficking, and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, taking into account their national circumstances. *(Previous 24(ii)(d))*
- iii. Achieve gender equality, empower youth and leave no one behind by:
- a. Promoting and protecting the full realization of the human rights of all women and girls, eliminating all forms of discrimination and developing and implementing action plans to eliminate violence against all women and girls; *(Previous 24(iii)(a))*
  - b. Increasing women's leadership, and promoting their full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and representation at all stages and levels of decision-making processes; *(Previous 24(iii)(b))*
  - c. Investing in policies and programmes in productive capacities, education and social skills that would also address emerging issues

among young people, taking into account national circumstances; *(Previous 24(iii)(c))*

- d. Meaningfully involving youth in decision-making processes, including through youth councils, and advisory committees, supporting youth-led initiatives, and creating opportunities for engaging youth in sustainable development; *(Previous 24(iii)(d))*
  - e. Promoting and protecting the full realization of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and enabling their full, equal, meaningful and effective participation, representation and leadership in decision-making, addressing stigma and discrimination, eliminating violence, and increasing their access to economic opportunities, education and health care; *(Previous 24(iii)(e))*
  - f. Strengthening adaptive social protection systems and expanding coverage of national social protection programs through comprehensive risk management strategies, to promote the realization of equity and equality, particularly for those in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons; *(Previous 24(iii)(f))*
  - g. Investing in developing the skills of and fostering opportunities to pursue alternative livelihoods for communities displaced by disasters, which are increasing in frequency and intensity, or climate change, while recognizing the importance of safeguarding and passing on tangible and intangible cultural heritage from generation to generation and ensuring their financial, economic and social inclusion so that they can leverage their talent and ideas to contribute to, and benefit from, their new communities; and *(Previous 24(iii)(g))*
  - h. Supporting the advancement of sports as an important enabler of sustainable development, including for its growing contribution to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women, girls, young people, children, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives. *(Previous 24(iii)(h))*
21. Recognizing that various anthropogenic pressures and adverse impacts of climate change as well as global shocks continue to impede water, food and energy security; and the importance of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and

modern energy, and connectivity, SIDS seek the support of the international community to: *(Previous 25-29)*

### C. A secure future

- i. Increase access to renewable energy by:
  - a. Urgently enhancing support, investment and partnerships for just, inclusive, and resilient energy transitions and energy efficiency, particularly renewable energy infrastructure, technology and training; *(Previous 29(i)(a))*
  - b. Developing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to address underlying barriers; *(Previous 29(i)(a))*
  - c. Developing SIDS-specific technologies and applications for renewable energy deployment, and integration into the power system, and promoting efforts to reduce the cost of capital for renewables; and *(Previous 29(i)(b) and 33(i)(e))*
  - d. Providing support to overcome the structural barriers that hinder just, inclusive, resilient energy transitions, including institutional capacity, particularly skills gaps, and grid stabilization and upgrading *(Previous 29(i)(c))*
  
- ii. Develop integrated water resources management by:
  - a. Developing policies, legislative frameworks, institutional and human capacities for the effective, inclusive, sustainable and integrated water resources management and facilitate the expansion of wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse; *(Previous 29(ii)(a))*
  - b. Significantly reducing the impact of climate induced water scarcity through enhancing climate resilience to water-related hazards and supporting a climate-resilient water supply and sanitation, and access to safe and affordable potable water and sanitation, and hygiene for all; and *(Previous 29(ii)(b))*
  - c. Providing appropriate gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive facilities and infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, and waste management systems. *(Previous 29(ii)(f))*
  
- iii. Enhance food security by:

- a. Developing and implementing adaptation and mitigation strategies that take into account the linkages between food, water and energy, such as integrating climate-resilient infrastructure, including nature-based solutions, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices and the deployment of agricultural technologies that are resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change; *(Previous 29(ii)(c))*
  - b. Increasing sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food security and nutrition and livelihoods in SIDS in a manner that helps with climate adaptation, mitigates emissions and promotes sustainable use of biodiversity, including through incubation, diversification, local value addition, climate-resilient best practices, and promoting, scaling up and replicating locally grown ideas, to accelerate the achievement of sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food security, and good and improved nutrition, as well as improved overall health and wellbeing; and *(Previous 29(ii)(d))*
  - c. Developing climate-resilient and water efficient food and agricultural production, and supply and distribution of food, including the reduction of food loss and waste, and enhancing energy resilience of farmers to volatile and high energy prices. *(Previous 29(ii)(e) and (f.bis))*
- iv. Build resilient infrastructure by:
- a. Scaling up planning, development and management of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and energy efficient land, marine and air transportation systems; and *(Previous 29(iii)(a))*
  - b. Applying the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure in SIDS to create risk-informed policy, investment decisions and systems in sectors including transportation, energy, communications, water, health and education, with a view to nurturing a culture of maintenance for resilient societies. *(Previous 29(iii)(a))*
- v. Enhance transport and connectivity by:
- a. Investing in sound, safe, sustainable, climate resilient, and affordable land, air, maritime and inter-islands transportation infrastructure, including traditional and sustainable modes, that is inclusive for all, with a focus on community engagement and empowerment; *(Previous 29(iv)(a))*

- b. Developing and implementing climate and disaster resilient, safe, affordable, accessible and well-maintained sustainable transportation infrastructure in SIDS, in line with the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure, including to remote and underserved communities, taking into account the local impacts of climate change, to ensure the longevity of transport infrastructure; *(Previous 29(iv)(b))*
  - c. Establishing integrated and sustainable maritime and air transportation systems to foster regional economic and value chain integration, improving inter-island connectivity, modernizing transport fleets and equipment; and *(Previous 29(iv)(c))*
  - d. Developing coordinated regional transportation, fostering connectivity between SIDS and neighboring regions to strengthen economic ties and facilitate movement of goods and people. *(Previous 29(iv)(d))*
22. Underscoring that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5 °C compared with 2 °C, and that that there is a rapidly narrowing window to raise ambition and implement existing commitments, and that SIDS have extraordinary and rich marine and terrestrial biodiversity that, is fundamental to their livelihoods, culture and identity, SIDS seek the support of the international community to: *(Previous 30 - 33)*

#### **D. Environmental Protection and Planetary sustainability**

- i. Urgently take action on climate change by:
  - a. Supporting the recruitment and development of technical expertise and the development of loss and damage response plans and actions, including risk assessment, loss modelling, governance, management, disbursement, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on loss and damage solutions and impacts; *(Previous 33(i)(c))*
  - b. Conserving and sustainably managing forests, and halting and reversing deforestation and degradation of forests, including old-growth forests, and other terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass, peatlands, and marshes; and *(Previous 33(i)(h))*
  - c. Fostering information exchange, expertise-sharing and collective problem-solving, towards addressing climate mitigation and adaptation goals. *(Previous 33(i)(h))*

- ii. Conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources by:
  - a. Ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of aquaculture, mariculture, tourism and fisheries, such as through the implementation of measures to end Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing for mutually reinforcing economic and environmental benefits; *(Previous 33(ii)(c))*
  - b. Addressing biodiversity loss caused by harmful human activities including inadequate waste management and unsustainable production and consumption; including of plastics; overfishing; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; introduction of alien invasive species; noise and light pollution; coral bleaching, ocean acidification, eutrophication and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs); coastal erosion, including through measures such as satellite monitoring, and the establishment and strengthened management of Marine Protected Areas based on the best available scientific information and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM); and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMS) and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs); and *(Previous 33(ii)(d))*
  - c. Strengthening partnerships at the sub-regional, regional and international levels to prevent and reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment and support investment in modern integrated solid waste management systems. *(Previous 33(ii)(f))*
  
- iii. Conserve, restore and sustainably use biodiversity by:
  - a. Developing, enhancing, and applying environmental statistics frameworks in their national statistical systems, such as Natural Capital Accounting Framework including ecosystems services valuation, to assess the direct contribution, as well as co-benefits, of natural ecosystems to economies, and inform policy decisions and development; *(Previous 33(iii)(a))*
  - b. Support SIDS to identify financing and capacity gaps in meeting biodiversity objectives and develop partnerships, particularly with the private sector, to develop innovative strategies to bridge these gaps; *(Previous 33(iii)(b))*
  - c. Updating the programme of work on island biodiversity adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in the context of the ongoing process to identify scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and through financing from the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund; *(Previous 33(iii)(c))*

- d. Developing an island biodiversity capacity-building and development action plan, on the basis of the review of the capacity, legislative, institutional settings and technology transfers on mutually-agreed terms and absorptive frameworks, research and sustaining abilities of SIDS, and in line with the programme of work on island biodiversity; *(Previous 33(iii)(c))*
  - e. Incorporating traditional knowledge and practice of Indigenous Peoples, in full respect of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as knowledge and practice of local communities, for adaptation measures, including nature-based solutions and cultural heritage preservation; and *(Previous 33(iii)(d))*
  - f. Strengthening efforts towards circular economy to mitigate biodiversity loss and prevent pollution. *(Previous 33(i)(e.bis))*
- iv. Mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction by:
- a. Increasing local, national and regional capacity, particularly among key national agencies, to improve coordination with international, regional and humanitarian partners and donor governments, as appropriate, to prevent and respond to intensifying disaster events; *(Previous 33(iv)(a))*
  - b. Building more robust multi-hazard risk governance, including the development of gender-responsive national legislative frameworks for disaster risk reduction and strengthened local authorities and community-based disaster risk management approaches that can capture whole of government and whole of society actions; *(Previous 33(iv)(b))*
  - c. Strengthening disaster preparedness, including multi-hazard early warning systems and capacity to take early action, through initiatives such as the Early Warning for All and the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS), timely evacuation planning, planning for relocation of communities, and developing post-disaster needs assessments; *(Previous 33(iv)(c))*
  - d. Implementing creative arrangements and risk reduction mechanisms that allow SIDS to access low and concessional financing rates,

including government guarantees and insurance schemes, as appropriate; and *(Previous 33(iv)(d))*

- e. Reducing disaster risks, including by building protective infrastructure and resilience of freshwater and other water systems, and developing systems for managing evacuations and the distribution of basic relief support. *(Previous 33(iv)(e)and(e.bis))*

### III. How Do SIDS Get There?

34. We reaffirm the continued applicability of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) adopted in 1994, the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) of 2005, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway of 2014 as blueprints setting out the sustainable development priorities of SIDS. *(Previous 8)*

35. We recommit to the full and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup>, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant intergovernmentally agreed development outcomes. *(Previous 9)*

36. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof. *(Previous 10)*

37. Respecting the primary responsibility of small island developing States for their own resilient prosperity, recognizing there are critical enablers with the potential to deliver transformative change for SIDS to realize the [SIDS Agenda] by 2034, we, the international community, commit to the following actions: *(Previous 35.pre - 36)*

#### A. Build Economic Resilience

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.



- i. Reform the international financial architecture and address gaps and shortfalls, and facilitate easier access to affordable and concessional finance by:
  - a. Inviting all development partners, including the international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, to consider how best multidimensional vulnerability could be further incorporated into existing practices and policies for development support, including in access to concessional finance and debt treatment mechanisms and debt sustainability; *(Previous 36(a))*
  - b. Engaging in the intergovernmental process on the final report of the High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States; *(Previous 36(a))*
  - c. Expanding multilateral lending to SIDS by US\$1 trillion, while maintaining financial sustainability of multilateral development institutions, and taking note of the Heads of MDBs Group's identification of capital adequacy measures which could potentially yield additional lending headroom in the order of up to USD 400 billion over the next decade, with a view to strengthening support for SIDS in achieving resilient prosperity; and *(Previous 36(b.alt alt))*
  - d. Improving SIDS representation and participation in governance and decision-making bodies, and norm-setting in the international financial system, to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions. *(Previous 36(d))*
- ii. Increase effectiveness of development finance by:
  - a. Improving aid effectiveness, development cooperation and donor coordination in line with SIDS national and regional priorities, needs and absorptive capacities, including through the implementation of the SIDS Principles for Development Effectiveness; and *(Previous 36(f2))*
  - b. Promoting a risk-informed approach to investment and financing in SIDS so that all development finance strengthens resilience and accelerates the development aspirations of SIDS. *(Previous 36(f1))*
- iii. Supporting the sustainable management of debt by:
  - a. Establishing a dedicated SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service to enable sound debt management and devise effective solutions for SIDS

in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term as part of a global financial compact for SIDS, building on and avoiding duplication with relevant dedicated initiatives; and *(Previous 36(c))*

- b. Considering the use of state-contingent instruments to strengthen borrower resilience and increase the ability of SIDS to withstand economic shocks. *(Previous 36(d))*
  
- iv. Increase investments in SIDS by:
  - a. Strengthening investment promotion agencies in SIDS to attract stable and development-conducive foreign direct investment and other private capital flows, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and legislation. *(Previous 18(ii)(c))*
  
- v. Enable youth economic participation by:
  - a. Equipping youth with education and skills including through capacity building and training initiatives to pursue opportunities in traditional, emerging and innovative economies; and *(Previous 18(iv)(d))*
  - b. Supporting youth-driven startups, providing financial backing, mentorship, and resources to cultivate a new generation of entrepreneurs and steer SIDS toward economic resilience and diversification through innovation. *(Previous 18(iv)(d))*

## **B. Scale-up climate action**

- i. Accelerated actions towards full and effective implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement<sup>3</sup> by: *(Previous 37 - 38)*
  - a. Urgently enhancing support and partnerships for just, inclusive and resilient energy transitions that will upscale investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency infrastructure, technology and training; *(Previous 29(i)(a))*
  - b. Taking urgent actions to close the emissions gap and to keep the global average temperature of 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels within reach, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different

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<sup>3</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

- national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty; *(Previous 33(i)(b. alt. alt))*
- c. Enhancing adaptation action, through timely operationalization of the global goal on adaptation, and the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, and to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation and the review of overall progress in achieving it; and *(Previous 33(i)(d))*
  - d. Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible, taking into account the Paris Agreement, different national circumstances and pathways. *(Previous 33(i)(e))*
- ii. Increase climate finance by: *(Previous 37 - 38)*
- a. Providing adequate and predictable support to SIDS, in line with existing obligations and commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances; *(Previous 38(a))*
  - b. Strengthening and mobilizing support for existing multilateral climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility and its Special Climate Change Fund, and the Adaptation Fund; *(Previous 38(a))*
  - c. Simplifying and harmonizing, as appropriate, the application requirements, as well as access and approval procedures for climate financing instruments, to address, inter alia, the current high barriers and transaction costs, especially for small financing projects; *(Previous 38(b))*
  - d. Providing technical support for SIDS for the further development of private financial products such as green and blue bonds, as well as the development of carbon markets aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; *(Previous 38(c) and (c.alt))*
  - e. Urgently mobilizing new, additional, predictable, and accessible financing from a wide range of sources to address the significant finance gaps that remain in responding to both economic and non-economic loss and damage, and the associated economic and noneconomic losses with special consideration for SIDS; *(Previous 38(d))*

- f. Urgently operationalizing and capitalizing the new fund for responding to loss and damage, ensuring that SIDS priorities and needs are also considered in the context of access and resource allocation and the development of programmatic, nationally-led approaches, with due regard for the governing instrument of the fund and special consideration for SIDS; *(Previous 38(e.alt))*
- g. Addressing the significant challenges small island developing states face in accessing climate finance for implementing their national adaptation plans; *(Previous 38(f))*
- h. Addressing the underlying barriers in accessing and mobilizing finance to deploy renewable energy, including enabling environments and policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; and *(Previous 29(i)(a))*
- i. Activating private sector finance for climate mitigation and adaptation. *(Previous 36(b.alt alt))*

### **C. Scale-up biodiversity action**

- i. Accelerated actions towards full and effective implementation of the outcomes of the CBD COPs, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) by:
  - a. Taking urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, ensuring adequate financial and technical support for SIDS, and timely operationalization and capitalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund; *(Previous 33(iii)(a) pre.alt)) and (Previous 33 (ii) d))*
  - b. Providing and mobilizing new and additional means of implementation, and urgently increase the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, with a view to closing the biodiversity financing gap and making adequate and predictable resources available in a timely manner; and *(Previous 38(f.bis))*
  - c. Increasing biodiversity related international finance resources to SIDS in accordance with target 19(a) of the KMGBF in the increased provision and mobilization of biodiversity finance from developed countries. *(Previous 38 (iii) (a))*

### **D. Conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources**

- i. Support action on oceans by:
  - a. Building capacity in understanding their rights, obligations and responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) including to enable their effective participation in activities under UNCLOS; *(Previous 33(ii)(a))*
  - b. Building capacity to ratify and implement the provisions of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, including for area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments, marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, and capacity building and transfer of marine technology; *(Previous 33(ii)(b))*
  - c. Supporting financing, specifically designed for ocean-based economy projects; *(Previous 18(vi)(b))*
  - d. Pursuing opportunities for research and innovation in ocean-related industries that explore new technologies, sustainable practices, and innovative solutions; *(Previous 18(vi)(a))*
  - e. Assisting SIDS in planning and implementing area-based management tools, including effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected Marine Protected Areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, through, inter alia, assessing their multiple ecological, socio-economic and cultural value and applying the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach; and *(Previous 18(vi)(d.bis))*
  - f. Encouraging the increase of funding to the Trust Funds<sup>4</sup> the efficient and effective operation of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental shelf. *(Previous 33(ii)(e))*

## **E. Mainstream disaster risk reduction**

- i. Build resilience to disasters by:

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<sup>4</sup> Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States in the meetings of the Commission and the Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

- a. Providing financial and technical assistance, and capacity building for DRR and more robust multi-hazard risk governance; *(Previous 33(iv)(e)) and (Previous 33(iv)(b))*
- b. Assisting SIDS to respond to disasters by supporting them through the IFIs to build and design risk-resilient infrastructure and improving the speed of post-disaster support; *(Previous 36(d.bis))*
- c. Allocating ex-ante financing to enable the systemic reduction of disaster risk and resilience building, including the disclosure of disaster risk; and *(Previous 33(iv)(a))*
- d. Providing emergency liquidity to SIDS as required, and funding reconstruction after disasters. *(Previous 36(b.alt alt))*

## **F. Safe and healthy societies**

- i. Strengthen health systems by:
  - a. Increasing access to assistance, including financing, aligned with national and regional priorities; and *(Previous 24(i)(b))*
  - b. Providing financial and technical assistance and capacity building support to prevent and address the impact of NCDs and mental health conditions, including in support of the Barbados Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health, as appropriate. *(Previous 24(i)(d))*

## **G. Data collection, analysis and use**

- i. Strengthening data collection, storage and analysis by:
  - a. Investing in building human and institutional capacity in SIDS to collect quality, accessible, timely and reliable, disaggregated data, according to their national contexts, to measure progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, taking into account the promotion of democratic governance and respect for human rights; *(Previous 41(a))*
  - b. Strengthening and modernizing national data infrastructure and systems in SIDS to better integrate data into development planning, and enhancing the capacity of Statistical Offices in SIDS; *(Previous 41(b))*
  - c. Enhancing science based and innovative approaches, including responsible use of artificial intelligence, for the collection, storage,

- analysis, disaggregation, dissemination and use of demographic data in SIDS, including use of geo-spatial technologies; *(Previous 41(c))*
- d. Enhancing partnerships and the sharing of best practice, expertise, digital public goods and data in order to facilitate SIDS peer-to-peer learning, including through the SIDS Center of Excellence and existing statistical initiatives, including through regional organizations; *(Previous 41(d))*
  - e. Increasing support, including financing, to improve SIDS' data collection, governance, management and analysis on hazards, disaster loss and risk and their impacts, including to quantify losses and damages in SIDS; and *(Previous 41(e))*
  - f. Providing high quality spatial data for SIDS and work to downscale global datasets to provide accurate information for SIDS. *(Previous 41(f))*

## **H. Science, technology, innovation and digitalization**

- i. Harness the potential of science, technology and innovation and spread the benefits of digitalization in SIDS by:
  - a. Providing SIDS the necessary means of implementation to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities; *(Previous 44(a))*
  - b. Taking action to harness digital technologies to achieve sustainable development in SIDS by strengthening digital cooperation, developing digital infrastructure, bridging digital divides and ensuring an open, secure and inclusive digital future for all; *(Previous 44(g))*
  - c. Assisting SIDS in developing national roadmaps for digitalization, science, technology and innovation (STI) and to support SIDS to build up national capacities for developing and utilizing the state-of-the-art technologies, including renewable energy technologies, marine technologies for the ocean-based economy and other areas significant to sustainable development, including digital technologies; *(Previous 44(b))*
  - d. Assisting the development of policies and legislation to create an enabling environment to boost inclusive, responsible and sustainable digital transformation, innovation, enhance digital infrastructure and connectivity, bridge digital divides, enhance digital skills, support government digital services and Digital Public Infrastructure, and

leverage emerging science and technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), taking into account the unique needs of SIDS; *(Previous 44(c))*

- e. Supporting the SIDS Center of Excellence through its innovation and technology mechanism to provide learning opportunities, exchange experiences and support innovation, so as to enhance capacity building and narrow the digital divides; *(Previous 44(d))*
- f. Supporting inclusive digital societies, and implement initiatives at all levels to develop human resources in science and technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM), especially to promote the interest of children, youth, women and girls, persons with disabilities and other people in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen the quality of education and re-skilling in these fields by modernizing school curricula; *(Previous 44(d bis))*
- g. Developing digital solutions to expand commerce to overcome the adverse impacts of remoteness and other structural constraints in SIDS; and *(Previous 44(e))*
- h. Supporting the building of capacity among SIDS populations to access new and emerging technological innovations, improving digital literacy and skills, to ensure that everyone, especially the most vulnerable, have access to services, both offline and online, and benefit from economic opportunities. *(Previous 44(f))*

## **I. Productive populations**

- i. Increase prosperity and productive capacities, employment, equality and inclusivity in SIDS by:
  - a. Empowering SIDS to capture the benefits of digital technologies and resources for inclusive, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, including through distance learning; *(Previous 46(a))*
  - b. Promoting, protecting and improving the health and nutrition of populations through multi-sectoral action and strengthening health systems to support educational attainment, a growing and productive workforce, poverty reduction and resilience to shocks; *(Previous 46(a bis))*



- c. Providing quality education opportunities for children and youth at risk and develop gender-responsive strategies to address underperformance, especially of boys in school, to ensure they are educated with skillsets to enable them to successfully enter the labour market, taking into account national circumstances; *(Previous 46(b))*
- d. Developing policies, strategies and norms to promote employment and reducing unemployment and underemployment, by promoting skills development and productivity, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and experience-sharing that respond to evolving job markets and reducing barriers to employment, especially for youth and women including by addressing the disproportionate share of care and domestic work; and *(Previous 46(c))*
- e. Increasing investment in the quality of education, re-skilling and lifelong-learning opportunities especially for children, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities, migrants and displaced people and other people in vulnerable situations. *(Previous 46(d))*

## **J. Partnerships**

- i. New, innovative and bold approaches to partnership based on mutual respect and shared opportunities, including with relevant stakeholders, and cooperation that leverages a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, by:
  - a. Expanding and diversifying partnerships with local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the private sector, academia and international financial institutions to implement the [SIDS Agenda]; *(Previous 48(a))*
  - b. Supporting SIDS-SIDS cooperation, capacity building and knowledge exchange, particularly among SIDS institutions, including the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in Barbados; and *(Previous 18)*
  - c. Leveraging North-South, Triangular and South-South cooperation, including SIDS-to-SIDS to mobilize human, financial, technical, and technological resources, while recalling that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. *(Previous 48(b))*

#### **IV. A More Effective UN In Support of SIDS**

49. We value the role of the United Nations system in supporting SIDS to achieve their sustainable development objectives, and request all United Nations development system entities to contribute to the implementation of, and to integrate, the [SIDS Agenda] into their strategic and work plans, in accordance with their mandates. *(Previous 49)*

50. We call upon the United Nations system to ensure country and multi-country offices of all United Nations entities operating in SIDS are well resourced, with staff with the appropriate skills, experience, country-context and capacities to operate effectively, and to avoid vacancies at the country-level, particularly in Resident Coordinator Offices. *(Previous 50)*

51. We request the Secretary-General, within his annual report to the General Assembly for the 80<sup>th</sup> Session on the implementation of the [SIDS Agenda], to present proposals to ensure a coordinated, coherent and effective UN system wide capacity development approach to SIDS and to enhance the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the [SIDS Agenda], including a potential single SIDS-dedicated entity at the UN Secretariat. *(Previous 51)*

52. We also request the United Nations Secretary-General, in consultation with States, including through the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, to present recommendations for the strengthening of the SIDS Partnership Framework and the SIDS Global Business Network and its Forum. *(Previous 48(c))*

#### **V. Monitoring and Evaluation**

52. We commit to engaging in systematic monitoring and evaluation of the [SIDS Agenda] over the next 10 years. We request the United Nations Secretary-General to convene an inter-agency task force to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets and indicators, for adoption by the United Nations General Assembly by no later than the second quarter of 2025. The framework should build on the monitoring and evaluation framework for the SAMOA Pathway, in line with the targets and indicators of the SDGs, and use data from existing reporting mechanisms where possible and should not be overly burdensome or create new processes or requirements for SIDS. *(Previous 52)*

53. Following the adoption of the monitoring and evaluation framework, we call upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and OHRLLS to conduct workshops to familiarize SIDS with the application of the framework and build capacity to collect and submit their data. *(Previous 53)*

54. We call for the annual SIDS Segment of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, to be repurposed to review annually progress against commitments in the [SIDS Agenda] that are aligned with the SDGs under review. To support this, we request the Secretary-General to prepare an annual report on progress implementing the [SIDS Agenda], drawing on data from the monitoring and evaluation framework. *(Previous 54)*

55. Beginning in 2026, we call upon the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Africa to conduct a comprehensive biennial review of progress in each SIDS in their respective regions, which should inform the United Nations Secretary-General's report on follow-up of the [SIDS Agenda]. In this regard, we call for the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea region to support implementation of the [SIDS Agenda] and contribute to its monitoring and review. Until such a mechanism is established, we request the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish SIDS Divisions, within existing resources, to coordinate monitoring, evaluation and reporting for AIS member states. *(Previous 55)*

56. We call for the United Nations General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of the [SIDS Agenda], informed by Regional Preparatory Meetings, to highlight solutions to address the gaps and challenges implementing the [SIDS Agenda] and identify priorities for the final five years of its implementation. *(Previous 56)*