Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the
Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States
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Statement by H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva,
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN

Excellencies,

First off, I wish to thank the Permanent Representatives of the Maldives and New Zealand for guiding us through the preparatory process and in its final stages. You can count on Bulgaria’s support in this final stretch of the preparations.

Colleagues,

As we finalise and prepare for adoption the new 10-year program of action, we need to make sure it is ambitious, and action-oriented, and better equipped to address the key challenges faced by the SIDS to achieve sustainable development and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Only through addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of the SIDS, together with other countries in special situations, can we achieve the SDGs as we are only as resilient as the most vulnerable amongst us.

SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, preeminent among them sea-level rise. This highlights not only the unequal burden borne by them, but also the clear link that exists between climate and security. This link is experienced particularly strongly by the SIDS.

SIDS also face challenges relating to biodiversity loss and high levels of debt. These challenges need to receive our full attention and support, including through mobilising all available resources. Here, as elsewhere, success will depend on the strong multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration between public and private sectors, civil society and government authorities at all levels. It is not possible to tackle the existential challenges without securing adequate funding for initiatives benefitting the small island developing states. We welcome the commitment of most donors to increase such funding through various traditional and innovative mechanisms. As a relatively new donor, Bulgaria stands ready to do its part.

The draft outcome document is shaping up to be what is needed to address the challenges and also provides solid solutions. We need to keep the level of ambition high until the very end as the next 10 years and what we make of them will be of critical importance.

Let me conclude by reaffirming Bulgaria’s unwavering support for the process and the forthcoming conference.

Thank you.