



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cabo Verde to the United Nations

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Statement by the Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde, Ambassador Tania Romualdo, at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (April 1, 2024)

Distinguished co-chairs of the preparatory committee, Excellencies,

Cabo Verde is aligned with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Group of 77 and China and in addition we present these brief comments in our national capacity.

First allow us to express deep appreciation towards the co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee, the Permanent Representatives of the Maldives and New Zealand for their strong commitment, dedication and steadfast engagement along this process.

On the outcome document for the Fourth SIDS Conference, we had three informal sessions so far and we register good progress. However, we haven't reached agreement yet on some parts of the document on very important issues for SIDS.

SIDS have limited and usually undiversified economies. SIDS have small populations, are geographically dispersed and are extremely vulnerability to external shocks and the consequences of climate change, among which the sea level rise. We need way more than fair access to financing and recognition of our structural vulnerabilities. We need financing avenues that align with our characteristics and undeniable needs.

We therefore need to be very focused during this 2nd PrepCom and keep in mind that we are aiming for an outcome tailored to SIDS's special circumstances, specific, urgent, immediate, short- and long-term needs.

SIDS voices must have a special say in this process because we are preparing for the upcoming decade. Our populations and our youth, with particular emphasis, have high expectations and are watching us.

In May we are all heading to Antigua & Barbuda hopefully to deliver an outcome fit for the next ten years. We must deliver and cannot disappoint because the time to act is now. This is our chance, our last chance, to place SIDS on a sustainable pathway towards its own development and that of the international development agenda to leave no one, no country or region behind.

As we are now embarking on this final sprint of collaboration and preparation, we are confident that all member states, regions and our partners will continue to engage in this process with enthusiasm and hope that our collective efforts will guide our discussions towards tangible commitments and impactful outcomes.

Finally, I hope that the deliberations of the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the SIDS4 Conference will be productive and inspiring, marking a significant step towards a safer and sustainable future for all SIDS and the world. I wish us all good work and a resounding success.

Thank you.