

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 member states of the Caribbean Community CARICOM. We align ourselves with the statements delivered by SAMOA on behalf of AOSIS and by Uganda on behalf of the G77 and China.

Co-Chairs,

CARICOM expresses its gratitude for your stewardship of this process and continues to pledge our commitment to supporting your work as you shepherd us toward a meaningful and impactful outcome document.

In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, Small Island Developing States were recognised as a special case both for their environment and their development.

Thirty two years later the facts and circumstances of this special case remain unchanged expressly because SIDS are not able to graduate out of their vulnerability; they are not able to expand or rearrange their geographic size or location. The special case for SIDS is such, precisely, because of the unique and inherent nature of the economic and geographical circumstances that are beyond our control.

Co-Chairs,

The myriad external, existential and unrelenting threats to our sustainable development, require nuanced and dedicated solutions. Over the last three informal sessions on the draft outcome document, we have navigated the various challenges that impact the sustainable development of SIDS. We continue to encourage member states to work with us toward a SIDS focused outcome, to engage with a willingness to understand our unique characteristics, our vulnerabilities and our limitless possibilities, while maintaining a strong commitment to implement joint actions in accordance with those understandings.

It is of critical importance for SIDS that the outcome reflect the clear aspirations and targeted needs of the small island developing states in their unique contexts, based on what has been clearly articulated, including through the regional and interregional meetings of 2023. It is imperative that we work constructively to an outcome that will live

up to the theme of the SIDS4 conference, that will *chart a course toward the resilient prosperity of SIDS*, to produce a SIDS-led, SIDS-focused agenda that is achievable. We therefore urge support for the adoption and implementation of these measures in order to achieve success.

Co-Chairs,

Small Island Developing States are the barometer of the global economy and environment. Our sustainable development is not simply a discrete regional issue; it is inextricably intertwined and mutually dependent upon global development. As goes the world, so go the SIDS. And vice-versa.

Our citizens deserve a sustained, grounded and sincere reimagining and restructuring of ineffective one-size-fits all approaches that do not advance our sustainable development aspirations. We look to this process and our collective work to deliver an outcome of SIDS4 that is meaningful and impactful for every citizen in a small island developing state.

Thank you.