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National statement - Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Date and time: 01 April 2024 AM

Statement by
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Deputy Permanent Representative
01 April 2024

Thank you, Mr/Madam Co-Chair,

1. The Maldives aligns itself with the statements delivered by G77 and China, and AOSIS.
2. We are just 56 days from St John's. In the next few days, we are tasked with finalising the text of the outcome document – a document that will be the definitive guide for the development aspirations of small island developing states for the next 10 years.
3. In over 30 years the international community has made many promises on what they will do to help SIDS achieve our aspirations.



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Of those promises, most remain unfulfilled. And of the goals set for the SIDS, most remain unachieved.

4. In the coming days, we must ensure that the outcome document of SIDS4 remains focused on SIDS, their needs, their aspirations, and their survival. My delegation believes that the voices of SIDS must come first, if we want an outcome document that is action oriented and sharply focused on key issues for SIDS. These include, addressing access to climate and development finance, access to markets, gender inequality;;; developing capacity; and strengthening institutions.
5. Of course, an ambitious Programme of Action cannot be achieved without equally ambitious means of implementation.
6. What SIDS want is genuine, true partnerships. Partnerships that will develop their productive and state capacities. Capacities that will enable them to tackle their development challenges, and ensure that they are addressed in a holistic, and complete manner.



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7. We remain confident that the international community can come together, to ensure that sustainable development of SIDS is not just merely an aspiration; but an achievable and realistic endeavour.
 8. The Maldives will continue to work tirelessly to ensure a successful conclusion to this preparatory committee. We also reiterate our commitment to making the SIDS4 Conference a milestone moment for the sustainable development of SIDS.
 9. I thank you.
