



**UNOHRLLS**

**Closing Remarks**

**By**

**Ms. Rabab Fatima  
Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser for the  
Conference &  
High-Representative  
for  
Least Developed Countries,  
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing  
States**

**Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the  
Fourth International Conference on  
Small Island Developing States**

**New York, CR 2  
11 April 2024**

**Ambassador Carolyn Schwalger,**

**Ambassador Ali Naseer Mohamed,**

**USG Li,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Let me start by extending my warmest congratulations to you Co-Chairs, and your excellent teams, on the successful conclusion of the work of the Preparatory Committee and delivering on an ambitious POA for the SIDS for the next decade. I also congratulate and thank all delegations for their excellent support and important contributions to reaching this successful outcome.**

**After a robust preparatory process, which covered all the SIDS regions and provided a solid basis for the work of the Committee, we now have before us an outcome that captures**

**concrete goals and targets for the SIDS and their development partners to fulfil in the next decade.**

**This is indeed a landmark moment in the development journey of the 39 SIDS and their people.**

**I take this opportunity to commend AOSIS under the able leadership of its Chair, Amb. Luteru, for your steadfast leadership to ensure that the strong vision of the SIDS is strongly reflected in the outcome document, and the targets, commitments, and deliverables of the new POA are commensurate with the urgent and critical needs of the SIDS on the ground.**

**I am pleased to see that the new POA effectively addresses the SIDS needs for resilient economies; safe, healthy, and**

**prosperous societies; and a secure future; as well as environmental protection and planetary sustainability.**

**I also thank all the development partners for demonstrating their strong solidarity and partnership for the SIDS throughout the entire process; especially with regard to access to finance; strengthening capacities including in data collection; and digital transformation, among others.**

**Together, with the international community, you have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to shape an ambitious and forward-looking POA that can take us into a new decade of action for SIDS.**

**Excellencies,**

**With just six weeks to the Conference, we must build on the momentum that has been generated here for a successful Conference in St Johns.**

**We must carry the spirit of renewed political commitment and enhanced solidarity to Antigua to secure a decade of real change for SIDS defined by sustainable development and resilience.**

**As Special Advisor of SIDS4 and High Representative for SIDS, my Office and I, will continue to invest all efforts to mobilize political support for the SIDS agenda and ensuring multistakeholder partnerships to make the conference a resounding success.**

**We are committed to ensuring high-level participation from the Member States and the UN System to generate strong**

**momentum for the full and effective implementation of the new SIDS agenda.**

**We also look forward to working with DESA and the entire UN team to support the SIDS in achieving the vision and ambition for this Conference into the next decade of action, including with respect to developing an effective monitoring and reporting framework for the new POA.**

**OHRLLS will further step up its work on critical issues such as the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), Climate Financing, SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) Network, and the Global Business Network (GBN) to ensure necessary impetus in realizing the ambitions of the next POA and the SDGs in SIDS.**

**Excellencies,**

**The SIDS4 Conference offers us a once-in-a decade opportunity to renew our commitment to bring about transformative changes in the 39 most vulnerable countries in the world.**

**Let us seize this opportunity to bring the world's attention and commitment to this new chapter of the SIDS story.**

**We look forward to working closely with you for the next decade of progress and sustainable development in these countries.**

**I once again wish the Co-Chairs and all of you my heartiest congratulations on a successful conclusion of the PrepCom.**

**I thank you.**