



DRAFT STATEMENT

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**Preparatory Committee of the Fourth International Conference on
Small Island Developing States**

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Check Against Delivery

Co-Chairs,

At the outset, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to you Co-Chair, for Conveying this second session of the Preparatory meeting for SIDS4. Timor-Leste aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinctive representatives G77+China, AOSIS and LDS. I now make remarks on our national capacity on the SIDS4 Conference which will take place in Antigua and Barbuda.

Co-Chairs,

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique challenges, including high debt burdens, vulnerability to natural disasters, and limited resources. Despite efforts to address debt sustainability, more needs to be done to support sustainable development in SIDS.

Given their particular circumstances and particular needs, Timor-Leste subscribe to any efforts that aims to help SIDS, not only to alleviate the burden on their shoulders but take more real actions to address such issues and further work to sustain its developments.

In this context, Timor-Leste propose that the following program based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be included in the Antigua and Barbuda agenda with strong commitment to address the issues in order to Empowering SIDS for Sustainable Development.

1. SDG 1: No Poverty

- * Implement poverty reduction strategies and social protection programs.
- * Enhance access to education, healthcare, and job opportunities

2. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

- * Promote sustainable tourism and entrepreneurship.
- * Develop renewable energy sources and sustainable infrastructure.

3. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- * Implement sustainable agriculture practices and reduce food imports.
- * Encourage eco-friendly industries and reduce waste management.

4. SDG 13: Climate Action

- * Enhance climate resilience and adaptation efforts.

- * Promote renewable energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
5. SDG 14: Life Below Water
- * Protect marine biodiversity and promote sustainable fishing practices.
 - * Enhance coastal management and reduce pollution.
6. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.
- * Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation.
 - * Enhance capacity building and technology transfer.

Program Components:

1. Capacity Building and Training.
2. Innovative Financing Mechanisms.
3. Technology Transfer and Innovation.
4. Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation.

This agenda program should focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by SIDS, promoting sustainable development, and achieving the SDGs.

It should prioritize capacity building, innovative financing, technology transfer, regional cooperation, and monitoring progress.

By implementing this program, SIDS can make significant strides towards sustainable development and reducing their debt burden.