

Statement delivered by H.E. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Tonga to the United Nations

**Second session of the
Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on
Small Island Developing States
April 1, 2024**

**Co-chairs,
Excellencies,**

Tonga aligns its statement with the statement delivered by Uganda, on behalf of the Group of 77 plus China, and Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States. I wish to add a few remarks on behalf of my own country Tonga.

Tonga commends the leadership and dedication of the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Carolyn Schwalger of New Zealand and Ambassador Ali Naseer Mohamed of the Maldives.

Tonga looks forward to a productive Second session of the SIDS 4 Preparatory Committee this week.

Co-Chairs,

Tonga voices its strong support for an outcome document that is highly ambitious and SIDS-focused. This is important in charting the course towards resilient prosperity for SIDS which is the theme of the Fourth SIDS Conference to be held in Antigua and Barbuda next month. A watering down or muting of SIDS's high ambition in the outcome document will not be in line with the ambitious theme of "Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity".

Having said that, SIDS cannot run this course alone towards resilient prosperity. SIDS need partners. SIDS need genuine and durable partnerships. If we, as Small Island Developing States, are to achieve resilience and prosperity in the face of SIDS particular circumstances, including the climate crisis, we must all come together and embrace the 17th SDG – which is "Partnerships for the Goals."

I thank you Co-Chairs.