United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) statement at the Second Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 4)

1 April 2024

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

- With the SIDS 4 fast approaching, UNIDO commends the efforts of Member States (and you the co-chairs) in preparing the Outcome Document.

- We particularly welcome the strong focus on building resilient economies in SIDS.

- As part of the UN family, UNIDO stands ready to support SIDS in revitalizing their economies, particularly by strengthening productive capacities and enhancing participation in global trade.

- To achieve this, SIDS need to prioritize policies that encourage local value addition, innovation and entrepreneurship.

- This is key to diversify and grow their domestic economies, and increase investments.

- Modern industrial policies can also facilitate low-carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient activities in SIDS, including in agro-processing and emerging sectors, such as the blue economy.

- However, access to renewable, reliable and affordable energy is a pre-requisite for resilient economies. It is also key to reducing SIDS’ dependence on fossil fuel imports and the resulting high debt.

- UNIDO is committed to playing its part and helping our SIDS Member States to devise economically viable solutions to their unique challenges.

- As just one example, the Global Ocean Energy Alliance - launched by UNIDO and SIDS DOCK - helps SIDS and coastal LDCs to access ocean
energy technology, finance and expertise. And we look forward to expanding this alliance to more Member States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Allow me to conclude by reiterating that SIDS are essential constituents of UNIDO.

- Our SIDS strategy will continue to guide our support, in line with the priorities emanating from SIDS 4.

- Together with our SIDS Member States and partners, we will continue to identify and implement concrete solutions to advance economic resilience and sustainable development in SIDS.

- UNIDO looks forward to working with all of you at SIDS 4 and beyond.

Thank you.