

SIDS4 Prep Com II: Opening remarks for delivery by USUN on Monday April 1

My delegation would like to thank the co-chairs, the Maldives and New Zealand, and other members of the Preparatory Committee Bureau for their leadership of this process. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Secretariat for its support.

Negotiations on the Conference outcome document have entailed some spirited debate. We see this debate as reflective of the passions arising from our strong common commitment to addressing the unique challenges and vulnerabilities that SIDS face in their pursuit of sustainable development.

The United States Government shares this commitment. We therefore look forward to continuing to work with delegations to find common ground on an outcome document that can both attract consensus and stimulate action.

We also look forward to the opportunity presented by the SIDS4 Conference to highlight and deepen engagement with many of the small island states that will be represented there and are proud to have been able to make a contribution in the lead-up to the Conference.

Our delegation will include a mix of high-level officials and experts from across our government who will be well-positioned to discuss directly with island leaders and development partners the ways in which we can best support SIDS' in their course toward sustainable development and resilient prosperity. Among other things, we look forward to the continued development and piloting of a multidimensional vulnerability index, which holds potential for SIDS and, indeed, for all developing countries.

We look forward to full participation including co-hosting side events and announcing deliverables in May.