

Mr President,

- Let me start by fully endorsing what has been said here on the outstanding hospitality extended to us by the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda. My congratulations and expressions of gratitude, on behalf of my government, are addressed in particular to His Excellency the Prime Minister and his government, as well as to the Secretariat of the United Nations, for their joint efforts in organizing this important Conference. I would like to acknowledge also the relentless efforts by Ambassador Rabab Fatima and her team, as well as the staff of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, led by Mr Li Junghua, so that we achieve a successful outcome of this process.
- Brazil's participation at this debate testifies to our commitment in deepening the dialogue and partnership with all Small Island Developing States. Our longstanding relations with their governments are a reflection of the bonds among developing countries. We firmly believe that many opportunities are open to strengthen our ties, not only on global issues such as climate change and the reform of the international financial system, but also on South-South

cooperation, notably on our common quest in fighting poverty and ensuring health and food security.

- This Fourth International Conference is an important and necessary follow-up of previous international deliberations held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa. Although much has been achieved in the last three decades in advancing sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, challenges are ever more defying given the effects of climate change and limited resources available. Under the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the international community ought to intensify efforts to support SIDS in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in tandem with other developing countries.
- The Antigua and Barbuda Strategy shall be a crucial milestone in advancing our common endeavors in this sense. We recognize how hard and delicate was the preparatory process, which demanded a collective effort to reconcile national positions and priorities with the legitimate demands of SIDS, grounded on their needs and interests. Fortunately, we were able to come to

this Conference with a consensual outcome document, which reflects a common platform for further action within the United Nations and beyond.

- The priorities set out by the Brazilian G20 presidency – just energy transition, poverty and hunger eradication and global governance reform – are fully in line with and supportive of the new Agenda. On that note, we hope that SIDS will engage wholeheartedly in initiatives to be launched by Brazil in the context of the G20, particularly the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty and the Call to Action on Global Governance Reform, which will be open for all countries to join.
- I also note that Brazil has placed the oceans agenda, including the BBNJ Agreement, front and center on our sustainable development program at the G20. This is another area in which we look forward to exploring synergies with our SIDS partners.
- Brazil also recognizes the imperative of sustainably using and conserving our oceans in light with the three dimensions of the sustainable development, namely social, economic and environmental. This is

particularly important to the ongoing discussions in the International Seabed Authority on moving from exploration to the exploitation of the resources of the seabed, based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including sharing benefits of the common heritage of humankind, while paying due consideration to the protection of the marine environment.

- In light of our unequivocal commitment with the provisions of UNCLOS, Brazil has decided to nominate Ms Leticia Carvalho for the position of Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, at the elections to be held in Kingston, Jamaica, during the 29th Session of the International Seabed Authority scheduled for July 2024. Brazil is recognized for its human and technological capacities in the exploration and exploitation of deep-sea resources.
- The candidacy of Ms. Carvalho is the natural corollary of Brazil's commitment to the ongoing discussions of the Authority. The election of Ms. Carvalho shall bring a fresh breath for the International Seabed
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Authority, where open-mindedness and capability of hearing and dialogue are fundamental to its institutional strengthening.

- Moreover, Brazil's candidacy pays the due regard to the principles of geographical rotation, representativeness and gender balance expected at
- ISA, including at the most senior levels. The honourable position of Secretary-General has been previously occupied by nationals from Fiji (1996-2008), Ghana (2009-2016) and the United Kingdom (2016-present). The time has arrived for a national from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, according to well-established practices of geographical balance.

Mr. President,

- Another key area in which SIDS and Brazil should enhance dialogue and cooperation are the ongoing discussions around deep-sea mining. We share the view that it is crucial to ensure long-term sustainability for our oceans and all those who depend on them, most notably SIDS.

- Brazil is committed to strengthening international cooperation for the sustainable development of SIDS, in special those in the Caribbean, both bilaterally and through regional organizations. Under the Technical Cooperation Agreement between Brazil and the Caribbean Community, signed in 2010, we are negotiating possible initiatives in water resource management, health (including Human Milk Banks), school feeding and labor, as well as trainings in risks and disaster management. These proposals shall address common challenges faced by the Caribbean states, including those regarding food insecurity and climate change.
- Brazil and the Association of Caribbean States have finished drafting an agreement on technical cooperation, due to be signed in July this year, which will support the implementation of a future Brazil-Caribbean Cooperation Program. The initiatives that will comprise this Program shall encompass areas of interest to the Caribbean region, such as the commercial use of seaweed, sustainable tourism and risks and disaster management.

- In closing, let me express how glad we are that the Conference is living up to the broad ambition and expectations reflected in ABAS. You can count on my government's support to its thorough follow-up.
- Thank you, Mr President.