



CPDC SIDS CSO Special Event Presentation 29th May 2024

Good evening, The Caribbean Policy Development Centre thanks the organisers for the opportunity to address this important session this evening.

For over 3 decades CPDC has served as a regional umbrella body mandated to represent the views of Non-Governmental Organisations on critical development priorities in the Caribbean.

Very pointedly, I would like to express one concern regarding the nature of partnerships in the preparatory process.

- 1) Prior to and at the global SIDS NGO meeting on Monday, we heard far too many NGOs speak to a lack of access to information and inclusive consultative process which, unfortunately has become characteristic of global inter-governmental conferences. Our concern is that the process appears to be neglecting broad-base and active inclusion of people and the organisations that represent those most in need within our societies...our vulnerable groups.

How should this be resolved?

Very quickly and in response to the challenge noted above:

- 1) Civil society needs to be a key implementor and facilitator! We strongly believe that NGOs/CSOs must be accommodated with appropriate resources and adequate time to plan and engage with our constituents prior to hosting SIDS Conferences.
- 2) It is critical for CSOs to form larger, strategic, informal/formal coalitions rather than operate in silos. The old adage "strength in numbers" rings true now more than ever.



But what is needed to drive the required level of participation and partnerships to achieve an agreed ABAS:

- 1) **Firstly, an inter-regional platform of NGOs that not only meets during SIDS conferences but at least two times a year to work collectively within regional and international policy spaces.** We are of the view that there is a strong role for the UN as a facilitator, supportive of a participatory process, lead by NGOs.
- 2) **Secondly, a mid-term CSO SIDS Review Conference (at year 5),** providing an opportunity for reflection on progress to date and articulate for our sector's priorities within the ABAS, which can evolve over a 5-year period.
- 3) **Thirdly, adequate funding** to permit us to engage our constituents and other UN and intergovernmental processes to advocate for our priorities within the ABAS framework.
- 4) **Finally, a Civil Society coalition** of the willing that enables our sector to synergistically advocate and collectively deepen cross border working relationships within the CSO community to do our part in achieving the outcomes our people so urgently need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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