

Your excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Before I start, I would like you to imagine a river flowing into the ocean. This water is like capital; it flows along the path of least resistance and moves relentlessly towards its goal. Please keep that thought in mind for a moment.

Through the tireless work of people in this room and others, we know what is needed to create climate-resilient economic development with coastal communities. We call this the blue-green economic transition.

I have worked with all kinds of capital for over 40 years and can say categorically that, in the context of our discussions here, it exists and is looking for investment opportunities. My firm invested in 5 years of diligence with Caribbean islands to find out how to reduce the risk of long-term investment. This process allowed us to develop an innovative data platform that integrates SDGs and ROI to obtain objectives and key results. We, as a climate resiliency systems integration organization, firmly believe that this mission-driven approach can speed up and scale up progress by aligning multiple stakeholder interests.

We also believe that well-measured PPPs are key to a successful transition. By including blended capital stakeholders in them, this opportunity can be incorporated into their charter while focusing on the needs of SIDS.

As partnerships are founded on trust, we believe the investment stakeholders need to be involved upfront to ensure that the gaps hindering progress are substantially mitigated. We also believe that a long-term, multi-sectoral approach is necessary.

Coastal 8 stands ready to collaborate, using our approach, with you and all stakeholders. Your involvement, your ideas, and your support are crucial in using our innovative technology and private sector know-how to jointly speed up and scale up investments required to make the blue-green economic transition a reality.

Returning to the example of capital behaving like a river, we are convinced that these flows can be directed by aligning SIDS interests with those of the investment community, with PPPs informed through data technology platforms so that this multi-trillion-dollar opportunity is not missed.