



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus,
H.E. Ms. Maria Michail**

St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 28 May 2024

Check against delivery

Mr. Chair,

Cyprus aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union. Allow me to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Cyprus has cultivated a significant relationship with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), recognizing their shared vulnerabilities and the importance of collective action in addressing common challenges. As an island nation itself, Cyprus sympathizes with the unique socio-economic and environmental struggles faced by SIDS, including issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and access to resources. Climate change might be the most important challenge the SIDS are facing, as small islands are exposed to increasing extreme weather events and to sea-level rise. This shared identity fosters solidarity and cooperation between Cyprus and SIDS, forming the basis for a mutually supportive relationship.

Cyprus has demonstrated its commitment to supporting SIDS by advocating for their interests on the international stage, particularly in forums focused on sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk reduction. Through diplomatic channels and bilateral partnerships, Cyprus seeks to amplify the voices of SIDS and ensure that their concerns are heard and addressed in global decision-making processes.

Moreover, Cyprus extends practical support to SIDS through capacity-building programs, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Drawing on its own experiences in overcoming challenges related to island living, Cyprus offers expertise in areas such as renewable energy, water management, and sustainable tourism. By fostering collaboration and sharing best practices, Cyprus contributes to the resilience and sustainability of SIDS, helping them to navigate the complex landscape of global development while preserving their unique cultural and environmental heritage. Through these concerted efforts, Cyprus reaffirms its commitment to solidarity with SIDS and to building a more inclusive and equitable global community.

Mr. Chair,

Cyprus is committed to a continuous support towards the sustainable development needs of SIDS such as climate neutrality and resilience, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

I thank you.