



*(Please check against delivery)*

**4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States**  
**Interactive Dialogue 4: ‘Leveraging data and digital technologies and building effective institutions for a resilient future in small island developing States’**  
**Statement By H.E. Mr. Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister**  
**of Foreign Affairs of Georgia**  
**Antigua and Barbuda, 29 May 2024**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to engage in this insightful discussion to explore transformative potential of data, digital technologies, and effective institutions for a prosperous future in SIDS and beyond.

The international community faces significant and intricate challenges in the race towards attainment of the SDGs by 2030. These complexities include, amongst others, the connectivity gap, digital exclusion, and the deepening of existing inequalities.

Digital technologies hold promise to boost efficiency and transparency in delivering the government services, enhance stakeholder engagement and speed up progress towards the attainment of all SDGs. However, to fully leverage these opportunities and mitigate potential risks, it is imperative to implement responsive policies, adopt innovative ways, and facilitate rapid technical assistance, particularly to countries of the Global South. Yet, the linchpin to achieving success lies in the closer multilateral collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders in international fora.

While speaking of the human rights-based digital cooperation, let me stress the significance of the Global Digital Compact to be annexed to the Pact of the Future. We believe that the forthcoming consultations will lead to its successful adoption.

Distinguished delegates,

As mentioned before, the challenges facing SIDS emphasize the urgent need for innovative solutions tailored to their specific needs. In this vein, we view the establishment of SIDS Center of Excellence<sup>1</sup> and its pivotal components, namely SIDS Global Data Hub,

---

<sup>1</sup> Hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the SIDS Center of Excellence will be launched at the Fourth International Conference on SIDS. The Center will serve as a hub for research, capacity building, and collaboration to enhance the socio-economic and environmental resilience of SIDS. Its overarching purpose is

Technology and Innovation Mechanism and Island Development Forum, as a practical instrument to further bridge data gaps, enhance technological and institutional capacities and achieve “The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity”.<sup>2</sup>

Excellencies,

Effective institutions move us towards a better and more resilient future. With this in mind, the Government of Georgia, in the framework of the Public Administration Reform (PAR), continues enhancement of Public Service Delivery through leveraging innovation and technological change.

Public Service Halls (currently operating - 118), which serve as the hub for more than 470 public and private services and communication platform for customers, stand out as prime examples of these endeavors, with continuous efforts to modernize and digitize many of its services, based on the "one stop-shop" principle.

Recent digital innovations implemented in service delivery systems include: delivery of services within the penal institutions, Mobile Public Service Halls; Mobile application My.gov.ge; PROBBOX (An electronic device that assists probationers to fulfill their assigned obligations and also provides services to them); Personal Assistant (concept includes both remote communication and the arrangement of space for business and on-site services. Currently, the service is operating in pilot mode.); Electronic Minutes Application (IT project of the National Agency of Public Registry (NAPR) under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia for supporting the significant simplification of the surveying procedures in the land registration process); Qualified Electronic Signature.

We are pleased to note that Georgia has been sharing the above-mentioned innovative experiences and reforms with interested countries across diverse regions, including SIDS and we are eager to further foster these partnerships.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Georgia’s strong commitment to contribute towards building momentum for resilient future in SIDS in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

I thank you!

---

*to operationalize the next SIDS 10-year framework, a comprehensive roadmap designed to translate into actionable steps for sustainable development within SIDS.*

<sup>2</sup> Outcome document of the SIDS4 Conference