

Dear Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, all Protocols Observed

- It is an **honour** to address you today. I would like to thank our host, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, for their outstanding **hospitality** and **leadership**.
- I extend my sincere **condolences** to the government and people of **Papua New Guinea** after the terrible landslide. So many innocent people suffering. **We cannot and must not look away**.
- **Thirty years ago**, the first SIDS Summit took place not long after the first **IPCC** report and a year before the **first COP** in Berlin. Climate change was already a reality for SIDS back then but did not have a prominent place on the larger international stage.
- We have made progress since then (without the Paris Agreement temperature rise would be even higher) and the SIDS have been instrumental in this.
- **But we all** know that we have not delivered the **pace and scale of change** needed to **avoid crossing the 1.5 degrees C limit**.
- **We are not on track**. Realising this and truly taking stock is painful in Europe, where the impacts are also being felt. But we can barely grasp what this means for your communities, for your families, for your countries.

- For too long too many countries looked away despite your voices. No one can do that any longer and ignore the families having to leave traditional lands or the economic costs of losing beaches for local businesses in countries so dependent on tourism.
- As you have made clear, nowhere will be more impacted by the decisions of those countries than SIDS: **here it is literally a matter of life and death.**
- Responsible for 80% of global emissions, **the G20 countries**, especially, have a key responsibility to scale up action and drive down emissions now, and in the upcoming nationally determined contributions, in line with the science and the 1.5 degrees C limit.
- **Germany is on track** to meet our 65% GHG reduction goal by 2030 on the way to carbon neutrality by 2045. And the EU as a whole is an excellent example of driving down emissions while achieving economic growth and prosperity over many years. And we will stay the course. It is possible.
- We **must work together** as we did in Dubai at COP28 to **push the global community** out of its **comfort zone**. We **ALL** decided to a just and orderly transition away from fossil fuels - to triple renewables and double efficiency by 2030 to keep the 1.5 goal within sight. We must implement and hold countries accountable to that decision.

- But the **impacts are here and now** so driving down emissions alone is not enough – we also need **solidarity, adaptation** and **resilience**. And a Loss and Damage Fund that is up and running by the end of this year, building off of the positive momentum, which Germany has worked hard to contribute to in the last two years by the end of this year. Let's work together to make that happen. Something SIDS has been demanding for 30 years.
- This year's COP29 in Baku, we will need **to listen to each other and work more closely together than ever**. We have a tremendous opportunity to **transform finance** so that it is fit for purpose for the world in which we live now – 1.5 consistent and more just: working for debt relief, for new innovative sources of funds, for leveraging private finance as never before, and for ensuring that public funds are deployed where they are most needed. (E.g. Resilience and adaptation)
- In order to grasp this moment to change the international financial system, the new climate finance goal at COP29 must be part of a **larger global effort** to enhance and **align public and private finance** from all sources to mobilise the trillions needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, and to ensure that it flows where it is needed most – to developing countries, noting the special needs of SIDS.

- Fairness to the most vulnerable countries also demands that **countries that have significantly contributed to emissions over the past decades must contribute if they are in an economic position to do so.**

But our collaboration and partnership with SIDS is not only about addressing the climate crisis:

- Our partnership with the SIDS has many facets: we share the same values of **multilateralism**. And we stand with the island States to **defend the international order based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations charter, the rule of law, statehood and common values**. We must seize the opportunity offered by the **Summit of the Future**, co-facilitated by Germany and Namibia, to reaffirm and reinforce multilateralism.
- We are **privileged** to have such a strong partnership with the SIDS. This is ever more important now, given the geopolitical situation.

Dear colleagues,

We are honored to work with SIDS countries on a long list of bilateral partnerships. Today I am pleased to share three new bilateral programmes:

- a 5 million Euro technical cooperation programme, named *Pacific Blue Economies - Strengthening Integrated Ocean Governance for Increased Resilience*.
- The creation of the first online repository for cultural heritage, where Tuvalu will implement the first pilot. This will be carried out by the Rising Nations Initiative and the German Archaeological Institute.
- And Germany will contribute to the SIDS Centre of Excellence that will be set up here in Antigua.

Separately, but also extremely important:

- Germany also welcomes the decision of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, last week. We congratulate COSIS on this landmark advisory opinion, an important outcome for the marine environment.

Dear excellencies, dear colleagues, dear friends

- These next ten years, starting now, are going to be the most important we have ever experienced historically to turn the tide. The decisions we take today will have an impact for thousands of years.

- The history of the climate crisis is not yet written – we still have it in our hands to change its course and safeguard our planet and its people today, tomorrow and for the next generation.
- Let us together, courageously and tenaciously, write the history we know is just and sustainable. We are ready to do so with you.

Thank you.