

Malta Statement by Mr. Karmenu Vella
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the Republic of Malta

SIDS4 Conference Interactive Dialogue II
Enhancing Critical Forms of Financing and Aid Effectiveness through
collaborative Partnerships: A Conversation, 28 May 2024

Duration: 3 Minutes

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Colleagues,

Small Island Developing States face unique and multifaceted challenges that necessitate innovative and robust financial mechanisms and collaborative partnerships to drive their structural transformation and sustainable development.

As a small island state itself, Malta has consistently promoted and advocated for the interests of SIDS in international fora, providing capacity-building opportunities to support their sustainable development. Malta is committed in addressing capacity gaps by strengthening the technical and institutional capabilities of SIDS through targeted training and support initiatives. In line with this commitment, Malta has been offering technical assistance, training and scholarships to SIDS.

Building international partnerships and collaborations to offer technical assistance is key to effectively bridge these gaps. Malta has played a crucial role in this endeavour through its 'Island for Islands' initiative and the establishment of the Malta-based 'Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence'. These initiatives have been instrumental in sharing best practices and bolstering resilience among SIDS. Strengthening regional cooperation is also vital, as it allows SIDS to pool resources, share best expertise, and undertake joint initiatives to address shared challenges.

Malta firmly believes in developing supportive policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage the issuance and uptake of innovative financial instruments. Aligning financing and aid effectiveness with the Sustainable Development Goals is not just about meeting targets; it's about transforming our approach to development to create a more sustainable and equitable world for present and future generations.

The Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) offers valuable insights into the root causes of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. By identifying vulnerable populations and regions, policymakers can tailor interventions to address specific needs and prioritize resources where they are most needed. The eventual application of the MVI is set to make the global financing architecture more responsive to the development needs of SIDS by accurately reflecting their vulnerabilities and prioritizing aid and concessional financing. Of course, the MVI is not the only instrument at our disposition, and other tools are and can be made available for this purpose.

Indeed, inspired by this initiative, Malta, in collaboration with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the University of Malta's Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI), has developed a 'Climate Vulnerability & Resilience Index' to comprehensively assess climate risks and resilience levels. This Index, besides assessing vulnerability and resilience individually, juxtaposes the two, aiming to create a comprehensive understanding of the risks posed by climate change and the efforts and costs associated with addressing these vulnerabilities by strengthening and maintaining resilience.

The SIDS4 Conference offers us a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and advocate for the benefits and mechanisms of these instruments and to build the necessary support. By enhancing critical forms of financing and aid effectiveness through shared dialogue and cooperation, we can pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.