



Statement by
Ms. Sewa Lamsal, Foreign Secretary, and Leader of the
Nepali Delegation to
the Fourth International Conference on Small Island
Developing States (SIDS4) on Behalf of the Group of Least
Developed Countries (LDCs)
27-30 May 2024
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda

(Please check against delivery)

**His Excellency Sir. Rodney Williams, Governor General of
Antigua and Barbuda/ His Excellency Mr. Gaston Browne
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda
Their Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am deeply honored to bring a message of solidarity and togetherness from the Group of Least Developed Countries to the fellow SIDS Member States.

I align my statement with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of G77 China and China.

Let me begin by expressing our sincere and deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for a warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful island country.

I would also like to commend the Co-Chairs, Maldives, and New Zealand for their able leadership of the SIDS4 Conference preparatory process and for making this Conference a success.

I would also like to appreciate the Secretary General of the Conference, USG Li Junhua and Special Advisor for the Conference, High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS,

USG Madam Rabab Fatima for their diligent efforts and unwavering support in making this Conference a success.

Excellencies,

Vulnerabilities define the countries in special situations.

LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS are among the countries hardest hit by the impacts of compounding and intersecting crises from the pandemic to climate change, conflicts to geopolitical competition, and rivalry/and rising cost of living due to external shocks.

The context of SIDS is unique due to their structural vulnerability emanating from the geographical situation, lack of alternative energy sources, and burgeoning impacts of elevated frequency and intensity of climate disasters impacting them the most.

Despite the unprecedented advancements we have made in technology, innovation, and skills, SIDS have not received enough attention to address these existential threats they face.

To our utter consternation, vulnerabilities, risks, and challenges facing SIDS are ever worsening.

Excellencies,

SIDS are in need of stronger and enhanced global support to address challenges it is facing.

We must help strengthen the sustainability and resilience of SIDS.

We must support SIDS to build back better from persistent shocks.

We must ensure urgent global action to the rise of sea level caused by melting of snow in the polar regions including mountains.

SIDS deserve stronger attention and should not be left behind. We the LDCs wholeheartedly support the cause of SIDS and also wish to highlight that there is an organic link between sea-level rise and melting of glaciers.

As we prepare for the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, it is imperative that the needs and priorities of SIDS be reflected and addressed properly.

It is only through stronger global solidarity, harmony, cooperation, and collaboration that we can address the global-level systemic problems. We must stop carbon emissions first, the main cause of sea-level rise and melting of glaciers before it is too late for the existence of human beings. We are paying a very high cost of climate change despite negligible contribution to it.

Excellencies,

The global community recognized the special case of SIDS both for its environment and development needs at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Similarly, the General Assembly in Resolution 47/289 decided to adopt targeted plans, programmes and measures to support these

countries' sustainable development efforts taking into account their unique circumstances.

The successful adoption of the Fourth Programme of Action the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is yet another opportunity for not only SIDS but also for the entire global community to help address multidimensional vulnerabilities and challenges facing these fellow countries.

On this, I take this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations to SIDS on the adoption of this ambitious yet achievable outcome document.

I also reiterate the commitment expressed by the LDCs at the inception of this process to engage constructively in pursuit of a successful implementation of the new 10-year mandate for the SIDS.

ABAS makes a good diagnosis of the problems SIDS face. It is an action-oriented document. It is a transformative agenda for SIDS for the coming decade.

Due emphasis on resilient economies, safe, healthy, inclusive and prosperous societies, resilient infrastructure; and environmental protection and planetary sustainability are particularly important for the future of SIDS.

In light of this successful Conference, we must not forget that effective implementation is of paramount importance to translating

this ambitious document into action. Only actions, not lofty plans will serve the interests of SIDS as well as of the entire global community.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, I assure you that the LDCs move ahead hand in hand with SIDS and call for the international community to renew their partnership with the SIDS as they pursue this new program of action.

As our stakes are common in terms of sustainable economic development and threats of the climate crisis, we LDCS and SIDS must work together with a sense of strong partnership to make this world more equitable, inclusive, and just.

In this critical juncture, we LDCs would like to join our voice with fellow SIDS members to call upon development partners, multilateral stakeholders, the UN development system, and the entire global community to stand with SIDS with a robust and enhanced level of support so as to bring ABAS into action.

I once again, express our strong solidarity with SIDS and wish the Conference a grand success!!!

Thank you.