

SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Horisha Savy, a proud member of the Youth Steering Committee from Seychelles. Today, I am honored to share the impactful outcomes of the SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit.

We brought together over 90 young people from 35 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and engaged over 8,500 participants in both online and in-person consultations. This collective effort culminated in a 10-year Commitment to Action reflecting our shared vision for the future. Our projects focus on four key themes: Safe and Prosperous Societies, Resilient Economies, Secure Futures, and Environmental Integrity and Planetary Sustainability. These themes align with the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity.

Safe and Prosperous Societies

We commit to investing in our health, prioritizing mental health, and fostering mutual support to reduce stigma around seeking care. We advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous people and marginalized youth, ensuring every voice is heard and benefits from education, training, and cultural practices. Additionally, we pledge to raise awareness of violence against children and youth, advocating for better access to protective laws.

Resilient Economies

We will work with policymakers to create training opportunities in non-traditional careers, aligning with global demands. We support adolescent-responsive services through universal health coverage, recognizing the importance of comprehensive and youth-friendly health services. Furthermore, we commit to ensuring access to education for all youth, fostering peer support to encourage school retention, particularly among vulnerable and marginalized groups. By investing in education, we enhance our future workforce's skills and capabilities, strengthening economic resilience.

A Secure Future

We pledge to engage actively with local communities, facilitating collaboration with other youth groups regardless of background. We will engage with local and national governments to ensure our voices are heard and our priorities considered in policy discussions, including sustainable development goals and the management of marine and terrestrial sites.

Environmental Integrity and Planetary Sustainability

We commit to collective actions for a greener, more sustainable society. We will advocate for sustainable economies, renewable energy transitions, climate-resilient infrastructure, and increased awareness of climate change issues. Additionally, we will hold our governments accountable for their environmental commitments made at the SIDS4 Conference.

SIDS Youth welcome support for establishing a SIDS Center of Excellence in Antigua and Barbuda, launching at the Fourth International Conference on SIDS and the integration of youth within the center. Our youth are calling for the further integration of youth engagement within the sustainability

mechanism of the Center of Excellence.

We the Youth Delegates of SIDS want to thank the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for their hospitality throughout the three days of the Children and Youth Action Summit, UNICEF and the Ashley Lashley Foundation.

By upholding these commitments, we envision a future where all children and youth of SIDS thrive in resilient, sustainable, and inclusive societies over the next 10 years.

Thank you.
