

UNDP Administrator's statement (up to 5 minutes)

Mr President, Distinguished delegates, all protocols observed,

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it is a privilege to add my words of support to the **Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)**.

It also represents a **challenge** to the multilateral system to **deliver urgent solutions to problems that have lingered for too long**.

Excellencies, **if we cannot deliver economic diversification, climate, digital and financial answers in SIDS, we cannot deliver them anywhere**.

The vulnerabilities that arise from the small size, remoteness and climate vulnerability of SIDS have been well documented in recent years.

- On average, SIDS experience 2.1% of GDP loss due to natural hazards -- a figure that is quadruple the losses experienced by larger nations;
- At the same time, SIDS receive seven times less finance than Least Developed Countries.¹

This equation is not balanced.

A full-blown digital transformation in SIDS and a **just energy transition** are indeed **within reach**, with international financial institutions, but also the local and international private sector under the right conditions.

This is why the ABAS outcome document focuses so sharply on a multi-layered response on finance for development --that includes **achieving breakthroughs on debt treatments, debt swaps, state-contingent debt instruments, guarantees on private investment, foreign exchange hedging** and **new sources of concessional and non-concessional financing**.

We will continue to raise the voice of SIDS at the **G20 finance track, the Summit of the Future** and the **Fourth International Conference for Financing for Development**.

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¹ 11 times less than lower-middle-income countries; and five times less than upper-middle-income countries.

Excellencies, **UNDP's renewed offer to SIDS, "SIDS Rising 2.0", mirrors the ABAS agenda.**²

- On **resilient economies**, UNDP is rolling out support to drive forward blue and green economies – focused on nature-based solutions in tourism, the food sector and urban development, together with key partners like the Global Environment Facility.
- **On digital transformations:** UNDP is a lead agency on building digital capacities on the ground and will expand that pledge across SIDS.
- On **data:** Our SIDS Data Platform has consolidated a comprehensive data set, which will be vital to inform the future of development in SIDS.³
- On **climate adaptation and mitigation:** Our **Climate Promise initiative** focuses on climate adaptation and mitigation, aligned to the 1.5° Paris agreement target. We pledge to expand our work on next-generation NDCs, but also on the just energy transition.
- Finally, on **finance for development and climate:** We believe this is a 'Gordian knot'⁴ – without breakthroughs in FfD, the vision of resilient economies, digital transformations, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction is weakened – and this will be a major 'stress test' for the international financial architecture over the next months.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As our concrete contribution, **UNDP's "SIDS Rising 2.0" offer is a resounding pledge to help drive the shifts needed as part of the UN family.**

That includes supporting SIDS **to navigate the massive tides of transformation now taking pace – from nature to finance to digital – and ensure that they become new oceans of opportunity for people across small islands.**

Thank you.

² UNDP can also do more with our existing footprint. UNDP has a presence in 39 states, through six multi-country offices and 15 stand-alone offices, and an average annual portfolio of \$422 million across the group.

³ That includes the Centre for Excellence flagged in the outcome document.

⁴ Gordian knot, [knot](#) that gave its name to a proverbial term for a problem solvable only by bold action.