



BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY

Statement for the

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

“Soulful living: An actionable framework for youth to shape a resilient future”

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Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are often called paradise on earth, known for their diverse landscape, vibrant culture, rich flora and fauna, beautiful beaches, and tropical weather. They have a population of 65 million—slightly less than 1% of the world’s population—yet face unique social, economic, and environmental challenges. These require comprehensive plans of actions that offer stability and sustainability.

Roughly 35 to 50 percent of the population is under 35. A youth framework for responsible action will offer long-term benefits. To achieve sustainable and resilient prosperity, a new paradigm is essential: one that calls for us to trace the symptoms of these challenges with the choices and decisions we make as individuals. These are governed by our value systems and the alignment of our intrinsic compass towards peace and shared prosperity for all.

To achieve that goal, the Brahma Kumaris propose “Soulful Living”, a new inside-out approach for youths that focuses on values that help guide better decisions today, such as responsible living, giving back to nature, and respecting resources. Instead of reacting to the symptoms of the problem, we need to transform our approach from mindless consumption to being nurturing, respectful, and grounded humans. We suggest adding Soulful Living to the current STEAM education programme (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics); STEAMS will help build capacity for resilience and sustainability among youths.

We, The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, answer the call of the time with spiritual awareness and spiritual strategies. Spirituality is the bedrock and essence of existence and an important ingredient for adapting to challenging situations and problem solving. It offers long-term solutions that inspire hope. Through soulful living, we envision cultivating a more resilient mindset among communities, resulting in long-term, sustainable solutions. As nations and communities, we must align our spiritual compasses and move towards different, effective, and more transformative solutions. When we align ourselves with our own innate integrity and goodness, we activate our own wisdom that guides sustainable solutions. We are able to use our own history to make decisions that not only solve today's challenges, but set us up for a brighter future.

Governments of the SIDS play an important role in this development and can act as ambassadors to effect this significant and necessary change. Promoting spiritual wisdom by creating supportive communities can be the first step. To reach our collective goals, we must integrate spiritual wisdom into education, empowering youths with values of dignity and self-worth. By nurturing their inner potential and understanding of true worth, we can inspire a generation that champions compassion, harmony, and respect, in order to drive global transformation.

This approach can be offered to countries for improving their communities. The Brahma Kumaris initiated the Living Values Education Program, addressing the misperception that worth is defined by material values such as social status, wealth, appearance, and possessions. This fuels accumulation, selfishness, greed, and is the root cause of conflict, exploitation, poverty, and tension. The Living Values Program reaffirms the dignity and worth of every individual, enabling people to realise their full potential and understand that true worth is inherent and universal. This guides individuals to a deeper understanding of their true selves, fostering a more harmonious world.

In conclusion, addressing the complex challenges of SIDS demands not only comprehensive action plans but also a transformative shift in our collective mindset. The Brahma Kumaris advocate for integrating spiritual wisdom into education and community development to nurture resilience and sustainable solutions. By fostering values of dignity, responsible living, and universal

connection, we can empower the youth and communities to work towards global transformation.

Our initiative, Soulful Living, emphasises an inside-out approach that addresses the core of our being and inspires better decision-making and long-term resilience. As SIDS nations align their spiritual compasses and embrace these values, they can champion more effective, transformative solutions. The Living Values Education Program further supports this.

Governments, as ambassadors of this change, can play a pivotal role in promoting supportive, spiritually aware communities. Together, through collective efforts and commitment to spiritual growth, we can pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU), with its spiritual headquarters in Mt. Abu, India, comprises a worldwide network of centers in 110 countries and is an international non-governmental organization of the United Nations accredited with General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Associate Status with the Department of Global Communications (DCG); Consultative Status with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Observer Status to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Observer Organization to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Observer Organization to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Flagship Member of Education for Rural People (ERP), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

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