



Organization: International Science Council (formerly International Council of Scientific Unions)

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## STATEMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY MAJOR GROUP

### SIDS4 conference - Levering Data and Digital Technologies and

### Building effective Institutions for a Resilient Future in SIDS

Wednesday 29 May 2024

I am Michelle Mycoo, member of the SIDS Liaison Committee of the International Science Council (ISC), formerly known as the International Council of Scientific Unions. Today, I am addressing you on behalf of the Scientific & Technological Community Major Group, co-coordinated by the ISC and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. We seek to emphasize the following points on the theme of Leveraging Data and Digital Technologies and Building effective Institutions for a Resilient Future in Small Island Developing States:

- Small Island Developing States, also known as Large Ocean States, can **leverage data and digital technologies to enhance resilience, overcome geographical barriers, improve access to critical information, and facilitate collaboration**. By harnessing digital opportunities, SIDS can better manage and analyze data related to climate change impacts, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and coastal erosion. This data-driven approach enables timely and informed decision-making, crucial for mitigating the existential threats posed by climate change, for example through the establishment of a SIDS data hub and the implementation of National Data Infrastructure Systems.
- There is also a **need to strengthen scientific institutions in SIDS to provide the necessary infrastructure and expertise to collect, analyze, and disseminate data**. Establishing robust national and regional science institutions, such as the Caribbean Academy of Sciences and the future Pacific academy of sciences, both supported by the International Science Council, ensures that SIDS can coordinate and prioritize scientific research and development, secure funding, and share findings globally.
- **Scientists require good data quality, which lies at the center of the science-policy-action interface. Therefore, both interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary inputs are essential to identifying effective solutions** to challenges faced by SIDS. This means combining insights from natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and engineering with Indigenous knowledges, local knowledge, private sector, civil society and practitioner knowledge. Participatory approaches securing community support help to ensure that initiatives align with the unique needs and values of local populations, and enhance the feasibility, sustainability, equity, and cultural acceptability of solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these considerations. The Scientific & Technological Community Major Group and its co-coordinators, the International Science Council and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, is delighted to pursue its contributions to the SIDS4 conference and beyond.

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The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together more than 250 international scientific Unions and Associations, national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils, international Federations and Societies, and Young Academies and Associations.

The vision of the ISC is science as a global public good.