

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MUHAMMAD RADZI JAMALUDIN
AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING
STATES (SIDS4)
SAINT JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
27 - 30 MAY 2024**

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing Malaysia's utmost appreciation to the President of the "**4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)**", the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, for the excellent arrangements of the Conference, and the warm hospitality accorded to the Malaysian delegation.

Mr. President,

2. After ten years, we gather again to reflect on the challenges and progress made since 2014. This Conference, under the theme of "**Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity**" serves as a moment of introspection, as we confront the global challenges, especially in the fragile, uncertain economic climate, resulting from the threats of geopolitical instability in some regions of the world. SIDS4 will allow us to work collectively and cohesively in policy development and establishment of concrete action plans for the international community to address these challenges.

3. Malaysia believes that economic viability and sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) warrant our focused attention and special consideration. In this regard, Malaysia continues to support existing blueprints that we have adopted since 1994 and we look forward to adopting **The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity** at the end of this Conference. To achieve the goals outlined in ABAS, investing in human capacity building and technical assistance are very important.

Mr. President,

4. Soon after our last Conference in Apia, Samoa in 2014, Malaysia has fulfilled its pledge of USD 1 million in capacity building programmes for SIDS members, welcoming over 1,100 participants to Malaysia since 2014. These programmes have covered various areas such as public administration, management, science and technology, economy, and environment, based on the needs of the SIDS. We are confident that these programmes have played a pivotal role in empowering SIDS to confront pressing challenges such as economic instability, environmental degradation, and social inequality over the past decade.

5. Therefore, in the next decade, Malaysia wishes to renew its commitment for closer cooperation with SIDS in the spirit of the South-South Cooperation (SSC). Under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Malaysia will continue to provide capacity building and technical assistance programmes to be valued at USD 2 million over the next 10 years.

6. I concurred with the views expressed by speakers before me. Challenges faced by SIDS Member States are unique. To mitigate and address these challenges, Malaysia will work together with the Member States to identify technical assistance programmes that are tailored to the goals outlined in the ABAS blueprint. These will encompass areas such as science and technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM), renewable energy, food security, trade and investment, women and youth empowerment, all crucial for the advancement of SIDS.

7. Through these programmes, Malaysia aims to contribute significantly in building resilient economies; fostering safe, healthy, and prosperous societies; ensuring a secure future; promoting environmental protection and planetary sustainability; and advancing science, technology, innovation, and digitalization as envisioned by SIDS.

Mr. President,

8. Before I end my remark, I wish to reiterate Malaysia's firm believe in human capital investment by equipping the workforce with necessary skills and knowledge.

Human capacity building would not only aid in the communication and understanding of needs, but can also expedite in the effective execution of policies and bridge policy gaps.

9. As Malaysia is also preparing to assume the Chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2025, we are aware of even more challenges ahead of us. Technology has developed by leaps and bounds, hence it is timely that we take advantage of this platform to further strengthen our cooperation. In this regard, we look forward to working closely with SIDS in achieving the goals as outlined in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) - a Renewed Declaration of Resilient Prosperity, together for a prosperous and resilient future.

With that, I thank you, Mr. President.

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