

## **PIANGO Submission to SIDS4 – Charting the Course towards Resilient Prosperity Antigua & Barbuda, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisations as the Regional Partner for the Pacific Region in the NGO Major Group appreciate the opportunity to submit the following as a summary of priorities and contributions from our broader Pacific Civil Society Organisations that attended SIDS4 in person in Antigua & Barbuda.

‘Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity’ in the Antigua & Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) be strengthened by deepening the focus areas of its implementation with the consideration of the following:

1. Our Journey as SIDS family should reflect on our past to living the current and to inform the aspiration of our future. Members of our SIDS family from the Pacific are still living in the denial of their rights to development and healthy environment with regards to nuclear legacy, self determinations, communities living in fear of the unknown of the potential risks and liabilities threatening communities in relation to Deep Sea Mining.
  - a. Hence the call for support for a moratorium on Deep Sea Mining until there is scientific evidence about the potential impacts on DSM on livelihoods, biodiversity and climate regulatory function of the deep ocean.
  - b. Advocate that ocean based economies must apply the principles of ensuring environmental sustainability, climate resilience and socio-economic equity and justice, polluter pays principle, and the precautionary principle as a basis for economic development choices.
2. Advocate for climate finance reform and addressing the debt crisis for SIDS
  - a. Debt cancellation
  - b. Access to more grants
  - c. Better concessional loans
  - d. Reject debt inducing (climate) financing including market based mechanisms such as carbon markets and green/blue bonds
  - e. Loss & Damage fund must be adequately capitalised with grant-based finance and operationalized with consideration for SIDS and other States with special circumstances.

### **Safe, healthy and prosperous societies**

- f. Avoid painting migration as a solution to climate change impacts and recognise the right to stay. To deliver on this right, prevent further climate catastrophe that will lead to mass climate induced displacement by urgent reduction of greenhouse emissions and urgent mobilisation of climate finance.
- g. Pass legislation allowing for safe, accessible pathways of asylum for climate refugees, and support for internally displaced person facing loss and damage. This is an absolute necessary in anticipation of climate change impacts that can not be mitigate anymore as we are rapidly breaching the 1.5C threshold.

### **Financing Models:**

- a. Reject the heavy focus on debt-based instruments as they worsen SIDS' existing debt burdens.

- b. Avoid reliance on private sector finance and market mechanisms which can be unpredictable and potentially exploitative.

**Energy Transition:**

- a. Explicitly exclude fossil fuels from SIDS' energy transition plans holding all countries to the same standard.
- b. Explicitly call for an end to all fossil fuel subsidies, not just inefficient ones.
- c. Prioritise genuine renewable energy solutions, not "clean/modern" energy that may include fossil fuels or extend the life of the fossil fuel industry.

**Equity & Inclusion:**

- a. Include explicit language protecting LGBTQIA+ and Indigenous Peoples' rights.
- b. Ensure "resilient prosperity" is inclusive of marginalised groups.

**Climate Finance Delivery:**

- a. Explicitly needs to include reference to the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance
- b. Prioritise grant-based, predictable, and timely finance from developed countries, fulfilling existing UNFCCC and Paris Agreement obligations.
- c. Ensure comprehensive support, including technical assistance and funding for loss and damage.
- d. Reject reliance on carbon markets and offsetting, which perpetuates fossil fuel use and threatens SIDS' survival.
- e. Strengthen the Loss and Damage Fund by including it as a subgoal within the NCQG.
- f. Avoid "all sources" language for mobilisation, as it can lead to dependence on external actors.
- g. Critically assess proposals like the SIDS-CDP, which may shift the burden to SIDS and rely on volatile private finance.

**Monitoring progress:** Ensure clear and measurable targets for monitoring and evaluating progress and allow storytelling as means of translating communities experience and traditional wisdom to inform sustainable priorities.