

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Written inputs to the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Small Island Developing States

SAEDI Consulting (Barbados) Inc is gratified that it was able to participate in the SIDS4 Conference and has had the opportunity through pre-event and Special Events such as the First Gender Equality Forum held on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

We are an impact consulting firm creating socio-environmental solutions to build a more sustainable and inclusive world with a sizeable impact on SIDS due to our work in the Caribbean. As such, we operate under feminist principles, on the borders of the private sector and civil society, committing ourselves daily to bridging gaps and championing actions for equity. We seek to ensure that the voices of all are heard including women and girls, youths, Persons with Disabilities, elderly persons, and LGBTQIA+ individuals in our work.

We fully endorse the Women's Major Group Statement on the ABAS Outcome Document and the statement made at the Civil Society Forum on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as well as related calls for more inclusive engagement process with civil society and non-government actors and a more robust and gender responsive commitment in the context of SIDS to the intersectionalities of gender, race/ethnicity and climate change as well as environmental management. We too are concerned that vulnerable groups are not being adequately engaged in consultations around the global SIDS agenda, and when they are, it is often in a tokenistic way.

We, therefore, join calls for

- Increased engagement of vulnerable groups in climate change and climate finance policy development, and mechanisms to facilitate their active engagement;
- Rapid and flexible financing instruments cognizant of existing financial barriers facing vulnerable groups; and
- Clear accountability mechanisms e.g. gender markers for climate finance tracking

Specifically, on climate finance and with specific reference to the **Loss and Damage Fund** and the **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)** as instruments and mechanisms that can unlock additional financing for SIDS, we highlight the need for:

- Gender representative membership in advisory bodies;
- Gender responsive guidelines for assessing projects and priorities;
- Checklists to support gender mainstreaming efforts; and
- Gender transformative accountability and reporting mechanisms that are fully transparent.

The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (UAE FGCR) established at COP28 serves as a guide and benchmark for how to achieve and strengthen global adaptation efforts in line with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement. These efforts can be further enhanced by a strong and robust gender and intersectional lens, particularly in meeting the needs of SIDS.

We welcome efforts to simplify access to finance through the GCF and other mechanisms and look forward to this taking shape in the near future, strongly urging a greater focus on social adaptation



financing that delivers sustained and sustainable and resilient change in the face of climate change and other environmental risks.

SAEDI Consulting sees a role for itself in supporting SIDS countries in accessing and implementing finance, complementing other capacities and filling gaps where needed. We continue to support efforts to bridge the gap between communities on the ground and macro and meso-level partners as well as between public and private sector entities, finding common purpose where possible.

Formally submitted by  
Leisa Perch  
SAEDI Consulting (Barbados) Inc.

