

Statements to the 4th International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4)

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After more than seven years of contributing to capacity building through embassy operations support and online environmental education for island communities, we recognize that the situation in island communities today is in a deteriorating state.

Today, many island habitats face serious economic and environmental challenges. In particular, climate change-induced extreme weather events are causing a variety of problems, including the destruction of social infrastructure, the stagnation of global supply chains, and the destruction of ecosystems. We also face environmental problems such as the loss of existence zones due to rising sea levels, IUU fishing by foreign vessels, illegal dumping of industrial waste, and the drifting of marine plastics, which fundamentally destroy the region's basic industries.

In light of these issues, our organization wishes to expand our ambitious efforts to address these problems by presenting three proposals.

First, we call on all member states to achieve protection of spatial marine resources through international collaboration in the BBNJ. The high seas, which cover more than half of the world's oceans, are not part of any state's territorial waters and provide few economic benefits to any particular state. Therefore, no state has taken many concrete measures to protect the environment. However, IUU fishing and industrial waste spills in these areas have severely affected the SIDS-targeted states in terms of serious environmental pollution, and are strongly promoting ecological destruction. Therefore, it is necessary to promote the future protection of marine resources by advancing environmental conservation measures through the establishment of a multi-state joint management system in BBNJ.

Next, we call for the promotion of sustainable social infrastructure and capacity building based on international agreements: many of the nations classified as SIDS have fishing, agriculture, and tourism as their main industries, and stagnation of logistics will not merely stagnate imports and exports, but will have economic repercussions on a national scale. We at the Loss and Damage Foundation call for prioritizing infrastructure facilities that maintain logistics, such as ports and disaster prevention facilities. We also call for the Foundation to be able to promote capacity building related to civil engineering that can spontaneously rehabilitate infrastructure destroyed by natural disasters.

Finally, we call on SIDS member states to establish small-scale community partnerships with youth and citizens. It is important to promote capacity building and concrete partnerships in many island states in collaboration with citizens and youth. In particular, it is necessary to promote collaboration with all sectors to build a sustainable social infrastructure in SIDS. We call for the promotion of action to achieve ambitious goals by advancing cross-generational and cross-sectoral collaboration by advancing ambitious partnerships in SIDS.