



Statement

**Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
at the Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue 2024**

10 July 2024 10am-1pm Trusteeship Council Chamber

Held in the margins of the 2024 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Interactive dialogue: Scaling up partnerships for the implementation of ABAS

Strengthening partnerships to leverage the expertise and resources of civil society can be a game changer to deliver sustainable development solutions in SIDS.

Non-profit and community organisations, media, academic and research institutes, professional and business associations, charities and foundations, cooperatives, unions, informal groups, and social movements are already delivering research, policy development, awareness raising, capacity building, advocating for and amplifying the voices of vulnerable and marginalised people, and developing and implementing innovative practical solutions on the ground.

But their important contribution must be better recognised, valued and enabled to leverage this potential.

To help position civil society as a legitimate partner in sustainable development, the SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and Roadmap was developed by civil society through a consultative process facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) working with the Pacific Island Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO), the SIDS Youth AIS Hub (SYAH) and other civil society colleagues from across the three SIDS regions.

It was launched at the SIDS4 Civil Society Forum and outlines key sustainable development priorities that civil society can address to help deliver the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

The SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and Roadmap recommends priorities for governments and development partners to better support civil society including through:

1. Strengthening laws and regulations to better support freedom and independence of the non-profit sector
2. Setting standards to define the role of civil society in development decision-making to ensure their meaningful participation at all relevant stages
3. Creating formal spaces for civil society in legislative processes, for example through representation on Senates
4. Creating a framework for periodic formal consultation with civil society on national policies across all sectors
5. Establishing and strengthening mechanisms for including voices of women, youth, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons and other marginalised groups in planning, decision-making, and implementation processes
6. Ensuring that civil society has access to appropriate financing to support its work, including via channelling finance to local levels, as well as reforming the type of financing to ensure that it meets the needs of civil society and includes support for capacity building to enhance technical competencies, build strong organisations, and support civil society networks

7. Setting up and supporting knowledge sharing platforms and communities of practice which include civil society as partners in development
8. Supporting scientific research and documentation of local and traditional knowledge, implementing open data policies and facilitating open access to information, and incorporating all forms of knowledge to guide information-based decision-making for sustainable development

Civil society in SIDS are key allies in sustainable development and are calling for stronger commitment and action by governments and development partners to support the implementation of the SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and Roadmap via strengthening enabling institutional frameworks, practices and partnerships for civil society to play meaningful and effective roles in delivering an inclusive, rights-based, people-centred and whole-of-society approach to sustainable development in SIDS.

In closing, even as we join calls for solidarity and support for our colleagues affected by Hurricane Beryl, we must remember that this highlights the increasing systemic climate injustices we are all facing in SIDS which must be urgently addressed.

Thank you.