

**Global multistakeholder small Island developing states partnership dialogue
2024 - “Reinforcing the 2030 agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple
crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”**

(10 July 2024 – 10:00-13:00)

Intervention by Ambassador Tania Romualdo, Permanent Representative of Cabo
Verde to the United Nations, during the interactive dialogue on
“Scaling up partnerships for the implementation of ABAS”

Under Secretary General for UNDESA,

High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
Small Island Developing States,

Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee on partnerships on SIDS,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start with a word of solidarity towards our Caribbean colleagues whose countries
and people were so severely hit by hurricane Beryl.

I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the steering committee on partnerships for SIDS for the
invitation to participate at this very timely dialogue under the auspices of the UNDESA
partnership framework.

This year’s edition happens in perfect timing – just after SIDS4 (May) and just before the Summit
of the Future (September).

This partnership was created 10 years ago “*to promote, monitor and stimulate the establishment
of new partnerships*”. We register very positive developments but also note there is still way to
improve and accelerate the process towards a more enhanced North-South, triangular and South
South cooperation, In the last case it is vital that we approach SIDS SIDS cooperation as an
important tool among ourselves. UNDESA supported by Portugal, prepared several strategies to
boost the SIDS partnership framework for which we are very grateful and presented them at the
steering committee during a side-event at SIDS4.

The outcomes of the Conference itself – ABAS – as well as the outcomes of the SIDS4 Civil Society
Forum, the Global Business Network, the Youth Forum and the Forum on Gender Equity all also
present us with clear guidelines on how to maximize on fruitful partnerships with effective
participation of all stakeholders involved.

To build on this momentum we would like to propose 4 ways to continue to drive collaboration
between partners:

One - Organize forums and conferences that bring together representatives of local governments, civil society, NGOs, foundations, the private sector, academia and international financial institutions. These events facilitate dialogue, the exchange of ideas, and the formation of strategic partnerships.

Two - Develop digital platforms that enable seamless communication and collaboration between all partners. These platforms can host data, share best practices, and track the progress of ABAS-related projects. They also allow SIDS from all the regions to meet and exchange on a more frequent and regular basis without the financial burden of in presence meetings

Three - Encourage multi-stakeholder initiatives to collaborate on project design, implementation, and monitoring. Co-creation ensures that solutions are comprehensive and tailored to local needs. As an example, I would like to mention the UNDESA-Portugal Ocean Fellowship launched a few days ago with a purpose to build capacity, allow knowledge sharing and enhance international cooperation in this case on a specific SDG - SDG14

Four - Integrate the participation of local communities in all phases of the process. This ensures that the solutions are culturally relevant and sustainable in the long term. Indigenous populations and local communities need to be heard and given a platform to share their traditional (and very valuable) knowledge while also acquiring new skills and capacities to better explore them in the long term.

On the issue of **Mobilization of Financial and Human Resources**, allow me to underline the following:

We need to establish dedicated partnership funds specifically to support the implementation of ABAS. These funds can be fed by contributions from governments, the private sector, NGOs, and international institutions.

We need to develop tax incentives and other mechanisms to attract private investment in sustainable development projects in SIDS. Public-private partnerships can and should play a crucial role in this regard.

Strong investment in capacity building programs to develop the local skills needed for effective implementation of ABAS, including technical, management and leadership training to ensure the sustainability of projects are also necessary.

We recommend stronger engagement by international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and IMF. In addition, we need to explore climate finance opportunities, such as the Green Climate Fund. We should not limit ourselves to the traditional stakeholders but also explore ways and means to raise awareness among our youngest, the future and promising generations that will take over from us and which we should provide with the best incentives, tools and capacities for that purpose.

To assure better monitoring we need to implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that resources are utilized efficiently and that ABAS objectives are being achieved. During SIDS4, our Prime Minister informed his peers from the AIS region of his intention to host, in 2025, a regional AIS meeting, in Cabo Verde, to establish the AIS Coordination Mechanism to help to

better monitor and evaluate the implementation of ABAS and guarantee best practices in the efficient use of resources allocated to the region in total transparency which will increase the trust of donors and partners.

To conclude, we need to engage constructively with all stakeholders to ensure the success of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), it is essential to strengthen collaboration among all partners and mobilize resources effectively.

Through coordinated efforts, ongoing dialogue, and shared commitment, we can create a lasting impact on the sustainable development of SIDS, implement the excellent outcome of SIDS4 and start to prepare ourselves for SIDS5, in 2034.

Thank you for your attention.