

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES  
MR. LI JUNHUA  
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS

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**Remarks (Opening)**  
**Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue**

**10 JULY 2024, 10am**  
**Trusteeship Council Chamber**

**Distinguished Co-chairs,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Distinguished panellists,**  
**Colleagues,**

**I am pleased to join the 2024 edition of the Global  
Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States  
Partnership Dialogue.**

**I thank the Permanent Representatives of Ireland  
and Palau to the United Nations, for their leadership.**

**I also thank USG Fatima for the support provided by her and her team in OHRLLS.**

**The Global Dialogue this year is being held at the critical juncture just after the fourth International Conference on SIDS held in May, and during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.**

**I congratulate Antigua and Barbuda for successfully hosting SIDS4.**

**At the conference, I witnessed the leadership of SIDS in addressing their unique and structural challenges and in spearheading innovative solutions.**

**I was also reminded of what can be achieved through dialogue, and through durable and genuine partnerships.**

**This Global Dialogue will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss how to scale up partnerships with SIDS to implement the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS adopted in St. Johns.**

**Excellencies,**

**Successful implementation of the ABAS by 2034 requires that we accelerate action for the Sustainable Development Goals – and time is not on our side.**

**Only 17 per cent of SDG targets are on track.**

**And progress on over one-third has stalled or even regressed.**

**At the same time, SIDS are still struggling with the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their**

**economies and dealing with the impact of climate change.**

**For example, the economic performance of tourism, a critical sector for most SIDS, sits at 43 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.**

**Lack of access to affordable finance and related debt challenges, hobble efforts to diversify and otherwise shore up capacities to drive progress.**

**For SIDS to emerge from this spiral of setbacks and challenges, we need collaboration across sectors, systems and stakeholder groups. And these efforts must align with the priorities outlined in ABAS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

**By leveraging resources and competencies, and sharing risks, we can maximize value creation and deliver benefits to each partner.**

**At SIDS4, I witnessed many partnerships that are working to advance sustainable development for SIDS.**

**Today, we will recognize some of these initiatives.**

**The third UN SIDS Partnerships Awards ceremony will acknowledge the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS in the economic, social and environmental categories.**

**I congratulate the partnerships that will be awarded today.**

**Excellencies,**

**The ABAS requests the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS, to present recommendations for strengthening the SIDS Partnership Framework.**

**In this regard, I look forward to hearing your views and suggestions on how partnerships can advance the ABAS, including through the SIDS Partnership Framework.**

**UNDESA is committed to supporting the implementation of ABAS, and will continue improving the SIDS Partnership Framework, for and with SIDS.**

**Thank you!**

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