



4TH INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
**Small Island  
Developing States**  
27-30 MAY, 2024  
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

## **SIDS4 Conference Side Event**

### **High Level Launch of the AOSIS–DAC Partnership for Action**

**27 May 2024, 16:00 – 17:00, Room 1**

**Organized by: United Kingdom, Antigua and Barbuda**

#### **Background on the event**

This High-Level event launched a new [Partnership for Action](#) between members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), developed in close collaboration by an AOSIS–DAC Task Force over the course of 2023 and 2024. The Partnership identifies opportunities for joint work on key SIDS priorities within the mandates of both AOSIS and the DAC.

Welcome remarks were delivered by the Prime Minister of Samoa **H.E. Fiamē Naomi Mata‘afa**, who asserted that the Partnership’s action areas speak to the tenets that SIDS hold dear and therefore resonate with the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). **Mr. Eric Bense**, from the OECD Secretariat, delivered a presentation on the content of the Partnership and the process to develop it.

Expressing support for the content and ambition of the Partnership were the panellists: **Dr. Ibrahim Zuhuree**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the UN; **Ambassador Lisa Carty**, Representative of the United States of America to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; **Mr. Paul Wallis**, First Secretary - Development and DAC delegate of New Zealand; and **Ms. Kimberly Louis**, Deputy Permanent Representative of St Lucia to the UN.

In the closing session, the **Rt Hon Lord Richard Benyon**, Minister of State at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, asserted that the Partnership represents true progress in helping partners to adapt the

international system to better meet SIDS' needs. The Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda **Hon. Gaston Browne** delivered high-level closing remarks, thanking participants for having produced and launched this new Partnership. He expressed his ambition that it will lead to reform of the current financial architecture so that it can be more inclusive and responsive to SIDS' needs and that it will be sustained in a meaningful way.

## **Key Issues discussed**

In considering how this new Partnership will contribute to SIDS development, participants underscored the importance of:

- Producing more analysis and guidance on **transition finance, sustainable ocean economy, and capacity development**
- Empowering **SIDS to chart their own course** towards sustainable development
- Hardwiring **SIDS perspectives into DAC decisions**
- Integrating the UN's **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index into DAC support to SIDS** as well as the process determining **graduation from Official Development Assistance**

## **Key recommendations for action**

The Partnership identifies five priority thematic areas for action:

- Support SIDS to strengthen **data and statistics capacity**
- Explore ways to catalyse **technical assistance**
- Support SIDS' capacity to **access and absorb official finance**
- Consider how the UN **MVI** could be used in **new donor programming**
- Increase support for the development and implementation of **sustainable ocean economies**