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Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue

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Opening

- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, and thank you co-chairs for the work of the Steering Committee.

Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS

- We are glad that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) highlights that **security underpins the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS**, and we believe the SIDS Partnership Framework may be strengthened by further recognising the nexus between security and development.
- Indeed, (1) good governance cannot exist where illicit financial flows divert resources for development, (2) safe communities cannot thrive where violent crime is endemic, and (3) livelihoods are threatened when environmental crimes lead to biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

Small Islands' Lighthouse Programme

- In particular, our **Small Islands' Lighthouse Programme** works to deliver concrete action on the ABAS vision by strengthening the security architecture of SIDS. Allow me to share some ongoing initiatives under this programme.
 - In environmental security, INTERPOL's **project LEAP** assists member countries to more effectively detect, investigate and prevent forestry crime. This is especially important for SIDS beneficiaries like Papua New Guinea, home to the third-largest tract of tropical rainforest in the world.



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- In maritime security, INTERPOL's **Port Security Project** enhances maritime cooperation in the African and Indian Ocean regions, equipping SIDS beneficiaries like Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles to address illegal fishing and illicit maritime trade.
- In capacity building, INTERPOL's **Project Blue Pacific** facilitates the exchange of police information across the Pacific region for coordinated approaches to growing transnational criminal activity in 11 Pacific SIDS.

SIDS Partnership Framework

- These achievements demonstrate that the global law enforcement community has a key role to play as implementers of ABAS and as stakeholders in the SIDS Partnership Framework.
- As the international criminal police organization, with 196 Member States, INTERPOL will work to strengthen the SIDS Partnership Framework by (1) reflecting the expertise and perspective of law enforcement and (2) facilitating international police cooperation, for the promotion of safer and more peaceful societies.

Conclusion

- Excellencies, colleagues, INTERPOL recognises that much more can be done to support SIDS, and we welcome further opportunities to collaborate with interested stakeholders in this room on our Lighthouse programme.
- INTERPOL is committed to working with the international community in ensuring the aspirations in ABAS materialise as concrete realities for all.
- I thank you.