



Organization name: International Science Council (ISC)

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**STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL**  
**Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue 2024**  
**Wednesday 10 July 2024**

I am Sandra Sookram, Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago. Today, I am addressing you on behalf of the International Science Council (ISC), an international non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together over 250 national science academies and international unions in the fields of natural, social and human sciences.

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Sustainability (ABAS), a product of the SIDS4 conference, represents a bold vision for the future of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). As academics, we recognize the need for collaborative partnerships to transform this vision into tangible action, departing from traditional donor-recipient models.

The ABAS demands a diverse partnership landscape. Academia, with its research expertise and capacity-building potential, can bridge sectors, advance knowledge exchange, and co-create innovative solutions. Integrating academic institutions into these partnerships can leverage their expertise in cutting-edge solutions, data analysis, and policy evaluation to reinforce ABAS objectives. This requires a commitment to inclusivity, ensuring marginalized voices are heard and local communities lead their development. Academia should engage with local authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international financial institutions, establishing platforms for knowledge exchange, joint research initiatives, and capacity-building programs that encourage all stakeholders.

Mobilizing sufficient financial and human resources is fundamental to the successful implementation of the ABAS. Academia can promote increased funding for SIDS by emphasizing the significance of these investments for global sustainability. We can contribute to developing projects that attract private sector investment by using our research capabilities to demonstrate the economic viability of sustainable development initiatives. Collaborative research efforts can identify innovative financing models, such as public-private partnerships and blended finance approaches, tailored to the unique challenges of SIDS. Additionally, we can build the capacity of SIDS communities, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to manage and implement sustainable development projects.

The Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue provides a crucial platform to translate ambition into action. Through inclusive collaboration and sustainable investments, academia can help achieve resilient prosperity for SIDS. Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen the collaborative framework for SIDS development, making the ABAS a catalyst for global resilient prosperity.

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The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together more than 250 international scientific Unions and Associations, national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils, international Federations and Societies, and Young Academies and Associations. The vision of the ISC is science as a global public good.