High Level Political Forum 2024

Global Multi-stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue

Statement to be delivered by H.E. Ambassador Rui Vinhas, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

Trusteeship Council Chamber, Wednesday, July 10, 2024

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– Good morning, colleagues.

– I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee for SIDS Partnerships, Ambassador Fergal Mythen and Ambassador Ilana Victorya Seid, for their invitation to speak as a representative of development partners of SIDS.

– As you know, Portugal is strongly committed to the promotion of partnerships for SIDS, both bilaterally and at the UN, in line with our 2030 Cooperation Strategy.

– In recent times, this has translated into the development of innovative solutions together, in part to support the ability of SIDS to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and their own frameworks for sustainable development.

– Some of these, only recently launched, may be candidates to the SIDS Partnerships Awards in coming years. I am thinking of two, for example:

   o the debt-for-climate swap signed with Cabo Verde last year; or,

   o the UN-Portugal Ocean fellowship, a capacity building programme announced this year at SIDS4, focusing on ocean governance, marine conservation, blue economy, and the continental shelf regime.

– The Global Multistakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue is an opportunity to share experiences, and we commend the Co-Chairs for providing this
space, while also **congratulating the winners of the 2024 edition of the SIDS Partnership Awards**.

- It should also be an opportunity for us to **look beyond and reflect together on what we can do better**, in view of the mandate included in the **Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)**, namely:
  
  - The request that the UNSG, in consultation with States, including through the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, present recommendations for the **strengthening of the SIDS Partnership Framework and the SIDS Global Business Network and its Forum**

- We have sought to provide our **support to this exercise**, by funding the work of the Secretariat in this regard.

- We are appreciative of the **draft proposal for consultation** and suggestions contained therein, covering six areas of action.

- These can be taken as **a basis for work**, hopefully contributing to a more formal process of elaboration of recommendations.

- We are in the **good hands of the Co-chairs and the Secretariat** as to how this may unfold in an inclusive and effective manner.

- As others, we would hope that a strengthened SIDS Partnership Framework can:

  - **Contribute to the implementation of ABAS**, including its monitoring and evaluation;
  - Work in synergy with an equally **strengthened SIDS Global Business Network and Forum**;
  - Bear in mind larger relevant frameworks – most of all, the **2030 Agenda and the SDGs**, which remains the guiding star of all our action in the promotion of sustainable development.

- I thank you.