



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

## **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

*Check against delivery*

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



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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.