



Global Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for SIDS Partnerships 10 July 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Cassar
Africa, Economic and Development Coordinator of Malta to the UN, New York

Co-Chairs

We start by expressing our heartfelt solidarity with the people of the countries affected by Hurricane Beryl. Their unwavering resolve in chartering through these challenging times is commendable.

It is in this vein that Malta recognises the full potential of partnerships to overcome the recognised vulnerabilities of SIDS. We thank Palau and Ireland, as Co-Chairs of this Steering Committee, for their sterling work in this regard.

Having had the honour of co-chairing the Committee together with Antigua & Barbuda in 2020-2021, Malta is fully aware of the important role that partnerships hold.



The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), as adopted at the SIDS4 Conference, includes a specific reference to partnerships and to the need for “new, innovative and bold approaches to partnership based on mutual collaboration and ownership” in order to facilitate the implementation of this extensive Agenda over the next ten years.

As highlighted in the ABAS, expanding and diversifying partnerships with various entities as well as supporting SIDS-SIDS cooperation and leveraging North-South, Triangular and South-South cooperation, are necessary for the promotion of SIDS’ development.

This Steering Committee’s added value in facilitating these areas of focus is deeply welcomed and supported.

Co-Chairs

Nationally, Malta is working to promote partnerships as a means to achieve the goals set out by the ABAS, including in capacity-building, developing strong institutions, achieving gender equality, empowering youth and fostering sustainable energy sources.



One such initiative is our SIDS Scholarship Programme that is conducted in partnership between the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta and the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta.

We are pleased to announce that the next call for scholarships is now open, offering an opportunity for prospective students from ODA-eligible SIDS. Being awarded the SIDS Partnerships Award in the Social Category last year, this ongoing scholarship programme has provided impetus for further partnerships in favour of SIDS.

Through another partnership with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Malta has contributed to the development of a 'Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index'. This index, complementing the UN Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, was officially presented at a side-event at the SIDS4 Conference.



Co-Chairs

To conclude, we would like to congratulate this year's winners of the SIDS Partnerships Awards. We recognise them as best practices and experiences in our collective efforts towards SIDS.

In moving forward, Co-Chairs, you can count on our steadfast support to the promotion of the interests of SIDS in the international sphere. This includes within the framework of the implementation of ABAS, and with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, such as the public and private sectors, academia, as well as other groups such as women, youth, and local communities.

I thank you.