



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Statement

By

Mr. Tumasie Blair, Deputy Permanent Representative

at

Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International

Conference

on

Financing for Development (FfD4)

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United Nations Headquarters, New York

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Distinguished Co-Chairs, Co-Facilitators,

First, I wish to align my statement, with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China and the Statement delivered by AOSIS. Allow me also to express my delegation's heartfelt thanks to the exemplary leadership shown throughout the consultations and for presenting the zero draft in a timely manner.

The draft text is an essential foundation as we engage in serious negotiations over the coming days. It is crucial that FfD4 builds upon the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, ensuring it evolves and adapts to effectively address our current realities.

As we engage in discussions, we must ensure that what we adopt in Seville, acknowledges vulnerability as a central theme throughout. Antigua and Barbuda, along with other SIDS, are acutely vulnerable to external shocks. Therefore, our special circumstances must be considered at all times and the acknowledgement that SIDS remains a special case for sustainable development.

Vulnerability must not just be a recognition of the fragility we face; support must be provided to build our resilience. The MVI is one such support measures. The MVI however needs to be reflected appropriately in the draft. The MVI must extend beyond mere graduation metrics; it must encompass access to finance and avenues for debt relief, recognizing the unique challenges we face and our vulnerabilities.

I wish to commend the draft's inclusion of the SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS). The continuous cycle of debt poses significant obstacles to the sustainability and development goals of SIDS and LDCs. The establishment of the DSSS is critical in breaking this cycle. It is important within the text that we fully outline the types of support required for the implementation of the DSSS and ensure a robust institutional home is identified.

Antigua and Barbuda support the language on the SIDS Center of Excellence, with its three main components serving as a vital support mechanism for SIDS. Nonetheless,

the draft document must amplify support for the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). Financing for development can and must be a driving force in realizing the goals and principles of the ABAS, providing targeted resources and partnerships that will enable resilience building and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and in particular the Sustainable Development Goals.

Co-facilitators, the nexus between development finance and climate finance cannot be overlooked. Our survival hinges on the ability to mobilize resources that address both the developmental and climate-related adversities we encounter daily, I urge for greater inclusion of language on climate finance and its distinction from development finance and also their complimentary role.

Finally, the differences in responsibilities between developed and developing countries must be explicitly articulated in the outcome document. Phrases like "we commit" must delineate clearer pathways for mutually accountable partnerships, ensuring that roles are defined, clearly understood and obligations are met.

My delegation remains committed to this process and will use the opportunity, when provided to offer concrete language proposals, either through the AOSIS or in our national capacity.

Thank you.