



**Statement by Belize delivered by H.E. Carlos Fuller, Permanent Representative
of Belize to the United Nations at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)
10-14 February 2025
United Nations, New York**

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies,

Belize aligns with the statements of CARICOM, AOSIS, and G77 and China.

The multilateral system is failing the most vulnerable, and SIDS are bearing the brunt of its shortcomings. We do not stand on equal footing, nor do we share equal prospects for development. This injustice must be rectified.

The FfD4 outcome must be more than words—it must deliver real, just, and lasting results, that reinforce the core tenets of multilateralism inclusivity, equity, and justice. These are not abstract principles; they are survival imperatives. For SIDS, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is our roadmap to those results. Now, we demand action.

To be truly effective, FfD4 must deliver five critical outcomes:

1. A quantum leap in international public finance—not just more, but better: adequate, predictable, accessible, and concessional finance with streamlined processes. SIDS cannot build resilience while drowning in debt.
2. A commitment to decisively reduce capital costs for SIDS.
3. A bold endorsement of key SIDS priorities building on ABAS and that can facilitate those outcomes:
 - a. A seat at the table—greater SIDS representation in global financial governance.
 - b. The full integration of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index — we need a finance system that acknowledges—not punishes—SIDS’ vulnerabilities.
 - c. A robust debt-restructuring system and the operationalization of the Debt Sustainability Support Service.
 - d. Scalable, tailored innovative financial instruments that work for SIDS—Belize’s Blue Bond Project proves this is possible.
 - e. Mechanisms to lower borrowing costs ex ante and ensure automatic debt relief in times of crisis.
 - f. A credit rating methodology and debt sustainability analysis that work to foster increased investments in resilience building that offsets structural vulnerabilities

4. Radical transparency in finance flows that distinguishes ODA from climate finance and other types of finance—we must stop the double-counting, ensure clarity, and maximize effectiveness.
5. A clear deadline for delivery—no later than 2030. Promises without timelines are empty.

The time for half-measures has passed. FfD4 must be a turning point. Belize stands ready to work with all partners to forge a financing framework that is not just ambitious, but truly transformative, just, and sustainable.