



Interactive Discussion to Leadership Dialogue 3: “Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.”

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Mr. President
Co-Chairs
Excellencies
Colleagues

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align our statement with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and wishes to recognize the co-chairing efforts of the Government of Finland and Egypt for this interactive session.

Mr. President,

The current challenges facing the world and in particular small island developing states requires increased collective actions if we are to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Increased collective actions must be accompanied by enhanced collective commitments. Meaning, the vision Fifty years ago for environmental action, and the aspirations of the 2014 SAMOA Pathway and those of 2015 that adopted the 2030 agenda requires a new approach. Approaches such as enhanced national determined contributions that are seen as bold compliments to the Paris Agreement are worthwhile exploring.

Mr. President,

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed gaps in our multilateral system and our ability to confront these new challenges without little delay.

Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development requires innovation at the national and global levels. Access to and transfer of technology is critical

in order for SIDS to achieve environmental sustainability. While the developed world and advanced economies were able to adapt to the new realities of the pandemic by moving their workforce and learning capabilities remotely, small states lingered behind. The lack of capacity currently affects our ability to fully recover from the global shut down.

Additionally, the means of implementation and finance is significant for the environmental pillar of sustainable development. A sustainable recovery from the pandemic in the face of environmental degradation entails guaranteeing that the 100 billion climate finance goal is delivered and a recommitment to new and additional climate finance is delivered that takes into account our special circumstances as SIDS and recognition of the importance of considering vulnerability in climate finance allocation as outlined in the Glasgow Pact.

Mr. President

From all indicators, the world is emerging from the pandemic, but not all countries are recovering at the same pace and level. let us use this opportunity to think big, to be bold and design a global recovery mechanism that is inclusive of all, and that is environmentally sustainable. Resiliency must be the bedrock of all recovery efforts. Economic growth, prosperity for all and eliminating inequality must be at the forefront of this process.

The relationship to sustainable development and nature must be one that allows small states to press forward with our national development policies and plans that are country led, country owned and sustainable, while safeguarding the environment.

In order for a truly global recovery, we must strengthen multilateral institutions that are targeted and fit for purpose. They must deliver economically, socially, and environmentally for SIDS and must interlink the remaining two years of the SAMOA Pathway and the remaining eight years of the SDGs in a coordinated manner that brings lasting solutions to our small and low-lying states.

I Thank You.