

**USG Opening Remarks
SIDS-GBN Forum 2024
25 May 2024, 14-14.30PM
Sandals Grande Resort**

(Please, check against delivery)

**H.E. Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Agriculture, Trade & Barbuda Affairs,**

**Ambassador Pa'olelei Luteru, Permanent Representative of
Samoa to the UN, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States,
and Co-chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for
SIDS,**

**Ambassador Christina Markus Lassen, Permanent
Representative of Denmark to the UN in New York,**

**Ms. Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UN Trade and
Development,**

Excellencies,

Distinguished members of the business community,

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's an honour and great pleasure to welcome you all to the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network Forum here in beautiful St. John's, as we gather here for the 4th International Conference on the SIDS

I thank the Governments of Denmark and Ireland for their generous support to host the Forum, and for being our longstanding partners to this initiative.

I would also like to thank the Government of Antigua & Barbuda for its warm and generous hospitality.

The motto of the islands, truly upholds the value of partnership for inclusive and equitable development.

I hope this spirit will inspire us to shape new partnerships and a brighter future for all Small Island Developing States.

Excellencies,

This year's Forum will be the first under the newly agreed **Antigua & Barbuda Agenda for SIDS – the ABAS.**

We now have a unique opportunity to take stock of the first

To ensure the effective engagement of the private sector in this endeavor, we need to harness the transformative power of the business community to achieve the priorities and goals of ABAS.

Over the next two days, the Forum will endeavour to do just that.

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We will have four thematic sessions looking at how to:

- x strengthen innovative blue-green economies,**
- x empower local communities for revitalizing economies,
- x strengthen the enabling business environment, and**
- x secure financing and investment for the private sector in
SIDS.

These themes are closely aligned with the priorities outlined in the ABAS.

I look forward to hearing your recommendations. I would encourage you to come up with concrete action points and commitments.

The outcome of this Forum will be presented at the Private Sector Roundtable at the SIDS4 Conference on Tuesday.

I thank you once again, for travelling from far to be here with us.

**I also wish to thank you Hon'ble Minister, dear Ambassadors,
and UNCTAD, for your commitment and support to the GBN.**