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Statement by Ms. Rabab Fatima
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
Small Island Developing States
SIDS Ambassadorial Meeting in Geneva
13 June 2023, 16:00-17:30
Commonwealth Small States Office Board Room
Rue du Pré de la Bichette 1, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

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Excellency Matthew Wilson,

Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Good afternoon.

I am very pleased to meet with you all here in Geneva.
I thank the Permanent Missions of Maldives and Barbados for
co-organizing this meeting with us.

I appreciate this opportunity to engage with the Permanent
Missions of SIDs in Geneva for enhancing our collaboration.

As the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing
States, I am honoured to support the sustainable development
goals of 90 most vulnerable countries of the world. Given the
multidimensional vulnerabilities of the SIDS and the upcoming

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SIDs conference, these countries are now very high on the
agenda of my Office.
Fourth Conference
Excellencies,
We are at a critical of the SIDS development Agenda.
As the SAMOA Pathway comes to end, we must take a
comprehensive stock of our achievements and challenges in
ensuring its full and effective implementation.
We must learn from the lessons of the last 10 years and use
those to deliver on a new agenda for SIDS.
This new agenda needs to be more ambitious, and action-oriented, and better equipped to address the key impediments
of the SIDS to achieve sustainable development.

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the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Seas (AIS) SIDS,
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines for the Caribbean SIDS, and
tentatively in Vanuatu for the Pacific SIDS. These meetings will
take place over the course of July and August.
There will also be an interregional meeting in Cabo Verde in
late August, early September.
We need to leverage these and other important moments in the
lead-up to the Conference, like the SDG Summit in September
and UNFCC COP28 in November, to create necessary
momentum.
We also need to set new ambitions for the next POA, especially
in the areas where we could not achieve expected level of
progress in the context of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

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The issue of SIDS’ access to concessional financing is one such
area.

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The trade report will explore promising sectors in SIDS and

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important issues and help us further deepen and consolidate
our thoughts and ideas.

Partnerships
Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

Multi-stakeholder partnerships will be crucial not only for
achieving an ambitious and forward-looking Programme of
Action for the SIDS but also to create its full and effective
implementation.

With the Conference taking place next year, we need to seize
every opportunity to create necessary impetus and renewed
commitment to mobilize enhanced resources and partnerships
for SIDS.

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In our broad mandate to support the SIDS, we have invested a
lot of our efforts to create a broad coalition of partnerships for
the SIDs.

We are especially happy to spearhead the SIDS Global Business
Network under the SIDS Partnership Framework. The Network
is a driving force to stimulate public-private partnerships with
a view to creating innovative solutions that contribute to the
sustainable development of SIDS./(n6t Tm
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sectors with a view to unlocking new opportunities for
economic diversification and resilience in SIDS.

In 2022, we also launched a report on ocean partnerships
under the SIDS Global Business Network, which identified
concrete recommendations toward better multi-stakeholder
collaboration for ensuring a sustainable future for all.

OHRLLS is looking forward to convening the next SIDS Global
Business Network Forum in the Caribbean next year ahead of
the Fourth Conference.

The Forum will bring together SIDS governments, private
sector actors, and other stakeholders to stimulate the
formulation of public-private partnerships.

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The 2024 Forum will also bring multi-stakeholder perspectives
on private sector development and partnerships in the new
SIDS agenda.

This will be the last Forum held under the SAMOA Pathway,
which offers a unique opportunity to take stock of the

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It is indeed important that we keep our SIDS Missions in
Geneva engaged every step of the way. Your work on specific
areas, including on trade and digitalisation, and your network
of Partnerships can help to enrich our efforts to develop a
global programme of action for SIDs that will have a
transformative impact on the ground.

I look forward to today’s dialogue and to taking this important
work forward in close collaboration with you.

I would rest it here.

Thank you.