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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Cuba:* draft resolution

Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹ is a stand-alone, overarching framework setting out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States that builds on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States² and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ and recognizing that the Samoa Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁵ and is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ Resolution 69/15, annex.

² *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

⁵ Resolution 69/313, annex.



Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁶ the New Urban Agenda⁷ and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁸

Reaffirming also that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, renewing thus our solidarity with them, as they continue to face the combined challenges arising, in particular, from their geographical remoteness, the small scale of their economies, high costs and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and remaining particularly concerned that many small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Acknowledging that COVID-19 recovery and return to economic growth in small island developing States has been constrained by multiple factors, including the increased pressure on food, water, energy and finance, high inflation, rising global interest rates, tightened financial conditions, high indebtedness, disruptions in supply chains, and geopolitical tensions and global conflicts, together with the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and the digital divide, posing severe consequences for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks,

Noting with grave concern that, although it fell in 2022, the debt level in small island developing States remains above pre-pandemic levels, and more than 40 per cent of those States are suffering from severe debt problems, owing to the continuing rise of the external debt stock of those States, which grew by 5 per cent in 2022 to 68.6 billion United States dollars, and by 16 per cent since the end of 2019; moreover, the reduction in liquidity buffers as measured by the ratio of reserves to short-term debt to 148 per cent disproportionately affects small island developing States,

Acknowledging the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

⁶ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

⁸ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Taking note of the request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change,

Taking note with concern of the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including the synthesis report for the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

Noting the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, owing to their unique characteristics, dependence on and particular exposure to the ocean and its biodiversity, and noting also the central role of the ocean in the culture, livelihoods and sustainable development of the peoples of small island developing States,

Acknowledging the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”⁹ and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,¹⁰ adopted, respectively, at the 2017 and 2022 United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, acknowledging also the further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on its targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6, which matured in 2020, and looking forward to accelerating urgent action at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay,

Looking forward to the successful convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 18 to 21 June 2024,

Noting with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the non-achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and recognizing the unique opportunity offered for small island developing States’ degraded ecosystems and environmental resilience with the adoption of the landmark Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the subsequent launch of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund,

Noting with concern also that plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, continues to negatively affect small island developing States, encouraging further efforts at all levels to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, as well as welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022,¹¹ and noting the convening of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

Noting the important role of forests in climate mitigation and adaptation, including through promoting the adoption and implementation of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus) and

⁹ Resolution 71/312, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 76/296, annex.

¹¹ UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

other alternative policy approaches in small island developing States, including those with high forest low deforestation (HFLD) regions, in accordance with Paris Agreement article 5.2, on national or, an interim basis, subnational jurisdictional scales, can foster information exchange, expertise-sharing and collective problem-solving, fostering a united effort in addressing climate mitigation and adaptation goals, and also noting it is essential for those small island developing States that have maintained forest cover and other ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass, peatlands, old-growth forests, and marshes, over decades of utilization, to pursue opportunities to mobilize financing in this regard,

Underscoring the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and noting that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for small island developing States and other developing countries,

Noting that water resources are critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, recognizing that water, ecosystems, energy, food security and nutrition are interlinked and indispensable for health, well-being and human development, and in this regard calling for the promotion of the sustainable management of water at all levels, taking into account the recognition by small island developing States of the water, food, energy and environmental nexus,

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation, and paragraph 22 of the Samoa Pathway, which underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to address the major challenges facing small island developing States,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹²
2. *Reiterates* the call to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Declaration of Barbados¹³ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalls the discussion during the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;
3. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and

¹² [A/78/222](#).

¹³ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;

4. *Welcomes* resolution 5/14 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session and the convening of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

5. *Recalls with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizes the need for allocation of adequate resources commensurate with the mandates of these units, taking into account the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

6. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek new solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

7. *Invites* the international financial institutions to consider how best multidimensional vulnerability could be incorporated into existing practices and policies for development support, including access to concessional finance and debt treatment mechanisms;

8. *Welcomes* the commitments made by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in the communiqué of its high-level meeting of 2020, to improve policies and programmes to address the particular needs of small island developing States, and takes note of the launch of the principles for aid effectiveness for small island developing States in Geneva in 2022 and the establishment of an AOSIS-DAC Task Force in 2023 to identify a common set of issues and areas for collaboration, to improve the effectiveness and impact of official development assistance, and to consider the issue of vulnerability to be launched at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States;

9. *Recognizes* that small island developing States continue to face significant challenges in accessing sufficient affordable financing for sustainable development, including concessional financing, and in this regard encourages providers of development finance to consider the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States in order to strengthen development cooperation;

10. *Takes note* of the final report of the High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States which was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, and the recommendations contained therein;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to launch, as soon as possible, an intergovernmental process, supported through an interim secretariat provided jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative, to consider the recommendations presented in the final report of the High-level Panel on the

Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, its applicability and scope, and ways to further improve it that would allow for the implementation of the index, and to report back to the General Assembly by the end of its seventy-eighth session;

12. *Reiterates* that small island developing States continue to face loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events, resulting in unprecedented social, economic and environmental challenges that push debt to unsustainable levels, and in this regard calls for urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹⁴ and the Paris Agreement to avert, minimize and address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

13. *Urges* the timely and full operationalization of the new funding arrangements and the fund to respond to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events;

14. *Recognizes* that improving small island developing States' access to finance is critical for their economic recovery, building resilience and sustainable development, and calls for the establishment of a debt treatment mechanism to enable sound debt management for small island developing States that will allow for the use of state-contingent instruments;

15. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's findings regarding the limited capacity of small island developing States, including upper-middle-income and high-income small island developing States, to gain access to disaster-related funding owing to differing eligibility criteria and the quantum of resources required to gain access thereto, as well as the need for an enabling environment at all levels, invites international financial institutions to revise eligibility criteria and modalities that prevent access to resources, taking into consideration multidimensional vulnerabilities, and urges the international community to enhance the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for disaster risk reduction and other preventive measures as part of a comprehensive risk management framework that matches the scale of existing and future disaster risks, while taking into account the barriers that have prevented the effective mobilization of critical financing to small island developing States, especially for implementation of associated plans and strategies devised by small island developing States;

16. *Recognizes* the increasing impacts of disasters on the debt position of small island developing States, calls upon all creditors to mainstream state-contingent debt instruments such as disaster clauses that allow for payment standstills or maturity extensions, as appropriate, in response to the volatility of income, liquidity pressures and debt distress arising from exogenous shocks, as well as ex-ante financing to enable the systemic reduction of disaster risk and resilience-building, including the disclosure of disaster risk as these instruments are crucial to the economic recovery of small island developing States, through providing much-needed fiscal support and to avoid exacerbating debt distress;

17. *Reaffirms* that official development assistance, both technical and financial, can foster resilient societies and economies, and calls upon the international community to mobilize additional development finance from all sources and at all levels to support small island developing States' efforts;

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

18. *Recognizes with concern* the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, remains mindful that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multiannual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, inter alia, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macro-financial stability;

19. *Reiterates* the call to relevant institutions to learn from one another's efforts to address the diverse circumstances of countries, to better manage transitions and graduation, recognizes that official development assistance should continue to focus on countries most in need, and takes note of a willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness;

20. *Reiterates* the call to Member States to invite the World Bank to consider reviving the high-level working group among the development banks and its partners to review the rules governing access for small island developing States to concessional finance;

21. *Underlines* the need to take targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, to reduce inequalities and to promote the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

22. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States is not possible without private investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be facilitated and attracted through the creation of an enabling environment and capacity support for small island developing States;

23. *Acknowledges* the important role that the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework is playing in monitoring the progress of existing partnerships and encouraging the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships, and in this regard welcomes the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards, which recognize and reward the most noteworthy small island developing States partnerships, and therefore reiterates its call for the Framework to be strengthened to continue its impact on communities, on human resources, capacity-building, the environment and enhanced knowledge-sharing, including information, data and improved coordination;

24. *Recognizes* that partnerships with relevant stakeholders are critical in building resilience, reducing disaster risk and achieving sustainable development and climate change adaptation at the local level, and calls for the establishment of the biennial regional multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue with a view to facilitating means of implementation, inter alia, financing, investment, trade, technology transfer, capacity-building and creation of new partnerships, and looks forward to the scaling-up and development of durable and transformational partnerships at all levels;

25. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of

Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

26. *Looks forward* to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, and notes that its overarching theme shall be “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”;

27. *Welcomes* the appointments of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, respectively;

28. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2024, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States and the forthcoming fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process, and calls upon the United Nations system to strengthen and promote coordinated, effective and coherent United Nations capacity-development support to small island developing States;

29. *Reiterates its call* for the Secretary-General to continue to use his convening powers to continue to work on devising solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term, with due regard to multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance and debt treatment mechanisms, and in this regard looks forward to the Secretary-General convening a high-level meeting during the Conference, with a wide variety of stakeholders, including the United Nations system, international financial institutions, development banks and multilateral development partners, to discuss the mobilization of resources for small island developing States;

30. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community and the private sector, which have played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

31. *Calls for* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States and for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States, in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States to achieving sustainable development;

32. *Takes note* of the schedule for the preparatory committee, co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Maldives and New Zealand to the United Nations, to facilitate the intergovernmental process for the outcome document for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and in this regard calls upon all relevant stakeholders to work constructively and in collaboration with small island developing States;

33. *Looks forward* to the ongoing process under the preparatory committee that will result in an intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document for the fourth International Conference

on Small Island Developing States, which will articulate priorities for small island developing States and define concrete, measurable targets for support for the next 10 years, building on the priorities identified by those States in the outcomes of the 2023 regional preparatory meetings for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from 24 to 26 July in Mauritius, from 8 to 10 August in St Vincent and the Grenadines, and from 16 to 18 August in Tonga, as well as the outcome of the interregional meeting held from 30 August to 1 September 2023 in Cabo Verde, and calls upon all Member States and relevant stakeholders to work cooperatively with small island developing States in this important endeavour;

34. *Recalls* that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

35. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

36. *Recalls* paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 of resolution [77/245](#) of 30 December 2022, on participation in the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and in this regard reiterates the call to international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, and the invitation for voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the Conference;

37. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and other major groups, particularly from small island developing States, in the Conference, and invites voluntary contributions to support their participation;

38. *Recognizes* that there is an urgent need to assist small island developing States in strengthening their statistical offices and to provide enhanced support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis, including high-quality and disaggregated data, and welcomes the proposal by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to establish a small island developing States centre of excellence that will include a small island developing States global data hub that will be launched at the Conference;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-ninth session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes of the national, regional and interregional preparatory meetings, as well as the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index;

40. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.