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General Assembly
Seventy-eighth session
Agenda items 18, 18 (b), 18 (d) and 20**Security Council**
Seventy-ninth year**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
Protection of global climate for present and future
generations of humankind****Groups of countries in special situations****Letter dated 24 June 2024 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the address by Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to participants of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from 27 to 30 May 2024 in Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18, 18 (b), 18 (d) and 20, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 June 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address to participants of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from 27 to 30 May 2024 in Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda, under the theme "Charting the course towards resilient prosperity"

Azerbaijan has always been in solidarity with the small island developing States and promoted their legitimate interests and concerns.

During the four-year-long Azerbaijani chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, we spared no effort to advance the Movement's agenda. Special emphasis was placed on the institutional development of the Non-Aligned Movement, strengthening the unity of the Movement and increasing its visibility.

Leading the Non-Aligned Movement gave Azerbaijan an opportunity to better understand the needs and concerns of all its member States, including small island developing States.

As the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, Azerbaijan led global efforts to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and initiated the United Nations special session on this matter. Azerbaijan spoke against vaccine nationalism, advocating for fair and universal access to vaccines for all countries.

During the pandemic Azerbaijan also provided more than 80 countries, including around 20 small island developing States, with financial and humanitarian support.

In March 2023, in my capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, I made a global call to action on supporting post-pandemic recovery in small island developing States. With that call I invited the international community to render financial assistance and direct economic support to small island developing States to address the socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic. Azerbaijan was the first country to allocate funds to this call.

This year, Azerbaijan has the honour to host the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The unanimous support to Azerbaijan's bid for the twenty-ninth session reflects the international community's respect and trust in Azerbaijan.

Climate change affects all countries across every continent. Azerbaijan is also negatively impacted by climate change. Our rivers are losing water; the Caspian Sea is shrinking.

Yet small island developing States are the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Despite no contribution to climate change, these nations face its worst effects and even existential threat. Climate change also impedes their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

During our presidency of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, addressing the challenges posed by climate change to small island developing States will be among our priorities. We are planning to hold a small island developing States summit during the twenty-ninth session, to be held in Baku.

We will do our best to ensure that the voices of small island developing nations are heard loud and clear.

I call on all countries to exert maximum effort to make a deal during the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties that meets the needs and priorities of small island developing States.

From our side, Azerbaijan has already been rendering its support to eliminating the consequences caused by hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters in a number of small island developing States. We will continue to take practical steps to further assist these countries. Azerbaijan will allocate funds for technical assistance programmes through the Commonwealth, where 33 small island developing States are represented, and other international institutions.

We will also extend scholarship opportunities for nationals of small island developing States to study at the universities of Azerbaijan. So far, more than 10 small island developing States have benefited from the educational grant programmes provided by Azerbaijan for the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Azerbaijan will also facilitate the participation of small island developing States at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.

The slogan we have chosen for the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Baku – “In solidarity for a green world” – reflects the spirit of our mission at the session. As we are all facing this situation together, I call on all countries to act in solidarity to save our planet. To achieve this goal, we need political will and multilateralism, which Azerbaijan has always been advocating for.

I am looking forward to the valuable participation of Heads of State and Government of small island developing States at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference, to be held in Baku this November, and wish success to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

(Signed) Ilham Aliyev

Baku, 21 May 2024
