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UN-OHRLLS

Statement by

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COP29 Side Event
“Policy coherence and synergies in action in small island
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SDG Pavilion

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Climate change is a major driver of disaster losses in SIDS,
severely hindering their sustainable development.

The escalating frequency and intensity of climate-related
disasters exacerbates existing social, economic and
environmental vulnerabilities for these States.

According to UNDRR reports, SIDS comprise up to two-thirds of
the countries facing the highest annual disaster losses globally.
Their small size, remoteness, and heavy dependency on global
markets make them especially susceptible to external shocks,
with any significant disruption posing a risk to their entire
economies.

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To build resilience, SIDS require a comprehensive, systemic
approach to assessing and managing climate risks.

 Integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change
adaptation (CCA) perspectives and approaches is essential, as is
aligning these efforts with other sustainable development
frameworks.

Global agreements like the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, the
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and now the
Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS- the ABAS, all underscore
the need for concerted action on climate and disaster
resilience.

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The ABAS calls for enhanced international support for the SIDS
to address adaptation needs; minimize and address loss and
damage; and enhance capacity and resilience in SIDS.

Achieving these goals demands collective global action and the
necessary investments.

My Office is committed to supporting SIDS in these efforts.

We are working with the entire UN system and various
stakeholders to develop a monitoring and evaluation
framework for the ABAS, ensuring alignment of
implementation with the other global frameworks, including
the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.

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We look forward to today’s discussions and the insights they
will provide toward advancing coherent policy implementation
for SIDS.

I thank you.