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MR. COURTENAY RATTRAY CHEF DE CABINET EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (EOSG)

Opening Remarks

SIDS4 Private Sector Roundtable <u>28 May 2024, 18:30-20:00</u> Venue: American University of Antigua, Interactive Dialogue Room

Distinguished Representatives of the Private Sector,

Distinguished Colleagues and Participants,

It is a pleasure to be part of this important session. The themes we are discussing today go right to the heart of our islands' future stories.

The Antigua & Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) provides a global blueprint for building the resilient prosperity of SIDS over the next decade and iswhole achievable. It represents a moment of maximum opportunity, with the eyes of the world on our agenda.

But for that opportunity to be realized, we need the innovation, the ingenuity - and yes the finances, that come with committed private sector engagement.

As the Secretary-

SIDS4, there must be a step change in the speed and scale of resource mobilization.

Public-private sector partnerships are needed now more than ever before. And they are needed because

Held this weekend to engage the business and investment community in the SIDS agenda,