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Remarks

by

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Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue

7 June 2017, 1.15 – 2.30 PM, ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

Your Excellency, Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly

Distinguished co-chairs of the Steering Committee, Ambassador Sareer of Maldives and Ambassador Cardi of Italy,

Under-secretary General for DESA, Mr, Wu Hongbo,

Other high-level dignitaries, Colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join this Dialogue today and share a few words as the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

The decision by the steering committee to focus this year's dialogue on Oceans is a timely one. The findings published in the first global assessment on oceans paints a startling picture of the state of our ocean that is far worse than previously predicted. For SIDS where the ocean is intertwined with every aspect of sustainable development from social, economic to the environment, the need for a global response to address these problems is urgent.

Strengthened collaboration among various stakeholders, sharing of information on best practices and exchange of ideas on what works and what does not is critical to meet these challenges. This is why forums such as these, which provides a platform for partners to come together is so important.

I would like to briefly highlight a couple areas in which my Office has intensified its efforts in forging partnerships in support of small island developing states.

Firstly, within its mandate to mobilise international support and resources for the implementation of SAMOA Pathway --- OHRLLS has initiated a series of activities on private -sector promotion as well as Public-Private Partnerships models for SIDS. One of the key achievements from this, is the SIDS Global Business Network – a dedicated web-based platform which was launched with the generous support of the Government of Denmark. It is a tool to complement the work of the SIDS Partnership Framework by promoting the sharing of information and networking of businesses working across the three SIDS regions. Naturally, the ocean is one of the seven key thematic areas of focus of the Global Business Network.

Secondly, my Office is also looking for and strategizing on the best ways the UN system as a whole can enhance coherence and coordination on SIDS issues.

As countries themselves are moving into the implementation phase, it is critical that the UN system can support implementation, particularly on the ground. Indeed coherence and the need to enhance it in the UN processes, including those that govern UN system activities on the ground is a mandate OHRLLS was entrusted with in the SAMOA Pathway. Successful delivery on this mandate rests on strengthening partnerships at all levels.

It is clear, no one entity, be it government, private sector or civil society can find solutions on its own. New partnerships need to be forged at scale and at speed, to support SIDS in their sustainable development endeavours. Reflecting back on the topic of today's Dialogue, it is encouraging to see several of the existing partnerships on SIDS include a focus on ocean and seas.

I look forward to discussion and proposals on way forward to further strengthen this platform to accelerate the implementation of SAMOA Pathway and SDGs in SIDS.

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