

**SIDS National Focal Point Inaugural Meeting on 29 October**  
**Intervention made by Francesco La Camera, Director General of the Italian**  
**Ministry for the Environment, Land, and Sea**

I am pleased to inaugurate this first meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points, as I believe in the Network's importance in strengthening the capacity and implementation of the main UN intergovernmental processes, such as the SAMOA Pathway, Agenda 2030, and the Paris Agreement.

The Small Island Developing States are a high priority for Italy. Since 2007, the Italian Ministry for the Environment has played an active role in developing concrete actions to accelerate the transition to renewables and help communities adapt to inevitable changes. We have developed several still ongoing programmes in partnership first with PSIDS and then with CARICOM, Cuba, Maldives, Comoros, and most recently with Mauritius and Seychelles.

Our partner countries consider these partnerships a model of international cooperation for development and a replicable tool for attaining other goals. This sentiment was stated by the Prime Minister of Nauru at a G7 meeting in Canada last September. And it was reaffirmed by the King of Tonga, the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, and other SIDS high representatives during the 73rd UN General Assembly.

Our partnerships are based on a few simple key elements:

- No other multilateral organizations are as speed and effective in allocating the full amount of the pledged resources to an initiative, and in increasing funding ahead of the established deadline for replenishment. This represents a substantial benefit for vulnerable countries and communities that are seriously and constantly affected by the multiple negative impacts of climate change and forced to shift priorities on short notice.

- The Partnership's decision-making process recognizes the common needs and priorities in the region, and facilitates the sharing of experiences and the replication of success stories at an accelerated pace.
- Ownership and sustainability are a constant concern during the decision-making stage: the regional approach provides the backbone of the dialogue among the Parties in their search for solutions appropriate to the region's physical characteristics and socio-economic similarities.

As you can see, our partnership model lends itself to use as an integrated and synergistic approach for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and the other sustainable development agreements. It can also be a system to strengthen knowledge management, education, communication, and outreach activities to support you in this process.

I can assure you that Italy is ready to be a proactive partner, in New York and, above all, in your countries. To this end, we will continue to support strategic actions and sectors, also taking into account the need to implement all the sustainable development priorities, and pave the way for enhanced regional and sub-regional cooperation and long-term multistakeholders investments.

I wish everyone a very productive meeting!