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**Statement by the Statement of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of  
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Misión Permanente de la República Dominicana ante la Organización Mundial  
del Comercio (OMC) y la ONU Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD)  
en Ginebra, Suiza

**SIDS**  
**UNCTAD**  
**GENEVA**

16th Session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development  
Room III, Palais des Nations

**Statement of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

by the Dominican Republic in its capacity of Regional Coordinator of SIDS Group to the UN  
Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

*Opening Plenary:*  
Statements by UNCTAD Member States

9 December 2025

Thank you, Chair

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative José Sánchez-Fung and the Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO and UNCTAD, it is an honor to deliver this statement in the capacity of Regional Coordinator of the Small Island Developing States Group at this *16th Session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development*.

We congratulate you Chair for your election to lead this session, and we thank for the insightful opening remarks by Ms. Luz María de la Mora, on behalf of the Deputy Secretary-General. We also thank UNCTAD for convening this session, providing a relevant platform for sharing national experiences of successful strategies and policies implemented at the national, regional and international level to effectively promote domestic value addition in commodity-producing developing countries.

SIDS Members express their endorsement of the declaration presented by the delegation of Peru on behalf of the G77 and China.

SIDS recognizes that Commodity dependence remains one of the most persistent and destabilizing development challenges for developing countries, exposing its economies to

price volatility and external shocks, undermining macroeconomic stability and fiscal resilience, revenue shortfalls due to price collapses, debt accumulation, and cuts in essential public investment, leading to severe human consequences, underscoring the close link between resource reliance and limited structural transformations.

We emphasize that promoting economic diversification is fundamental to effectively address commodity dependence, by adopting the necessary multidimensional public and private sector coordinated policy framework, to allow economies transition from raw commodity exports towards higher value added production, and integration into regional and global value chains; aligning its diversification strategies with economic global trends as the development of circular economy, renewable energies and digitalization. This structural transformation has the potential to enhance economic resilience, foster the adoption of new technological capabilities, and turn natural-resource abundance into a catalyst for sustainable and inclusive development.

Recognizing the opportunities arising from the global energy transition, SIDS notice that the shift towards critical energy transition minerals, may also reinforce patterns of commodity dependence unless accompanied by structural transformation and equitable access to technology, finance, and global markets.

As recalled in the SIDS Ministerial Declaration at UNCTAD 16, SIDS countries face unique vulnerabilities to exogenous shocks owing to their size, geographical remoteness, small scale of their economies, high dependence on international trade, high transport and logistics costs, extreme exposure to natural disasters and the effects of climate change, as biodiversity loss, pollution and requirement for adaptation and mitigation measure; high debt burdens and limited access to financing. In this regard, we commend the Bridgetown Initiative 3.0 which seeks to reform the global financial system in order to respond to many of these realities.

SIDS also called for UNCTAD strengthened support in expanding our productive capacities, advancing low-carbon economic diversification, and identifying climate-resilient development pathways, including through digital transformation, renewable energy, sustainable ocean economies, and resilient transport systems sectors, where value addition and diversification are both, possible and straightaway needed for our sustainable development.

SIDS reaffirm their firm commitment to multilateralism and to a transparent, inclusive, and fair rules-based multilateral trading system. We look forward to engaging actively in this Expert Meeting, and to contributing to outcomes that can be translated into meaningful policy action, capable of transforming commodity dependence into resilient, sustainable, and high-value economic opportunities for all.

Thank you.