

Statement of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

General Debate - Statements by Regional Groups and Member States

Item 2: High-level segment – The impact of Hormuz Disruptions on Developing Countries: Energy, Food and Development

14 September 2026

Thank you Madam President,
The Acting Secretary General, Mr. Pedro Moreno,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

The Dominican Republic has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

At the outset, we congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. Fancy Too, Permanent Representative of Kenya, on her election as President of the Trade and Development Board, assuring her of the full support and cooperation of the SIDS Group.

The SIDS Group wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board, His Excellency Ambassador Dr. José Sánchez-Fung, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, for his leadership, unwavering commitment and dedicated guidance throughout his tenure as President of the Board. We thank him for his contribution to advancing constructive dialogue and consensus among the membership.

SIDS also thanks the distinguished panelists for their insightful presentations and the UNCTAD Secretariat for convening this session and providing comprehensive documentation to support our discussions.

This seventy-third session takes place at a moment of important challenge for SIDS economies, categorized by geopolitical tensions, investment uncertainty, tariff volatility, supply-chain disruptions, financing constraints and persistent climate-related vulnerabilities. The recent disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz demonstrate how rapidly shocks can spread across trade, energy, food and financial systems, with particularly severe consequences for vulnerable developing economies.

For SIDS, these challenges reinforce the urgency of addressing the structural vulnerabilities recognized in the *Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS*, that calls for risk-informed development finance, sustainable debt management and increased investment, including by strengthening investment promotion capacities and attracting foreign direct investment. The SIDS Ministerial Declaration at UNCTAD 16, further calls upon UNCTAD to strengthen support for productive capacities, economic diversification, digital transformation, renewable energy, sustainable ocean economies and resilient transport and logistics.

Madam President,

The adoption of the *Geneva Consensus* provides a renewed mandate for translating these priorities into action, and for advancing inclusive and sustainable development. It reaffirms UNCTAD's central role within the United Nations system in the integrated treatment of trade and development, and the interrelated areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. For SIDS, effective implementation must therefore remain attentive to our particular vulnerabilities and capacity constraints.

As stated in *the World Investment Report 2026*, international investment is becoming increasingly concentrated in strategic sectors and economies with stronger financial and technological capabilities. Developing countries face significant constraints in competing in this new environment. SIDS therefore require tailored investment strategies, stronger productive capacities, infrastructure, skills and technology, together with renewed international cooperation.

Financing remains fundamental to all these efforts. In this regard, we welcome the *Sevilla Commitment*, including its call to scale up sustainable investment in developing countries and its recognition of SIDS-specific vulnerabilities, with strengthened, predictable and tailored support for SIDS.

The SIDS Group expresses its sincere appreciation to UNCTAD for its dedicated work throughout 2025, despite the challenging global environment and the significant resource constraints. We commend its continued support to developing countries, including SIDS, across its three pillars of work, research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation, and welcome the implementation of the *Geneva Consensus*.

The SIDS Group remains committed to working constructively with UNCTAD and all member States, to ensure that the commitments we have collectively adopted translate into tangible progress towards resilient prosperity for all.

I thank you, Madam President.