

SIDS Dialogue Wednesday 10 July 3PM

Opening remarks – Ambassador Byrne Nason

Excellencies , Ladies and Gentlemen

Over the past year, we have made progress in ascertaining what the next generation of partnerships for SIDS should look like. The next phase of implementation of the Samoa pathway will need to take into account the lessons learned so far.

We are determined to look for greater involvement by the private sector and to expand partnerships in areas that have been neglected, including transport, youth and community development, public health and sustainable tourism.

I believe that the time has also come for a more vigorous approach in seeking to fill the gaps in areas covered by development partnerships; - regional organisations, Governments, the UN Secretariat and member states need to adopt a more strategic approach in charting the way forward for the next phase of the Samoa Pathway.

In this regard, Ambassador Young and I have the pleasure to announce our intention to provide direct support to the UN secretariat to support SIDS partnerships by way of staffing support funded by Ireland.

Ireland is also to establish a new partnership for the Caribbean on the blue economy, linking sustainable coastal and marine management, investment pipelines livelihoods for the poor and renewable energy development. We will seek to develop and Irish SIDS ocean partnership to develop research and academic links in the area of coastal and marine management.

We are pleased to announce that we will will provide additional support to the SIDS Global Business network to provide fresh momentum to the private sector's role in the partnership model under the SAMOA Pathway framework.

We will deepen our relationship with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility to establish further partnerships on risk management.

At the Asian Investment Bank we have signed an agreement to establish a new Single Donor Trust Fund, *the Ireland Trust Fund for Building Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States*, to which we have committed €12m over the next six years to support SIDS who are members of the Bank in partnerships to meet the significant challenge of responding to the effects of climate change.

We intend to develop a partnership in education through the establishment a bursary programme for SIDS' professionals, at least 50% of whom are women, for postgraduate study in relevant courses on climate change, marine science or similar disciplines in Irish higher education institutions.

We also intend to work with individual SIDS to strengthen their ability to partner to ensure that local expertise is in place to avail of the funding and cooperation opportunities that are out there.

We will also continue to provide intensive support to SIDS-related processes at the UN, in particular the SAMOA Pathway process, working with my Fijian colleagues in our co-facilitation of the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway.

Ireland will establish a permanent network of Envoys to support and further develop continuous dialogue with SIDS – in order to ensure that our work is conducted in as cohesive and strategic a manner as possible.

I look forward to this discussion and to hearing your views on these topics today, as well as hearing the views of panellists and the challenges ahead.

Thank you.

ENDS