Statement of India
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Agenda 4:Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States

Madam Chair,

India has been very conscious of the special situation of the Small Island Developing States, LLDCs and LDCs, especially in the face of climate change and other challenges. This has shaped and reinforced our longstanding and traditional bonds of friendship as a fellow developing country from the Global South.

We appreciate the consistent support extended by ESCAP to the SIDS in their endeavour to ensuring sustainable development for their people. This has complemented our efforts in supporting Small Island Developing States.

Madam Chair,

India also recognizes the progress made on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy, and believes that the momentum gathered during the implementation of these roadmaps will continue to fuel the work before us in implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda agenda for SIDS. International Development partnerships will continue to play an important role in assisting the SIDS, particularly in the areas of renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, digitalization, and the creation of digital public infrastructure.

India, for its part, will continue to support SIDS, through our long-standing development partnerships, that include concessional financing, grant assistance, capacity building and training programmes. Apart from these, we also have regional initiatives like the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, which is aiming for all round development of the SIDS in the Pacific.

Under the Indian Technical Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, over the last 10 years, almost 6000 people from our SIDS partner countries have attended training courses in India. We are hoping to increase this number in the coming years. India is also the First Responder in the aftermath of disasters affecting SIDS in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean Region and has delivered emergency humanitarian and developmental assistance to them.

Since 2017, through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, we have also focused on supporting the SIDS in their developmental endeavours through demand-driven sustainable development projects. The Fund supports over 80 projects in 57 countries, of which half are Small Island Developing States.

India leads several global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Green Grids Initiative - One Sun, One World, One Grid, the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and the Global Biofuel Alliance which benefit our Pacific partners and other Small Island Developing States.

I thank you Madam Chair.