

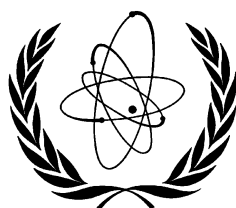
IAEA STATEMENT

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

**Small Island Developing States
Building back better in Vulnerable Situations**

United Nations Headquarters, New York

11 July 2022



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Small Island Developing States - Building back better in Vulnerable Situations

Monday, 11 July 2022 – 15.00–17.00 hrs

Mr Chairperson,

SIDS' unique characteristics, such as their size, remoteness, and narrow resource availability, together with their exposure to global environmental challenges, and natural disasters, represent real challenges to the full achievement of the SDGs in these States.

The IAEA supports an increasing number of SIDS Member States in the Caribbean, the Pacific and Africa. To mention just a few examples, the IAEA has developed a tailored approach, the Sub-Regional Approach to the Pacific Islands (SAPI) initiative, that will assist the SIDS in the Pacific Islands for an initial period of 4 years in the areas of nutrition, agricultural productivity, non-communicable diseases, marine and coastal environment, water resource management, and radiation safety. By promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanisms, SAPI seeks to establish a critical mass of scientific human resources and build institutional capacities to enable Pacific Islands to optimize the delivery and impact of its technical cooperation programme in its Member States (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu).

In the Caribbean region, the IAEA supports the SIDS in the priority areas of agriculture and food production, human health, environment, energy, radiation safety and radiation technologies, providing equipment and capacity building training. For example, support includes the provision of equipment and training of staff in isotopic techniques for nutrition assessments at the University Hospital of West Indies, thus enhancing the capacity of the Caribbean, and the technology transfer to improve Jamaica's crop production and optimize the use of fertiliser and irrigation water.

Partnerships are a vital component of the IAEA's work to support SIDS: it is only by working together that we can achieve lasting impact, at scale, and increase the resilience of societies and economies in SIDS. We therefore look forward to continuing to pursue viable partnerships to further amplify the reach of nuclear science and technology in the SIDS.

I thank you.