

Third International Conference on Small Islands Developing States

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Delivered by

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I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of the Independent State of Samoa and its people for hosting this important conference and for the efforts invested into organizing it. I am pleased to be able to address you on behalf of the Czech Republic and to express my country's interest in the development of SIDS.

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe. However, it is aware of its global responsibility and contributes, within its capacities, to addressing global issues. In this context, we regard as a matter of key importance the setting of the new development priorities for the period after 2015. From the beginning, the Czech Republic has actively participated in the related negotiations. We are determined to contribute to the fulfilment of the new priorities like we contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Czech Republic pays much attention to the development cooperation: it is embedded in our legislation and carried out in line with the strategic documents approved by the government. The Czech Republic is a significant player in the development cooperation, be in within the framework of the UN and the EU or on the bilateral level.

Our development assistance focuses on several strategic fields such as the economic development of the partner countries, including trade and energy industry, agriculture and food security, environment, healthcare development

and education. These are essentially the fields of key importance also for the SIDS. However, we are aware of the specificity and of the particular needs of the SIDS.

Let me assure you that the Czech Republic has been and remains a trusted partner for SIDS. Between 2008 and 2013 the Czech Republic alone provided around 1,6 mil USD to SIDS in development and humanitarian aid through bilateral and thematic programmes on top of the cooperation between the EU and SIDS.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The SIDS will have a particular role to play in the post-2015 development agenda. To some extent they are the guardians of global biodiversity and sustainable use of ocean and marine resources. But these objectives cannot be achieved without addressing the other dimensions of sustainable development in SIDS – the social and economic goals including gender equality and women's empowerment.

We are aware of SIDS vulnerabilities and challenges – low numbers of citizens, lack of resources, dependency on international trade, risks posed by climate change... and together with the international community we want to support the SIDS in their development.

Thousands of miles may separate us, but our goal of low-carbon, climate-resilient future is uniting us. The upcoming Climate Change Summit in New York will be an important test to make up progress towards a global agreement on climate change in Paris 2015, but we have to make sure that before Paris everyone is aware of its obligations concerning the parties' contributions.

The Czech Republic recognizes that current ongoing intergovernmental processes on UNFCCC negotiations and the negotiations on a new disaster risk reduction framework will directly affect the SIDS, and we need to keep in mind the particular challenges of SIDS in these discussions.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial for the development of SIDS. In the UN context, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative is a prime example of successful partnership that can foster the energy sector development in a sustainable manner.

We are pleased that sustainable and genuine partnerships are the main conference theme this year. The Czech Republic regards SIDS as an important development partner and is ready to continue our mutually beneficial cooperation.

