



Closing Statement of His Excellency, Mr. Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York, on the Special Virtual Meeting of SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs.

23rd April 2021

I would like to say that this has been the most interesting and valuable discussion.

The vulnerability of the Small Development countries has been vividly illustrated in the important statements that we have heard from the Prime Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados, as well as the ministers who have spoken in the course of our discussion. I think this vulnerability is also vividly illustrated by the spectacular damage which has been caused by the La Soufriere volcano in St Vincent and Grenadines and we all express our deep solidarity and sympathy with our brothers and sisters in St Vincent and Grenadines and commit ourselves to finding the most appropriate ways in which we can all assist in their fight.

The vulnerability, the complexity of the challenges facing the SIDs are absolutely visible, and the diagnostics are very clear. This debate has indicated that the clear actions that we need to take. We need to act now as was stated by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

Firstly, we have to ensure vaccine, equity, vaccine production, and vaccine distribution. Without that, we will not be able to defeat the pandemic and we will not be able to address the challenges that flow from the pandemic.

Secondly, there is need for equitable finance as well. We have listened very carefully to the challenges facing the SIDS: debt over hand, the need for a multi-dimensional vulnerability analytics and index in order to be able to assess their vulnerability and the ways to address, and their financial and liquidity needs in a more comprehensive and responsive way.

And thirdly, we have had the challenge of climate action and inaction on the SIDS going forward. They are receiving only \$1 for every \$20 they lose. There has to be an accountability of the damage that climate change is causing to the Small Island Developing States across the world.

As has been said recovery has to be resilient, it has to be sustainable, and it must take advantage of the ocean economy, which could be the strength of the of the SIDs. There is need for partnerships. Considerable attention has been paid to public-private partnerships and innovative financing partnerships for sustainable investment. These are all issues that we will need to address. I, myself, as some of you may know, have proposed the creation of a facility under the United Nations auspices- a multistakeholder facility to promote investment in sustainable infrastructure. I believe that is also a route that is applicable and highly relevant for the SIDs going forward.



At the end of our discussions, I intend to circulate a Presidential Summary which will try to capture the important proposals and suggestions that have been made in our discussions today and that we can perhaps take that forward going ahead. So, I thank you very much for your participation. I thank all the Secretariat for having organized and supported us in this, and we will be meeting again this afternoon at 3pm where we will take up consideration of the situation of the Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries. So, I adjourn this meeting on this note.

Thank you very much.
