



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Note Verbale No: 17/22

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the United Nations and has the honour to make reference to the latter's letter, Ref: DESA-2022-00496, requesting input for the United Nations Secretary General's Report entitled "Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for Present and Future Generations," dated 10 March 2022.

The Mission is pleased to convey the following input from the Government of Malta:

(i) A specific mention of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and of the work carried out by the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, which is very relevant to Caribbean SIDS

The Caribbean is home to 16 UN Member States that fall within the classification of SIDS. SIDS warrant and receive within the UN system special attention in view of their particular characteristics and shared challenges. This also through the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS which forms part of the Partnership Framework introduced to facilitate the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The Committee's main objective is to promote partnerships which serve to assist SIDS in reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Under the leadership of Malta and Antigua & Barbuda as Co-Chairs during the years 2020-2021, the Steering Committee addressed a number of pressing themes relevant to Caribbean SIDS, also in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, namely its effects on and building resilience in tourism, the blue economy, climate change, renewable energy sources and water management.

(ii) A mention (which was missing in the previous report) of the major importance of the tourism sector in Caribbean economies and the related need to manage and develop their natural resources for blue growth purposes

Tourism is a major economic sector in the Caribbean, and constitutes a significant part of their economies, in particular of most of SIDS. The important role which tourism plays in economic activity throughout the Caribbean was highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic which devastated the industry and, consequently, the economy of the region. Improving the resilience of this sector should be a priority for the Caribbean and in this respect, potential inter-relationships between sustainable tourism and blue economic activities should be explored. Caribbean SIDS also need to be assisted in improving their capacity to manage and develop their considerable natural resources, thereby also facilitating the further development of and contribution to their blue growth.

In this regard, the Mission of Malta would be grateful for this input to be taken into account during the compilation of the aforementioned United Nations Secretary-General's Report.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 27 April 2022



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