

4TH INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
**Small Island  
Developing States**  
27-30 MAY, 2024  
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Youth Summit brings strong presence of young people to Antigua and Barbuda for SIDS4 Conference**

**AUA, Antigua & Barbuda, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024...**The United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) will attract a strong and formidable presence of young people from around the globe who will participate in a major summit that will ensure their voices are given prominence and their views are represented and articulated to the global leaders who will be present at the international meeting.

The SIDS Global Children and Youth Action Summit (CYAS) is scheduled to take place from 24-26 May will be bringing together around 60 youth delegates from around the globe for face to face discussions with top government officials, the diplomatic community, experts from the United Nations, partners and observers.

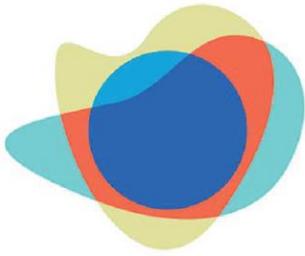
The Summit is a collaborative effort between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Ashley Lashley Foundation working in partnership with UNICEF, GEF and the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) which is the official voice for anyone under the age of 30 in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Last week, Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson led discussion with youth advocate and Founder of the Ashley Lashley Foundation, Ashley Lashley, to discuss preparations and exchange thoughts and ideas about the Summit. Joining him were the Antigua and Barbuda Coordinators of the Summit, First Secretaries Asha Challenger and Claxton Duberry.

"Our discussions and the final outcome of SIDS4 will undoubtedly have significant consequence on the future so it is absolutely crucial that we create the space for those who will be most impacted by our decisions to have their say," noted Ambassador Webson.

A full slate of activities and events have been arranged to ensure the historic gathering of young people will leave its mark in defining and shaping the future for all SIDS. Inter-generational discussions will give the youth delegates the opportunity to engage and dialogue with top officials and leaders on their concerns and a SIDS Children and Youth Commitment and a Call to Action Declaration will be drafted and presented to the Ministerial Delegations during the SIDS4 Conference.

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Another major outcome that organisers expect to achieve is the commitment to finance children/youth projects that will address the needs of island nations in alignment with the ten year Plan of Action that will arise from the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference.

Overall, the Summit will provide an essential opportunity for young people to share their perspectives on some of the crucial issues that threaten their future as inhabitants of these islands, devise and present their own solutions and commit to a course of action.

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