



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne addressing the launch of the SIDS Global Data Hub during the recent COP28 in Dubai.

SIDS4 Conference in Antigua takes on new urgency following outcome of COP28.

Antigua and Barbuda is this year set to host one of the most pivotal conferences of island nations from around the world as they seek to regroup following a COP28 that fell short on delivering all of the necessary outcomes for safeguarding an uncertain future.

During the international conference in Dubai, Antigua and Barbuda played an integral role in a number of side events aimed at advancing discussion on major goals and significant developments that are expected to materialise for these islands during the country's hosting of SIDS4 from May 27 – 30 this year.

A Centre of Excellence is expected to emerge from the SIDS4 Conference as a game changer in addressing some of the gaps that island nations have been seeking to overcome in building climate resilience, overcoming burdensome debt and achieving their sustainable development goals. The centre will be a predetermined point on the compass that SIDS would be able to use in setting course for a new and brighter future and the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne is determined to see this happen.

While leading the country's high-level delegation at COP28, Prime Minister Browne made use of every available opportunity to make the SIDS4 conference a point of emphasis, diving into the goals and priorities of the Centre of Excellence in addressing the main areas of concern that island nations face in overcoming their peculiar challenges.

A defining initiative of the Centre of Excellence will be a Data Hub, an empowering feature for small and micro-states that will usher in a new era in accessing the resources they need from a global financial architecture that impedes more than supports recovery and development.

At a COP28 Launch of the SIDS Global Data Hub, Prime Minister Browne stated: "The excuse should no longer be by the international community, "we are unable to assist SIDS because there is no data".

"The SIDS Global Data Hub is a tool of empowerment, equipping policymakers, scientists, and communities with the insights needed to chart a course towards climate resilience, the SDGS and the fulfilment of the next 10-year framework that will be adopted in Antigua and Barbuda at SIDS4," he stated.

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