



on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Private Sector Leaders

Leaders of the Private Sector,

Representatives from International Organizations and Development Partners,

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to participate in this opening from the Global Business Network, and today's Roundtable, is the unique opportunity to bring together leaders from the private

Despite our different backgrounds, and despite the vast distances between many of us, the private sector of SIDS, are united in facing common challenges, but also unique

Our small populations limit our ability to expand our markets and reach economic growth. Remote locations lead to high costs of imports and exports and make us susceptible to fluctuations in international prices. And the frequency of extreme weather events we face cause significant damage to our infrastructure and environments every time they hit.

However, within these challenges, we have unique opportunities. We have strong trust and support one another, and work with resilience. We represent up to 70% of the

