

SIDS4 Private Sector Roundtable

28th of May 2024, 18:30–20:00

Interactive Dialogue Room, SIDS Conference

Antigua and Barbuda

Short intervention by Rebeca Grynspan

UNCTAD Secretary General (2 min, enforced)

Excellencies,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this roundtable. I am pleased to see so many representatives from the private sector. Today, we will discuss the challenges and opportunities for the private sector in SIDS.

Allow me just to focus on the key challenges. First, the impact of climate change is a major concern. Second, the digital divide remains a significant barrier. Third, the need for investment in infrastructure and human capital. These are the areas where the private sector can play a crucial role.

Let us now turn to the specific challenges faced by SIDS. One of the most pressing issues is the high cost of doing business.

For example, in terms of infrastructure, SIDS face significant challenges. The cost of electricity is often much higher than in other countries.

In per capita terms, SIDS face 50% more the cost of electricity than other countries. This is a major barrier for the private sector. We need to find ways to reduce these costs and improve the business environment. Thank you.

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