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continuity. The private sector, social clubs, and individual donors were also encouraged to sponsor devices and data for students.

Mr. President, it is now four years since Sint Maarten was devastated by a category 5 hurricane, and as a Small Island Development State, promoting mitigation strategies and providing adequate support for building the resilience of the effects of climate change is vital. Sint Maarten applauds UNESCO for the installation of a unit that is dedicated to the necessities of the SIDS, and supports the SIDS Group call for an advocacy plan and a resource mobilization strategy for SIDS within UNESCO. We, like other SIDS countries, look forward to SIDS being recognized as a Global Priority.

In the area of Culture, Sint Maarten intends on co-ratifying the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage as a country within the Dutch Kingdom. We continue to expand on our national ICH inventory and promote our rich cultural heritage via our awareness campaign, 'I Remember Intangible Cultural Heritage' (IRICH).

Mr. President, Sint Maarten supports and embraces Anti-Doping practices. With the approval of our application by the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, a 'No Doping/No Drugs Anti-Doping awareness campaign' along with education and training programs on anti-doping, will be executed through the Department of Sport, the National Sports Institute, and St. Maarten Sports & Olympic Federation.

In closing, this year, Sint Maarten celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an Associate Member of UNESCO. It is

build on successes and develop new initiatives in the area of Education, Culture, Science, and Communication and Information, in our continued efforts to uphold the ideals and mandate of UNESCO.

Sint Maarten reconfirms its commitment to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We will continue to safeguard and invest in our cultural, documentary, and digital heritage, and focus on the provision of quality education in our schools and initiating professional development opportunities for our educators and aspiring teachers.

I thank you!