

Inter-Agency Consultative Group on SIDS (IACG)
New York, 9:00AM, Tuesday 8 March 2016

Summary of Discussions

The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA, welcomed the participants and provided an Update on the Steering Committee meeting on partnerships for SIDS.

Update on the Steering Committee meeting on partnerships for SIDS

The first meeting of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS was held on 25 February 2016. The meeting was facilitated by the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee, Permanent Representative of Maldives, Ambassador Sareer, and Permanent Representative of Italy, Ambassador Cardi. At this meeting, the Steering Committee approved its working methods, and DESA presented a standardized reporting template for SIDS partnerships. Both the working methods and the presentation material are posted online (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids/events/steering-committee-partnerships>).

The Working Methods highlights that the Committee should meet quarterly and that entities of the UN System, international and regional organizations, major group and other stakeholders may be invited by the Co-Chairs on behalf of, and in consultation with the Steering Committee, to contribute, as appropriate.

DESA is working closely with the co-chairs in finalizing a reporting template and upgrading the online platform for the SIDS partnerships to regularly report on their progress made. The reporting template will be piloted in mid-March with a sub-set of SIDS partnership focal points. Feedback on the template itself is welcomed.

In connection to the 71st Secretary-General report, DESA will circulate a draft outline at the end of the week, together with an initial request for input. DESA will seek feedback on the outline initially. The deadline of substantive input on activities will be on 2nd of May.

Plan and updates of activities in 2016 – by each entity

DESA

- Will launch a Newsletter dedicated to SIDS called “SIDS Times” in about a week.
- Tomorrow (9 March), DSD, together with the UN Statistics Division and UNDP, will organize a SIDS roundtable on the SDG indicator framework at UNHQ in the margins of the Statistical Commission meeting. AOSIS has requested that this be

- a closed meeting for SIDS to hear from experts from the Statistics Division and relevant regional organizations.
- Will organize a side event entitled “Partnerships for addressing environmental challenges faced by small island developing states (SIDS) in implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda” at the margin of UN Environment Assembly at the end of May, in collaboration with UNEP, OHRLLS, and UNDP. This side event will take stock of environment focused SIDS partnerships. The discussions here will feed into the global partnership dialogue and the HLPF.
 - Will also organize an expert group meeting on sustainable transport challenges in developing countries, with a focus on countries in special situations including SIDS. It will be held from on 10-11 May in New York. This EGM will highlight the particular challenges face by developing countries working to advance sustainable transport in their national contexts. Contact Mohammad Reza Salamat (salamat@un.org) for those who wish to participate in.
 - The High-Level Political Forum will be held from 11-20 July 2016 and we will have a SIDS session that will address challenges and opportunities in the implementing the 2030 Agenda in SIDS.
 - Planning on organizing a side event at Habitat III in October on infrastructure challenges in SIDS.
 - Working closely with FAO on the follow-up to the Milan ministerial meeting on food security in SIDS.
 - GA resolution (70/226) decided to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Fiji, from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. Discussions on modalities of the conference are facilitated by Mauritius and Sweden. SG will announce the Secretary supporting for the Conference. IACG will be informed of the preparation of the Conference and we will make sure that you are involved.

UN-OHRLLS

- OHRLLS is organizing, with governments of Aruba and Netherlands, "P3a Conference" which will be held in Aruba, 22-24 March 2016. This Conference will provide a platform for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to enhance international cooperation, mobilizing efforts in achieving SDGs, and to showcase and best practices amongst governments, private companies, financial institutions and knowledge centers. The Conference will advance the outcome of the Private Sector Partnerships Forum held in Samoa Conference in 2014. OHRLLS hopes that this forum will be held regularly. As the first conference was held in Samoa

and the next one will be held in Aruba, the following conference would be in AIMS region. Aruba has a lot of experience in PPP and they are motivated in advancing it. The PPP knowledge Center Aruba is setting up a platform for SIDS to share experiences and best practices and it will be announced at the P3a Conference. There are 7 Themes for the conference – Oceans, Connectivity (ICTs & Transport), Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Tourism, Renewable Energy, Finance, and Infrastructure. The programme of the Conference will be shared through email. For those who are interested to participate in the Conference can be registered at the website (<http://www.p3a.org/conference/index.php?page=register>).

- The major outcome of the Samoa Conference was SIDS Global Business Network. OHRLLS is finalizing the platform and will be launched at the conference in Aruba. More information can be found on the website (<http://sidsgbn.org/>). OHRLLS welcomes any contributions by IACG members on the best way to support SIDS through the Global Business Network.
- OHRLLS is working with DOALOS and GLISPA to commemorate the Global Ocean Day on 8 June. There will be a morning event on ocean conservation and to welcome Hōkūleʻa, a canoe that is sailing through Caribbean region and expected to arrive in NYC around this time. A photo exhibition and an evening reception will be held on the day as well.
- OHRLLS contributes to the process of developing an action programme on food security with FAO and DESA.
- A high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action will be held on 27-29 May, in Antalya, Turkey.

UNEP

- Continue to supporting SIDS on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway including through Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE).
- Working on integration of environmental sustainability in the UN system through UNDAF in Caribbean region.
- UNEA-II will be held in 23-27 May in Nairobi. Resolution that recognizes the Samoa Pathway will be adopted. UNEP will co-organize a side event with DESA, OHRLLS, and UNDP.
- Will organize an event for the World Oceans Day on June 8
- Convention on Biological Diversity COP 13 will be held from 4-17 December in Cancun, Mexico
- Conducting a project on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in AIMS region

ECA

- Assisting SIDS in managing risks and vulnerabilities through DESA's Development Account project, and participated in a workshop in Cabo Verde last year.

- Has a regional information sharing mechanism on climate change, a platform for countries in African region including SIDS to share experiences and best practices. ECA set up a technical desk to support SIDS on climate change issues and on the online platform. These are intended to help and fill-in gaps of African islands who have different levels of capacities in pursuing capacity building.
- Providing guidance to SIDS on Green economy.
- ECA supports SIDS in following up to the Paris Agreement.

ECLAC

- Facilitating a mechanism to monitor the progress of SDGs and Samoa Pathway. A consultation of the mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs will be held in Jul 2016.
- First week of Apr, ECLAC will hold the Third meeting of the Negotiating Committee of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environment Matters.
- Developing indicators to measure progress of the implementation of the SDGs in the region.

CARICOM

- Supporting SIDS on inclusion of the Samoa pathway in the resolution for UNEA-II.
- Will hold a forum inviting ministers of environment of CARICOM member states in May and will extend an invitation to DESA.
- Working with OHRLLS on organizing the Conference in Aruba. High-level participates are expected from CARICOM member states.

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

- Working with UNECA to promote ocean economy.
- Working with UNCTAD on follow-up activities that emerged during Samoa Conference and discussing what concrete actions can be taken and how best to involve SIDS in the process.
- Conducting ISLAND programme that was established for accelerating the implementation of the MSI. This programme aims for capacity building and enhancing coherence within the region.
- IOC is also supporting SIDS on capacity building, on access to climate finance, and follow-up to the Paris Agreement, and will conduct projects on biodiversity and climate change.
- Providing a network amongst youth called the SIDS Youth AIMS Hub since it was launched in 2013. This network connects young people in the region and focuses on advancing and implementing youth-led sustainable development in SIDS.
- Working with Global Infrastructure Basel (GIB) Foundation to promote sustainable infrastructure development in the region.

GEF

- Had an expanded Constituency Workshop last week in Trinidad and Tobago, which brought together GEF focal points, government focal points of Stockholm Convention on POPs, UNCCD, and CBD at operational level. The workshop discussed current and future programming, and provided training sessions on project management by UNOPS. There will be a workshop in the Pacific in early fall, and another one which will invite participants from AIMS region based on their GEF constituency.
- Will organize a side event on ridge to reef programme at the margin of IUCN World Convention Congress which will be held in Hawaii, 1-10 September 2016. GEF welcome anyone interested in cooperation.

GLISPA

- Launched its 2030 strategy which includes priorities on innovating financing for blue/green economy, sustainable coastal fisheries, and building resilience in the area of ecosystem based adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the island communities.
- Working with OHRLLS and DOALOS on an event to commemorating the Global Ocean Day on 8 June.
- Will organize a high-level event at the IUCN World Convention Congress in collaboration with the government of Hawaii and Palau and the US on resilience for sustainable community in Hawaii. Potentially, an initiative Island Resilience Challenges will be launched.
- Supporting SIDS in building resilience in the areas of climate change and extension debt swap Seychelles.

UNIDO

- UNIDO welcomed two new member states - Marshall Islands (March 2015), and Kiribati (February 2016). Initial discussions have started on inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including potential areas such as fisheries value chain, energy and environment, and empowerment of women.
- Under the umbrella of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers Programme, UNIDO is assisting regional organizations and their member states in the establishment and operation of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency centres. The Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) and the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) were developed by UNIDO in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative (SIDS DOCK). Initial funding is provided by the Austrian Government. The PCREEE will be located in Tonga and is expected to be inaugurated in August 2016. The Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) was inaugurated on 28 October 2015 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The ECOWAS Centre

- for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECEEE) is operating since 2010 in Praia, Cape Verde. In addition, UNIDO in cooperation with the Central American Integration System (SICA) has launched the preparatory process of the Mesoamerican Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (MCREEE). The centre will include Belize and Dominican Republic.
- The “Energy Services from Organic Waste: Integrated Waste Management Solutions for Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Protection in the Caribbean” project has been developed by UNIDO in cooperation with the Sustainable Energy Island Resilience Initiative (SIDS DOCK), the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), the CARICOM Secretariat and other international partners. The draft project proposal was presented during the First Caribbean Waste to Energy Technology Expo and Conference in Grenada in January 2016.
 - UNIDO and SIDS DOCK are partnering on the creation of the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON). The network will promote SIDS-SIDS awareness raising and capacity building on gender issues in the sustainable energy sector. The work will be implemented through the network of regional sustainable energy centres.
 - The Barbados-UNIDO Joint Declaration on “Piloting a Resource Efficient Low Carbon and Circular Industrial Partnership Platform for Catalyzing Eco-Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Barbados (RECIPPEE-Barbados)” is in operation. UNIDO in partnership with the Government of Barbados is currently developing the GEF-6 project “Accelerate renewable energy and energy efficiency technology innovation, industry development and entrepreneurship in Barbados”.

UNISDR

- 18th of March marks the first anniversary of adoption of the Sendai Framework. The framework recognized special challenges of SIDS, and UNISDR puts high-priority on SIDS. In pursuing the implementation of Sendai Framework, "the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience" is currently being revised. The revised plan, which is expected to be endorsed by CEB in April, will focus on how UN can work in efficient and coherent manner in the implementation of the Sendai Framework with linkages to SDGs, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), Paris Climate Agreement and Samoa Pathway.
- The current list of SDG indicators include five key indicators related to DRR that are consistent with the Sendai Targets and indicators. These are also relevant for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. The indicators for Sendai Framework will be finalized by the end of this year and will be consistent with the other processes.
- Held two technical briefings for SIDS delegates, in collaboration with AOSIS, DESA, OHRLS, UNDP and WMO. One focused on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the other focused on Global Assessments of Disaster Risk Reduction.

- In March, workshops to deliver resilience scorecard training will be organized in collaboration with ICLEI in Port Vila (Vanuatu, 16-17 March) and Honiara (Solomon Islands, 9-10 March) to enhance capacity for governmental officials for assessing their risks and self-assess their preparedness systems.
- Will organize events at the occasion of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October 2016 and the World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November 2016.
- Hosts regional and global platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction. Platforms are used to monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework and to enhance coordination amongst stakeholders.

FAO

- As a follow-up to the Ministerial Meeting on Food Security in SIDS, which was held in Milan in October, FAO is going through series of consultation process to develop an Action Programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS. This is a direct response to Samoa Pathway Paragraph 61. The consultation meetings will be held at the margins of FAO's regional conferences - 7-11 March in Malaysia, 4-8 April in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as at Regional Economic Fora on Sustainable Development. E-Consultation will also be conducted.
- It is hoped that the draft Action Programme will be shared at HLPF.

UNDP

- Working on responding to cyclone Winston in Fiji. Last week, UNDP identified that 350,000 people are in need for urgent help. UNDP is coordinating with OCHA in the recovery process.
- Noted that the UN system is in the concluding stages of finalizing the first common United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSAF) for the Caribbean.
- Putting together the Caribbean Human Development Report 2016.
- Supporting SIDS in localizing SDGs into their national frameworks including an effort to establishing institutional mechanisms to assist on transition from MDGs to SDGs and on monitoring reports.
- Will continue to working on financing for development in SIDS, particularly on access to financing for the implementation of the SDGs.

UNESCO

- UNESCO, while continuing to assist SIDS in the fields of education, culture, natural science, social science, communication and information, is developing a SIDS Action Plan with an implementation strategy, to further support the implementation of the Samoa pathway within the Organization's mandate, with linkage to SDGs. The Action Plan will be considered for approval by Member States during the next session of the Executive Board in April. Will inform the IACG once approved.

- Working on connection between climate and ocean as the ocean is a source of sustainable solutions to climate change. The Ocean & Climate Platform was launched at the occasion of World Oceans day 2014 and aims to bring the ocean to the forefront of climate discussions by promoting its link with the climate, and is set to lead and participate in various ocean-related events throughout and after COP21.

IRENA

- The sixth session of the IRENA Assembly was held on 16 and 17 January 2016. During a high level event in its margins, representatives of SIDS and partners got down to business and discussed the operationalization of the Paris outcomes into a credible and sustainable international action plan.
- IRENA will continue to advance and expand the Lighthouse Initiative partnership (currently 34 island members and 19 partners), through development of tools and support mechanisms such as Renewable Readiness Assessments, Renewable Energy Roadmaps and Grid Stability Studies; enabling frameworks for investment (six islands projects have been selected for funding by the IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund For Development facility); facilitating matchmaking between project developers and financiers (with the development of an islands module of the IRENA Project Navigator); advancing renewable energy applications in tourism, water and transport sectors and other advisory services and capacity building activities.

DOALOS

- A Preparatory Committee was established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS, taking into account the various reports of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The first session of the Preparatory Committee will take place from 28 March to 8 April in New York.
- "Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks" will be held in New York from 23-27 May 2016.
- Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea Seventeenth meeting will be held in New York from 13-17 June 2016.
- Working closely with OHRLLS and GLISPA on an event to commemorating the Global Ocean Day on 8 June.

IOM

- Planning on organizing an event on the margins of High-Level Signing Ceremony for Paris Agreement on 22 April.

UNFPA

- Working with OHRLLS on the high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which will be held on 27-29 May, in Antalya, Turkey.
- Working closely with ECLAC on gender issues to reduce poverty and inequality in the region.

In closing

The Director suggested that in the future meetings, themes could be identified for strategic discussions (e.g. cities, transport, climate change, etc). IACG members are encouraged to provide suggestions.

A complementary suggestion was made that an on-line platform be set up to which all IACG members can access and regularly update info on their projects, activities and events on SIDS. This would allow more time for strategic and thematic discussions during the IACG meetings, linked to major global events and outcomes such as Habitat-III and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It could also lead to more collaborative and synergistic actions by IACG members in support of SIDS.

The next IACG meeting will be chaired by OHRLLS. They will send the details of the next meeting in due course.

On a separate note, the Director informed that sessions dedicated to SIDS and LLDCs and MICs are included in the draft programme of the High-level Political Forum 2016. The detail of the sessions will be provided. Recommendations on speakers will be welcomed.