THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS Conference) will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, with the overarching theme as “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”.

The SIDS Conference will include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues (Partnership Dialogues) that will serve as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships as well as to launch innovative and concrete new ones, to advance the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Member States have identified six clusters of priority areas that the Partnership Dialogues will address respectively. These are: Sustainable Economic Development; Climate change & Disaster Risk management; Social development in SIDS, Health and Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), youth and women; Sustainable energy; Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity; Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management.

The SIDS 2014 Partnerships Briefs have been prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development (UN-DESA) in consultation with the UN System through the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA Plus), with the intent to contribute to the preparations leading up to the Partnership Dialogues by:

- Reviewing key priorities related to SIDS in the selected priority area,
- Reviewing existing north-south, south-south, and triangular partnerships in the selected priority area, and
- Identifying gaps in the priority area, which could inspire renewal, build-up and scale-up of existing partnerships, and the launching of new innovative partnerships, focusing on public-private partnerships.

The current Partnership Brief will look at the priority area of “Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management”, and highlights illustrative examples of existing partnerships based on information available in the SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform (www.sids2014.org/partnerships) and as indicated through consultations with the Secretariat of the SIDS Conference.

The Brief does not intend to be exhaustive.
Challenges related to Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management in SIDS

THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY OF IMPLEMENTATION clearly highlighted these priority concerns as caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment and storage, pollution of water (which may be heightened, inter alia, by rising sea level, the unsustainable management of water resources and climate variability and climate change), and leakage in the delivery system. Lack of human, institutional and financial resources places pressure on the sustainability of urban water supply and sanitation systems.\(^1\)

Rapid population growth, increasing urbanization and development activities, and lack of human and financial resources, compounded by climate change, including environment degradation are expected to exert more pressure in the sustainability and management of the freshwater resources of SIDS.\(^2\)

Lack and poor sanitation facilities in SIDS pollute water supplies affecting the quality of water. Indiscriminate disposal of excrete pose significant implications on human health through water-related diseases such as cholera, diarrohea, malaria, schi-

\(^1\) Mauritius Strategy For the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2005) p.28
\(^2\) Ibid.
tosomiasis, trachoma, among others\textsuperscript{3}.

A study by the Commonwealth Secretariat on 47 small states reveals about 12 million without access to safe water and about 22 million without access to safe sanitation by 2008\textsuperscript{4}. The report underscore


the significant link of safe water and sanitation for mothers and babies in relation to saving infant lives. Furthermore, it shows the high incidence of malaria and associated death rate per 100,000 population ranging from 0 to 142 in some SIDS\textsuperscript{5}.

Food security and nutrition, and agriculture in SIDS depend largely on water availability. Water-related challenges compounded by climate change, includ-

\textsuperscript{5} Ibid.
Existing Partnerships

The following partnership initiatives are brief examples of some of the existing north-south, south-south and triangular partnerships, global and SIDS-focused in nature, complementing the efforts of SIDS in the areas of Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management. Additional information on these initiatives and more existing partnerships can be found on the SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform at: www.sids2014.org/partnerships.
1. Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management in Caribbean (PISLM):

A South-to-South cooperation born out of a need to forge a strategic partnership in support of combating land degradation in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). PISLM serves as a mechanism to facilitate exchange of experiences and good land management practices between participating countries, as well as replicating various approaches, tools and methodologies throughout the region.


2. Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS-Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management:

Is a collective partnership effort of the GEF, UNEP and UNDP and the SIDS in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean toward the achievement of sustainable and integrated water resources and wastewater management for the protection of the inland island, coastal and marine environment of these oceans. The project aims at strengthening the commitment and capacity of the participating SIDS to implement an integrated approach to the management of freshwater resources with the long term goal of building the capacity of countries to take ownership of planning and managing their aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis.

3. **Food Secure Pacific**: a multiagency partnership to improve food security in Pacific island countries and areas. The partnership is guided by the Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific endorsed by the Heads of Governments in the Pacific. The Framework provides an overarching strategic framework that guides Pacific countries and areas to move towards ensuring that all people at all times have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

4. **International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities**: a global partnership initiative launched during Commission on Sustainable Development Nineteenth Session in New York in May 2011. Its goal is to increase the capacity of local authorities (LAs) for sustainable waste management towards a resource efficient and zero waste society, achieving liveable and sustainable cities. The initiative encourages the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learnt and knowledge across national boundaries through a knowledge network that focuses on local authorities, and public utilities.

5. Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro industries Development Initiative (3ADI): supported by UNIDO, FAO, IFAD and AfDB with the key objectives that include support for development of inclusive and sustainable industries through the strengthening of productive capacities through upgrading of technologies and skills for processing of food and non-food agro products and the improvement of marketing linkages in agro-food value chains and support to food production systems; contributing to enhanced economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable food nutritional security. http://www.3adi.org/resources.

6. UNESCO-IHP International Initiative on Water Quality: is a newly established initiative aimed to strengthen knowledge, research and policy on water quality and wastewater issues by promoting international scientific cooperation and to develop innovative approaches to tackle water quality challenges, including water and sanitation in developing countries. http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/ihp/ihp-programmes.

7. The joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP): advances sustainable industrial development and consumption and production in developing and transition countries. It specifically aims to improve resource efficiency and the environmental performance of businesses and other organizations through scaling up and mainstreaming the application of RECP methods, techniques and policies. http://recpnet.org/page/about-us.

9. Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) is a response to this 'nutrient challenge' – how to reduce the amount of excess nutrients in the global environment consistent with global development. GPNM reflects a need for strategic, global advocacy to trigger governments and stakeholders in moving towards lower nitrogen and phosphorous inputs to human activities. It provides a (1) platform for governments, UN agencies, scientists and the private sector to forge a common agenda, mainstreaming best practices and integrated assessments; (2) space where countries and other stakeholders can forge more co-operative work across the variety of international & regional fora and agencies dealing with nutrients, including the importance of assessment work.


10. Ozone Action Programme:

The UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs) to enable them to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS), which include CFCs, halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and HCFCs. Through the programme's assistance, countries are able to make informed decisions about alternative technologies and ozone-friendly policies. One hundred ninety-six governments have joined this multilateral environmental agreement and are taking action.

http://www.unep.org/ozonaction.
Suggested opportunities for Partnerships

Opportunities for partnerships in this priority area may include, but not limited to:

- Strengthening regional mechanisms for managing hazardous wastes and ship-generated wastes, and cooperation for the transfer of appropriate waste management technologies for reducing and eliminating land-based pollution and marine debris;

- Enhancing capacities of cities to deal with sanitary sewage collection, urban garbage collection, solid waste management and urban rainwater drainage, and promoting resource efficiency as a means to reduce the generation of waste and wastewater.

- Strengthening the capacity of SIDS to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems;

- Strengthening the capacity of SIDS to promote sustainable and inclusive industrialization for the development of agro-food value chains and support to food production systems, including incorporating climate information into practices and policies for supporting agriculture and food security;

- Protecting SIDS from the negative impacts of bilateral and global trade and other agreements;

- Adopting an integrated drought management approach and development of national drought management plans.