



Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue

7 June 2017, 1.15 – 2.30 PM, ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

Concept note and tentative programme

INTRODUCTION

The second annual Global Multi-stakeholder Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Dialogue will take place on 7 June 2017, 1.15-2.30 PM in ECOSOC Chamber, organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) in consultation with the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, co-chaired by Maldives and Italy.

The organization of the Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue is mandated by the General Assembly (A/70/202) as a key component of the *SIDS Partnership Framework*, which has the overall objective to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

The *SIDS Partnership Framework* is a direct follow up to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) which was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, under the overarching theme "*The sustainable development of Small Island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships*". Around 300 SIDS partnerships were announced towards and during the SIDS Conference in 2014. Out of these, about 2/3 are related to oceans, seas and marine resources.

The Framework, formally established in December 2015, consists of 1) a member-States driven Steering Committee, currently chaired by Maldives and Italy, 2) the organization of an action-oriented, results-focused annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, 3) a partnership reporting process, 4) encouragement to organize regional and 5) national partnership dialogues.

OBJECTIVE

Organized on the occasion of The Ocean Conference, the event will have a specific focus on Ocean partnerships for SIDS, and aim to galvanize voluntary commitments for the implementation of SDG 14 among the SIDS partnership community, as a contribution to the outcome of the Ocean Conference.

SIDS AND OCEAN

The outcome of The Ocean Conference is crucial for small island developing states (SIDS), as the protection and restoration of the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems through the successful implementation of SDG 14, is closely interlinked to the achievement of all other Sustainable Development Goals for SIDS.

SIDS are custodians of large ocean and sea areas that are closely interlinked to the sustainable development of SIDS and consequently, SIDS are at the forefront of the global efforts to ensure the successful implementation of SDG 14.

The SAMOA Pathway, which sets the blueprint for the sustainable development of SIDS recognized in its paragraphs 53 to 59, the intimate linkages between oceans and SIDS sustainable development. The document also recognizes the role of partnerships in advancing sustainable development of SIDS and calls for increase in all forms of partnership with and for all SIDS.

Oceans and seas cover 72 per cent of the Earth’s surface, support life, drive the climate and hydrological cycles and provide vital resources for humans. Oceans are critical for global food security, sustainable economic prosperity and the well-being of many national economies, particularly SIDS.

Small Island Developing States face many challenges related to the sustainable development of oceans. Although SIDS provide home for 20 percent of all plant, bird, and reptiles species of the global biodiversity, in only about 3 percent of the Earth’s land surface, extinction of the species found in SIDS are disproportionately high. Major threats to the sustainable development of the biodiversity of SIDS include climate change and pollution negative impacts, including of sea level raise and ocean acidification, deforestation, coral reef deterioration, habitat degradation and loss, and the growing rates of invasive species.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 14.7 puts a particular emphasis on SIDS as follows: “By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism” and thus underlines the importance of socio-economic benefits of the oceans and seas to SIDS and the importance of sustainable conservation and use of the oceans and seas and marine resources. This will also be an important aspect to consider regarding SIDS partnerships and potentially creating new ones.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECOND PUBLICATION ON SIDS PARTNERSHIPS

In preparation for the Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, and other activities of the Steering Committee in 2017, the Secretariat is requesting all partnership focal points to submit a short progress report on their activities by 19 May 2017. The information will allow the Secretariat to better analyze the situation in SIDS and its partnerships, and inform the Steering Committee. It is expected that focal points should submit a short report once a year, until the completion of the partnership

These reports can be submitted through the SIDS Action Platform by logging in with your account. More information at: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnership/reports/>

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

TIME	SESSION
Opening panel	
01.15 PM – 01.45 PM	Opening and keynote address (podium and lectern)
Interactive dialogue with all participants	
01.45 PM – 02.30 PM	Interactive dialogue with all participants from the floor

GUIDANCE NOTE OF THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

- The interactive part of the Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue will aim to achieve a balance among speakers from all stakeholders.
- Participants wishing to make an intervention during the interactive part of a partnership dialogue would need to press the microphone request button once the floor is open for the interactive dialogue. Delegations wishing to inscribe on the list of speakers in advance, especially those with high-level representatives, may do so by contacting the ECOSOC Affairs Branch (Ms. Maria Theresa Olvida (email: olvida@un.org)).
- Interventions in the interactive debate will be made from the floor, and should be succinct, concise and limited to three minutes. Participants are encouraged to focus on concrete solutions from partnerships that advance the implementation of SDG 14 in Small Island Developing States.
- The Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue will have open seating with areas designated for States, inter- governmental organizations, associate members of the regional commissions, United Nations system and representatives of Major Groups.

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