



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



## Information Note for Participants

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS)

Maritim Resort and Spa Hotel, Balaclava, Mauritius, 21 to 25 May 2018

Welcome to Mauritius and to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) to be held in Mauritius. Please find information on meeting arrangements that you will find useful.

Mauritius is located in the south-west region of the Indian Ocean, at about 2000 km from the African coast and 900 km from Madagascar. Being of volcanic origin, Mauritius has a central plateau which is about 400 metres above the sea level. Its capital is Port Louis.



## 1. Date

The Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS), will be held back to back with the SID Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Private Sector Forum and the AIMS Regional Partnership Dialogue. The Meeting dates are as follows:

DATE/ TIME	Meeting
Mon, 21 May 9.00 AM- 5.00 PM	<b>(SIDS-GBN) Private Sector Forum</b> “Strengthening private sector partnerships for sustainable tourism development”
Tue, 22 May 9.00 AM- 4.00 PM	<b>(SIDS-GBN) Private Sector Forum</b> “Strengthening private sector partnerships for sustainable tourism development”
Tue, 22 May 4.15 PM- 6.00 PM	<b>AIMS Regional Partnership Dialogue</b> in support of the AIMS review (Part I)
Wed, 23 May 9.00 AM- 1.00 PM	<b>Regional Preparatory Meeting of the AIMS</b> to review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway
Wed, 23 May 2.30 PM- 6.00 PM	<b>AIMS Regional Partnership Dialogue</b> in support of the AIMS review (Part II)
Thurs, 24 May 9.0 AM- 6.00 PM	<b>Regional Preparatory Meeting of the AIMS</b> to review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway
Fri, 25 May 9.0 AM- 6.00 PM	<b>Regional Preparatory Meeting of the AIMS</b> to review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway

## 2. Conference Venue

The Conference will be held at the Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius, Balaclava, Mauritius. It is located on the North West coast of the island. The trip from airport to the hotel is around one hour.

Address:

**Maritim Resort & Spa**

Turtle Bay,

Balaclava,

Mauritius, Indian Ocean

Tel: (+230) 204 1000

Fax: (+230) 204 1020



Website: <http://www.maritimresortandspa.mu/>

### **3. Meeting Programme**

- Regional Preparatory Meeting:  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview>
- Private Sector Partnership Forum:  
<https://sidsghn.org/sids-ghn-forum/>
- AIMS Regional Partnership Dialogue:  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/partnerships2018>

### **4. Meeting Participants**

- Representatives of Small Island Developing States from the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIMS) region;
- Organizations of the United Nations system;

- Representatives from SIDS tourism sector, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector (*SIDS-GBN Forum only from 21 to 22 May*).

## **5. Registration and Badges**

All participants are required to register for the conference and obtain an ID badge. A registration table will be set up on Monday, 21 May at the main lobby of the hotel from 8.00 to 8.45 am where the ID badges can also be obtained.

## **6. Arrival and Departure**

Arrival in Mauritius should be planned to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, on Sunday 20 May 2018. The airport is located 26 nautical miles (48 km) southeast of the capital city of Port Louis. Departure should be planned for Saturday, 26 May 2018.

The Government of Canada will issue airline tickets to the sponsored government participants, prioritizing the most immediate flight prior to and after the conference. Please correspond directly with the Government of Canada, with Mr. Matthew Cruz of UN-OHRLLS on copy (contact details at end of note) to arrange for and confirm all booking details. For the SIDS-GBN Forum only participants, OHRLLS will make the travel arrangements. Self-funded participants should make their own travel arrangements.

## **7. Transport to and from Airport**

Transportation will be made available for all participants from airport to the hotel, and back to the airport after the conference. Please note that participants can also arrange their own public transport to and from the airport.

## **8. Visa Requirements**

For the list of countries that can obtain visa upon arrival please see:

<http://passport.govmu.org/English/Passport%20and%20Visa%20Requirement%20in%20Mauritius/Pages/Visa-Requirements-in-Mauritius.aspx>.

The following documents must be presented at the airport counter for those who will obtain visas on arrival.

- Return Air Tickets;
- Hotel Booking; and
- Letter of Participation for the meetings in Mauritius.

For countries that require visa prior to arrival, participants should obtain contact the visa section by email: [piomain@govmu.org](mailto:piomain@govmu.org) or by phone +230 210 9313/12.

For entry to Mauritius please prepare the following documentation:

- Visa Application Form duly filled and signed by applicant;
- Two recent passport-size photos of the applicant;
- Photocopy of the data pages of applicant's passport; and
- A copy of the Residence Permit. (Applicable for applicants not residing in their country of origin). Same to be valid for at least three months after proposed date of departure from Mauritius.

For additional information on visa application, please visit the following website: <http://passport.govmu.org>.

## **9. Hotel and Accommodation**

Participants are responsible for the reservation and payment of their hotel accommodation directly to the hotel.

Preferential rates have been negotiated with the Maritim Resort and Spa Mauritius. Kindly use the following booking code (CONFMAU18/UN-SIDS/MAY2018) to benefit from the discounted rates. In the event of cancellation, please refer to the hotel's policy.

## **10. Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)**

UN-OHRLLS will provide DSA to the sponsored participants that are registered by 4 May 2018. The participants of the meeting will be entitled to 6 days DSA (3 days DSA for GBN Forum only participants) in the amount of 253USD per day and terminal expenses (TRM) to cover airport transfers and incidentals.

The following are the required documents for claiming the DSA and TRM:

1. copy of the passport bio page
2. copy of e-ticket

### 3. boarding passes

If possible, copies of these documents should be made in advance for submission.

DSA will be distributed to the sponsored participants on 21 May 2018 at the registration desk at the Conference venue.

Please note that for the sponsored participants who registered after 4 May, DSA will be transferred to the personal banking account within 4-6 months after the meeting. Please refer to Ms. Matthew Cruz for details.

### **11. Meals**

The Government of Mauritius will offer lunch and two coffee breaks during the meetings. Participants will need to make their own arrangements for other meals.

**IMPORTANT:** For any special dietary requirements, please inform Mr. Jean Daniel Ross on [jross.mau@maritim.de](mailto:jross.mau@maritim.de) or Mrs. Madhavi Nuckchadee on [mnuckchadee.mau@maritim.de](mailto:mnuckchadee.mau@maritim.de) before 14 May, 2018.

### **12. Insurance**

Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for accident, illness, and luggage insurance, if so desired.

### **13. Climate and conference Attire**

Mauritius enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate Conference attire should be smart casual or business wear for the entire duration of the conference.

### **14. Currency**

Tourist places, shopping areas, ordinary coffee shops and restaurants accept MUR, although more established shops may accept debit or credit cards. Credit card purchases often have additional service fees. Currency conversion and ATM bank withdrawals can be completed at the airport, at the hotel, or at nearby tourist spots in town.

Persons traveling into or out of Mauritius are required to declare to custom officials at the borders if they are carrying on themselves or in their possessions any currency or bearer negotiable instruments of \$10,000 or more (or equivalent amounts in foreign currency). Travellers must make this declaration by completing a Border Currency Reporting Form which will be made available at the customs counter at the airport.

### **15. Internet Services**

Complimentary Wi-fi access will be available at the conference venue and in the hotel rooms. The network name and password will be provided upon registration. Please bring your own laptop computer, if desired. Printing will be available at the venue of the Conference.

### **16. First Aid and Health Services**

Medical emergency call number is 114 and Police emergency number is 112 / 999. First-aid Medical assistance will be provided for all participants within the Meeting premises.

Closest hospitals in the region are Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital (SSRNH) situated at Pamplemousses and Triolet Medi-Clinic situated at new market road, Triolet.

### **17. Security**

Security focal point for the conference identified by the Mauritius Government will be communicated separately closer to the date.

The latest UN Travel Advisory for Mauritius is attached to this Information Note.

### **18. Conference documents**

Session documents can be accessed at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview> for ease and in order to reduce the amount of paper used. Only one conference programme and administrative note will be printed and distributed to each participant.

Conference proceedings will be reported and published after the conference

## **19. General Information about Mauritius**

### **WEATHER AND CLIMATE**

The island enjoys a maritime sub-tropical climate. The summer months extend from November to April and winter from June to September. October and May are transition periods. Coastal temperatures range between 25°C and 33°C in summer and between 18 °C and 24 °C in winter.

### **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

The official language is English. However, most Mauritians are equally fluent in both French and English.

### **BANKING AND CURRENCY**

The local currency is the Mauritian rupee (MUR). There are a number of international and local commercial banks in Mauritius. Indicative exchange rates are:

1 US\$ ≈ Rs 33

1 € ≈ Rs 40

Daily currency exchange rates is available on the website of the Bank of Mauritius at: <http://www.bom.mu>.

#### Banking hours

Monday – Thursday 09.00 – 15.15

Friday 09.00 – 17.00

Week End Closed

### **TIME DIFFERENCE**

Mauritius is four hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+4).

### **BUSINESS HOURS**

Public Offices and major businesses are generally open from 08.45 hrs to 16.00 hrs from Monday to Friday.

### **VACCINATION CERTIFICATES**

Vaccination cards against yellow fever will have to be produced for participants from countries listed at Annex I. It should be noted that the Vaccination Certificate for Yellow Fever is valid ten (10) days after the date of vaccination, or in case of revaccination as from the date of revaccination.

## **TAXIS**

Reliable taxi services are provided by all main hotels.

## **SMOKING**

Smoking in public areas in Mauritius is strictly prohibited except in designated areas.

## **20.Contact Persons**

<b>OHRLLS</b>	<b>Government of Mauritius</b>
Mr Matthew Cruz Team Assistant Tel: + 1-917- 367-5835 Email: <a href="mailto:cruz15@un.org">cruz15@un.org</a>	Mrs Disha Ragnuth Second Secretary Tel: +230 405 2567 ; Mobile: + 230 57134588 Email: <a href="mailto:dragnuth@govmu.org">dragnuth@govmu.org</a>
Ms. Tishka Francis Sustainable Development Officer Tel: + 1-917- 367 - 4468 Email: <a href="mailto:tishka.francis@un.org">tishka.francis@un.org</a>	Mrs Vimla Huree-Agarwal First Secretary Tel: +230 405 2612 ; Mobile: + 230 5257 8217 Email: <a href="mailto:vhuree-agarwal@govmu.org">vhuree-agarwal@govmu.org</a>
Mr. Anthony Flores Staff Assistannt Tel: +1 212 963 4223 Email: <a href="mailto:flores14@un.org">flores14@un.org</a>	

<b>Government of Canada</b>
Ms Claire Collobert Email: <a href="mailto:claire.collobert@gmail.com">claire.collobert@gmail.com</a>

## Annex I

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers over 1 year of age coming from infected areas. The countries and areas included in the endemic zones are considered as infected areas. A list of these countries is as hereunder:

<b><u>Africa</u></b>	<b><u>America</u></b>
Angola	Bolivia
Benin	Brazil
Burkina, Faso	Colombia
Burundi	Ecuador
Cameroon	French Guiana
Central African Republic	Guyana
Chad	Panama
Congo	Peru
Cote d'Ivoire	Surinam
Democratic Republic of Congo	Venezuela
Equatorial Guinea	
Ethiopia	
Gabon	
Gambia	
Ghana	
Guinea	
Guinea-Bissau	
Kenya	
Liberia	
Mali	
Niger	
Nigeria	
Rwanda	
Sad Tome and Principe	
Senegal	
Sierra Leone	
Somalia	
Sudan	
Togo	
Uganda	
United Republic of Tanzania	
Zambia	