



Multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogues at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Apia, Samoa | 1-4 September 2014

Session 5: Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity

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CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

1. The overarching theme of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States is *“The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”*.
2. The Conference 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, and will include six *multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues*, held in parallel with the plenary meetings.
3. The six high-level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues are expected to provide, inter alia, an opportunity for:
 - (a) **Recognizing** successful partnerships and initiatives in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

- Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcomes of the Conference;
- (b) **Launching** innovative and concrete partnerships and initiatives between Governments, international and regional organizations, multilateral institutions, major groups, the organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to support the advancement of the sustainable development of small island developing States;
 - (c) **Interactive** and focused discussions on key priorities related to small island developing States.

TIMING & VENUE

- 4. The multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogue session on “*Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity*” will be held on **Wednesday, 3 September 2014: from 3 to 6p.m.**, at the Savaii Partnerships Hall, Apia, Samoa.

PARTICIPANTS

- 5. The Partnership Dialogue will be open for all accredited participants to the SIDS Conference.
- 6. The room designated for the Partnership Dialogues, Savaii Partnerships Hall, can accommodate up to 240 participants at table. The Partnership Dialogues 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.

CRITERIA & PARTNERSHIPS PLATFORM

- 7. The following SMART criteria for selecting Partnerships for the Multi-stakeholder Partnerships Dialogues should be followed, as agreed by the Preparatory Committee of the Conference:
 - **SIDS-SPECIFIC**
 - **MEASURABLE & MONITORABLE**
 - **ACHIEVABLE & ACCOUNTABLE**
 - **RESOURCE-BASED & RESULTS FOCUED**, with
 - **TIMELINES** for implementation & **TRANSPARENCY** by ALL PARTIES
- 8. The SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform has been developed for the Conference and is available at www.sids2014.org/partnerships. It is devoted to recognizing of existing and launch of innovative partnerships towards to SIDS 2014 Conference, as well serves as a broader “SIDS partnerships database”, for those not able to attend the Conference.

9. Stakeholders wishing to participate in the interactive dialogue of the multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogue in Samoa are requested to register its SIDS specific partnership, following the outlined criteria, in the SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform.

OBJECTIVE

10. The session will focus on partnerships related to “*Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity*” and its interrelated and complementary issues, so as to bring out the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the enabling factors of financing, capacity building, technology transfer, technical cooperation and institutional development.
11. The session will address challenges, threats and opportunities in this thematic cluster. In considering the response to these challenges through partnerships, the session will focus both on the sustainable development of the ocean economy as well as on the ecosystem services provided by oceans and seas and on means to protect marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

12. The interactive discussion will be guided by the following questions:
 - (a) Oceans and seas provide vast opportunities and are key drivers for economic development in Small Island Developing States. How do we best enhance ocean related economic activities?
 - (b) What types of partnerships are most effective in achieving optimal and sustainable development of ocean related economic activities?

STRUCTURE

13. Facilitated by a moderator, the session will start off with stage-setting remarks by the Chair of the session, followed by an interactive dialogue format, presided over by the moderator, which will include a panel of experts in the priority area, and representatives from partnerships as discussants and respondents.
14. Participants will be invited to make brief interventions , keeping in mind the overarching objective of the multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogues to:
 - (a) discussing key priorities for SIDS in the priority cluster area of “*Oceans, Sea and Biodiversity*”
 - (b) recognize successful partnerships
 - (c) announce the launch of new innovative partnerships
15. The interventions should
 - (a) Be related to the priority cluster area of “*Oceans, Sea and Biodiversity*”
 - (b) Address the objective of the session and its guiding questions, i.e. how can the Partnership which is being recognized/launch address these challenges?

- (c) Avoid presentations - be concisely descriptive of the Partnership being recognized or launched, and how it can address the guiding questions, and the ongoing dialogue as guided by the moderator.
16. Depending on the number of requests for interventions, each intervention should be limited to 3 minutes. Interventions should refer to pre-registered partnerships in the SIDS Partnerships Platform. The relevant partnership page from the SIDS Partnerships Platform will be projected on the screen during the intervention, in order to minimize the “descriptive” part of the intervention, and to foster an interactive dialogue.
 17. The session will conclude with closing take away messages by the chairperson, and a set of *recommendations and opportunities* for partnerships in advancing the sustainable development of “*Oceans, Sea and Biodiversity*”.
 18. A brief report of the outcome of the Partnership Dialogue session will be reported to the next Plenary meeting (Thursday, 4 September from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) through the President with a fuller report of the session to be reported with the outcome of the other Partnership Dialogues to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference by the Chairs to be included in the final report of the Conference.
 19. Partnerships, both new and existing, registered towards the SIDS Conference in the SIDS Partnerships Platform will be listed in an annex to the report of the Conference. Registered partnerships meeting the criteria indicated above will be included in the annex, even if not mentioned explicitly in interventions in the dialogue.