



## United Nations SIDS Partnerships Awards Rules and Guidelines 2024

### Purpose

The United Nations (UN) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnerships Awards was established by the Member States of the United Nations in 2021 to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).<sup>1</sup> The Awards provide an opportunity to reward the most successful SIDS partnerships, highlight best practices, increase the visibility of the SIDS Partnership Framework, motivate the creation of new SIDS partnerships and incentivize the registrations of new partnerships for SIDS.

The Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS takes a lead in supporting the follow-up of existing, and promotes and advocates the launching of new partnerships that advance the sustainable development in SIDS. The co-chairs of the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS in 2024 are Permanent Representative of Ireland and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations. The Awards are supported and managed collaboratively by the SIDS Unit of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and SIDS Sub-Programme of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) within their respective mandates.

### The Awards ceremony

The Awards will be given at the Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, an event held in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly.<sup>2</sup> The Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue provides a global platform to review progress of existing partnerships for SIDS, launch new partnerships, and exchange lessons learned, and identify good partnering practices.

The laureates of the awards:

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/203, "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", para 20(a), (5 January 2022), available from [undocs.org/en/A/RES/203](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/203)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

- a) will be invited to New York to receive a certificate (one representative per partnership);
- b) will be given the title “Small Island Developing States Partnerships’ Most Distinguished Laureate”;
- c) Will be authorized to use a SIDS Partnerships Awards logo in partnership related materials;
- d) Will be recognised as “Partnerships’ Champions” and the partners involved will be considered “Advocates” of the SIDS Partnership Framework;
- e) are encouraged to advocate and highlight the Partnership Framework, encourage new partnerships, and the registration of partnerships through the SIDS partnerships website;
- f) Will be highlighted through communications channels of the United Nations, including the SIDS partnerships website<sup>3</sup>;
- g) Will be invited to speak at SIDS partnership events and/or Webinars as successful partnerships.

## Categories

The SIDS Partnerships Awards are given in each of the three dimensions of sustainable development: 1) economic, 2) social and 3) environment.<sup>4</sup>

Partnerships should demonstrate their relevance to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and should be based on principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability. Cognizant that some projects may overlap categories, applicants are to nominate which category is best suited to their partnership.

### Category 1: Economic

The economic category will focus on partnerships within relevant priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway which fall under this theme, namely promotion of;

- sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth with decent work for all;
- sustainable tourism;
- sustainable energy;
- sustainable transportation;
- sustainable consumption and production;
- food security and nutrition

### Category 2: Social

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://sdgs.un.org/SIDSPartnershipsAwards>

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/203, “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, para 20(a), (5 January 2022), available from [undocs.org/en/A/RES/203](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/203)

The social category will focus on partnerships within relevant priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway which fall under this theme, namely;

- promotion of peaceful societies and safe communities;
- education;
- culture and sport;
- social development;
- gender equality and women's empowerment;
- health and non-communicable diseases

### **Category 3: Environmental**

The environmental category will focus on partnerships within relevant priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway which fall under this theme, namely;

- Climate change;
- Disaster risk reduction;
- Oceans and seas;
- Water and sanitation;
- Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste;
- Biodiversity;
- Desertification, land degradation and drought;
- Forests;
- Invasive alien species

### **Eligibility**

- a) All small island developing States partnerships at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels (see list of SIDS from here: [https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states#list\\_of\\_sids](https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states#list_of_sids));
- b) Partnerships that strive to follow and are in line with the small island developing States partnerships criteria and norms (see the SMART criteria under 'Evaluation' section);
- c) Partnerships whose goals, objectives, outputs and outcomes are clearly linked to the achievement of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States under the Samoa Pathway<sup>5</sup> and/or the Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) Partnerships must be registered on the SIDS partnership database<sup>6</sup>;
- e) Partnerships must have demonstrated and documented impact;
- f) Ongoing and recently completed partnerships (within the last calendar year before the award-year).

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<sup>5</sup> See Annex: <https://sdgs.un.org/documents/ares6915-sids-accelerated-modalities-action-samoa-pathway-49348>

<sup>6</sup> SIDS partnership database: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/small-island-developing-states/register>

## Nomination

Self-nominations and nominations by third parties are both acceptable. Nominations can also be submitted by the following:

- (a) Governments of Member States;
- (b) Intergovernmental organizations;
- (c) United Nations system organizations;
- (d) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

## The Judge Panel

The President of the General Assembly will select the members of the Judging Panel, pursuant to nominations received from the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee. The period of operations for the Judging Panel is two years. The panel will comprise the following:

- (a) One representative from the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee, who shall chair;
- (b) One representative from each of the three regions of small island developing States;
- (c) Two representatives from the major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The United Nations Secretariat shall have two ex officio members on the panel. In incidences of conflict of interest between members of the judging panel and the nominated partnership, e.g. in the case of a nominated partnership involving the United Nations, the members of the judging panel subject to the conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from participation in judging the partnership in question. Canvassing of the judging panel shall not be tolerated.

The judging panel members from 2024 to 2025, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, are: Mr. John Gilroy, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, as the chair of the panel; Ms. Kereeta Whyte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations; Dr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations; Ms. Fiona Indu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands to the United Nations; Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA); Dr. Satish Bidaisee, Professor, Public Health and Preventive Medicine Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, St. George's University, Grenada; Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit, UNDESA; and Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme, OHRLLS.

UN DESA and UN OHRLLS shall serve as the secretariat of the judging panel.

## Evaluation

The Laureates will be selected by a judging panel. The evaluation process consists of the following steps.

1. Once the applications have been vetted for minimum requirements, the UN Secretariat (DESA and OHRLLS) will review nominations based on the SMART criteria and recommend nine finalists (three partnerships per category) to the judging panel.
2. An interactive discussion between the judging panel members and the finalists will be held. One representative from each partnership will be invited. The discussion will include a 3 min presentation by each finalist, followed by an interactive discussion/Q&A with the judging panel members.
3. The judging panel will evaluate the nine finalists based on applications and the interactive discussion based on SMART criteria. The judges will then use a score sheet to evaluate the partnerships. The score sheets will be sent to the UN Secretariat team who will sum up scores. The ranking (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place) will be publicly announced at the Awards ceremony. The results will, however, be communicated to the finalists before the ceremony.

Partnerships will be evaluated by the judging panel based on the SMART Criteria:

**SIDS-Specific.** Partnerships must advance the implementation of priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for SIDS<sup>7</sup>, the Sendai Framework and other SIDS specific mandates, are aligned with national development priorities, brings positive impact and benefits to SIDS while being globally accepted, and recognize the vulnerabilities and opportunities that are unique to SIDS.

**Measurable and Monitorable.** Partnerships must have clear set of goals, objectives, outputs and outcomes, have a clearly built in and defined monitoring and evaluation framework with the purpose of assessing progress of implementation and its intended impact on beneficiaries, be knowledge and research-based, have clear baselines, targets and indicators of achievement linked to Samoa Pathway priority areas and the SDGs, and generate appropriate data for monitoring and evaluation.

**Achievable & Accountable.** Partnerships must be realistically designed to fulfil their objectives, include a governance structure that is inclusive and participatory of all partners, relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries, has support, ownership and buy in of all partners, is based on mutual trust from all its stakeholders; and provides to partners and relevant stakeholders, on a regular basis, as appropriate, through the SIDS Action Platform, the SIDS Global Business Network platform, or other means, effective communication of plans, results from monitoring and evaluation of impact, lessons learned, and provide opportunities to enhance peer learning, sharing of experiences and lessons learned between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, and provide for evaluation to allow for the replication of successful partnerships

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<sup>7</sup> 'List of SIDS' can be found here: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states>

**Resource-based & results focused.** Partnerships that are based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, include the mobilization of new resources and, where relevant, result in the transfer of technology to, and capacity-building in, SIDS, have the appropriate and effective human resources capacity, have demonstrable and, if where relevant, tangible, results that are verified by relevant stakeholders, and identifies the beneficiaries of, and evaluate impact from, the partnership.

**Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties.** Partnerships must have clear start and end dates, sets timelines for its deliverables, clearly defined roles for its partners and stakeholders; and have publicly available, such as through a website, information on its governance structure, procedures, partner composition, and results. Partnerships should submit a progress report, using the established partnership reporting template, through the SIDS Action Platform once a year until completion of its activities, to include information on overall status, achievements, challenges, best practices, impact for its beneficiaries.

## How to apply

1. Register your partnership on the SIDS Partnerships Database. Any parties interested in nominating a partnership must register in advance of submitting their application for the UN SIDS Partnerships Awards. Information on registering your partnership can be found here: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/small-island-developing-states/register>
2. Applications can only be submitted through the Online Application Form found at: <https://forms.office.com/e/cZ2cB0kLtq> **by the deadline of Friday 1 Mar 2024.**
  - Applications submitted in accordance with the nomination, organization and eligibility criteria explained in this Rules and Guidelines 2024 will be considered.
  - The online application form must be fully completed. All required fields must contain the request information. In the event that any required field is left blank, or if the answer does not directly correspond to the question asked, the partnership will not be evaluated.

Applications must be submitted in English.

## Contact

The SIDS Partnerships Awards secretariat  
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