



**2021 Annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States
(SIDS) Partnerships Dialogue**
Friday, 9 July 2021 3pm – 6pm
(Virtual Platform)

“SIDS partnerships for sustainable, resilient and equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”

The Annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Dialogue (the “Global Dialogue”), is an Event organized annually under the auspices of the SIDS Partnerships Framework. The 2021 Global Dialogue will be the 7th of such gathering and it will take place on **9 July 2021, 3pm to 6pm**, via WebEx, in the margin of the 2021 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

BACKGROUND

The Third International Conference on SIDS held in September 2014, Apia, Samoa, (‘the SIDS Conference’) resulted in the adoption of an intergovernmental agreed outcome document entitled the “Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the announcement of 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS.

One of the positive outcomes of the SIDS Conference was the subsequent establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework, designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS. A key element of this Framework is the annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, which provides a global platform for SIDS and partners to review progress of existing partnerships for SIDS, launch new partnerships in line with their priorities, and for all stakeholders to exchange lessons learned, identifying good partnering practices, and engage in dialogue.

CONCEPT

The theme for the 2021 Global Dialogue is ***“SIDS partnerships for sustainable, resilient and equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic ”*** an economic focused theme derived from the 2021 HLPF theme of *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”*.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been, and continues to be, a catastrophe for SIDS. Many SIDS are in the midst of severe crippling recessions, affecting all parts of their societies. This continuing crisis threatens to derail the progress towards the sustainable development goals and SAMOA Pathway and requires us to deepen our resolve to achieve a more peaceful, sustainable and equitable future for all.

The pandemic has laid bare the economic and social vulnerability of SIDS and continues to pose a significant health and economic challenge. The collapse of tourism revenue, remittances, capital flows, the volatility of commodity prices and pressures of high and growing debt servicing costs have placed enormous pressures on SIDS’ national exchequers. The high prevalence of health conditions, including non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and obesity, in addition to food insecurity make populations in SIDS particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

As the global vaccine rollout continues and parts of the world begin to reopen their economies, we must look ahead and seize any opportunities for a stronger, sustainable, resilient and equitable economic recovery in SIDS. Partnerships, constructed in line with the SAMOA Pathway, can play a key role in capitalizing on the opportunities for transformative action and in generating the resources needed for implementation.

This Global Dialogue provides a space to reflect on partnerships for SIDS in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and seeks ideas, suggestions and recommendations on how to forge and strengthen new partnerships which are responsive to the effects of COVID-19.

AGENDA

Item. 1	<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p><i>15:00 – 15:30</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Tumasie Blair on behalf of H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson Co-Chair, Antigua & Barbuda• Ms. Francesca Cassar on behalf of H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier Co-Chair, Malta <p>Keynote Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA• H.E. Mr. Courtney Rattray, High Representative, OHRLLS
Item. 2	<p>SIDS PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES SHOWCASE</p> <p><i>15:00 – 16:00</i></p> <p><i>(This Item will hear presentations, showcasing Partnerships efforts and initiatives in SIDS. The first two presentations will provide updates on activities under the SIDS Partnerships Framework, followed by a brief showcasing a Partnership Initiative between a SIDS and a Developed Partner, highlighting an example that can be emulated going forward. The final presentation will hear a brief from a global multi-stakeholder partnership perspective.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SIDS Partnerships Accelerator Projects - Mr. Alex Trepelkov (OIC- DSDG, UNDESA)• SIDS Global Business Network - Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox (Director, OHRLLS)• Greening the Islands – Mr. Gianni Chianetta (Director of Greening the Islands)• Interregional Partnership of SIDS Tourism Organisations – Mr. Arwin Sharma (Member of the Board, Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation)
Item. 3	<p>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON SIDS PARTNERSHIPS FOR RECOVERY</p> <p><i>16:00 – 17:50</i></p> <p>Moderator – Kate Brown (Global Islands Partnership)</p> <p><i>This segment is a focused and interactive session, discussing ideas, suggestions and recommendations on how to cultivate and strengthen new partnerships in the context of COVID-19 recovery. Conversation to include wide ranging topics. It should highlight lessons learned and</i></p>

best practices with regard to sustainable recovery from advanced economies and the types of partnerships needed to achieve this in SIDS.

Interactive discussions to focus on the following sub-themes:

Theme 1 - Blue Economy

- *The development of the blue economy will be an essential part of recovery from COVID-19 with cross cutting implication for the achievement of SDG 14 and the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS, partnerships can facilitate effective cooperation and mobilization of resources. What can we do at the international level to change the pace for partnership development with SIDS and accelerate the development of the blue economy?*

Theme 2 - Tourism

- *Sustainable recovery of the tourism sector is vital for economic recovery in many SIDS, well-resourced partnerships can play an enabling role for an inclusive recovery of the tourism sector. How can partnerships in the tourism sector ensure that local operators can capitalize on a safe reopening?*

Format: Roundtable panel speakers to speak for approximately 4/5 minutes on the first sub-theme, the floor will then be opened for comments and questions from the audience before returning to the panel for responses. This will be repeated for the second sub-theme.

Speakers:

- H.E Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tone, Permanent Representative of Tonga to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations
- Ms. Simona Marinescu, United Nations Resident Coordinator Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau
- Mr. Paul Holthus, President World Ocean Council
- Ms. Amanda Charles, Sustainable Tourism Expert, the Caribbean Tourism Organization
- Prof. Kalim Shah, Biden School, University of Delaware

ITEM. 4	CLOSING <i>17:50 – 18:00</i> Remarks by Co-chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Tumasie Blair on behalf of H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson Co-Chair, Antigua & Barbuda• Ms. Francesca Cassar on behalf of H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier Co-Chair, Malta