



**UN SIDS
Partnerships
Award**

2023 SIDS Partnerships Awards

Concept Note

Background

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)¹. 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. This initiative stems from the Third Conference on SIDS held in 2014 that resulted in announcement of more than 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships and Member States' subsequent actions to monitor the announced partnerships and to encourage creation of new ones. As a follow up mechanism to the partnerships, the SIDS Partnerships Framework and its Steering Committee were established through the SAMOA Pathway and the General Assembly resolution ^{2,3}. Currently, the Steering Committee is co-chaired by Permanent Representative of Portugal and the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN. The Awards are

¹ A/RES/76/203, 20(a) "Decides to establish an awards programme, to be named the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards, to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, consistent with the Samoa Pathway..."

² Paragraph 101 "to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States. The framework should ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of small island developing States, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development of and ensure the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway."

³ A/RES/70/202, paragraph 11 "...to establish the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States in order to promote the effective and efficient follow-up to the existing partnerships, in particular new partnerships launched at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States"

supported and managed collaboratively, by the SIDS Unit of the UN DESA and SIDS Sub-Programme of the UN OHRLLS within their respective mandates.⁴

The first UN SIDS Partnerships Awards was held in July 2022 during the Annual Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnerships Dialogue. Nominations for the awards were submitted through the online application form on UNDESA's website. The members of the judging panel, appointed by the President of the General Assembly pursuant to Article 4 sub-paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Annex to resolution 76/203, composed of one representative from the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee, one representative from each of the three regions of SIDS, two representatives from the major groups and other stakeholders and one each from UNDESA and OHRLLS as ex officio members, selected the laureates in line with the criteria and norms⁵. The 2022-2023 members of the judging panels are as follows: Mr. Afonso Lages, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN, who chairs the panel; Mr. Isaia Lautasi, Permanent Mission of Samoa to the UN; Mr. Tumasie Blair, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN; Ms. Sandra Fortes, Permanent Mission of Cabo Verde to the UN; Ms. Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO)⁶ and Mr. Darian Stibbe from The Partnering Initiative as representatives from the major groups and other stakeholders; Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit, UNDESA; and Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme, OHRLLS.

The SIDS Partnerships Awards are given in each of the three dimensions of sustainable development: 1) economic, 2) social and 3) environment as stipulated in the Article 2 sub-paragraph 1 of the Annex of the resolution 76/203.⁷

2023 Award

The second UN SIDS Partnerships Awards is expected to be held during the annual Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue in 2023, tentatively scheduled in the margins of the 2023 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.⁸

Application

To be considered for the SIDS Partnerships Awards, partnerships must be registered on the [SIDS Partnership Database](#). In addition, all applicants are required to submit their nomination through an online form (form to be created). **The deadline for the application is Friday 28 April 2023.**

⁴ Stipulated in the UN SIDS Partnerships Awards Rules and Guidelines 2022, see <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Guidance%20for%20UN%20SIDS%20Partnerships%20Awards.pdf>

⁵ <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Guidance%20for%20UN%20SIDS%20Partnerships%20Awards.pdf>

⁶ From 2023

⁷ 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, available from undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/203

⁸ For detail on HLPF 2023, see <https://hlpf.un.org/2023>

Outreach

- UN DESA's Partnership Platform for SIDS (circulate messages to all partnerships)
- Permanent missions / Steering Committee members
- SIDS Global Business Network
- Social media channels of DESA and OHRLLS; Hashtags #Partnerships2030, #SamoaPathway, #SDGs #PartnerSIDS
- UN inter-agency channels - IACG members

Evaluation

The evaluation will be based on the SIDS Partnership's SMART criteria – i.e. SIDS specific; m measurable and monitorable, achievable and accountable; resource-based and results-focused; timeline for implementation and transparency by all parties - and will be categorized into three areas: economic, social and environmental, and in line with the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway.⁹

The evaluation process consists of the following steps.

1. The UN Secretariat will review all nominations based on the criteria and recommend nine finalists (three partnerships per category).
2. The Judging panel will evaluate the nine finalists through a virtual "SIDS Partnership Awards Live Pitch". The Live Pitch will include a 3 min presentation by all finalists, followed by an interactive dialogue/Q&A with the judging panel. The judges will then use a score sheet to evaluate the partnerships, based on the Live Pitch and other information provided to them beforehand. The score sheets will be sent to the UN Secretariat team who will sum up scores. The ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd place) will not be publicly announced at the Live Pitch, but at the Award ceremony. The results will, however, be communicated to the finalists before the ceremony.
3. The winners will be informed prior to the Awards Ceremony. **[NEW]** One representative from each of the three winning partnerships will be invited to New York to receive a certificate.

Award Ceremony

The three winners (one per category) will be invited to the Award ceremony to receive a certificate, to make a brief statement and to take pictures with the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee. The

⁹ See rules and guidelines 2022: <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Guidance%20for%20UN%20SIDS%20Partnerships%20Awards.pdf>

ceremony will take place in the margins of HLPF 2023, during the annual Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue.

Follow-up actions

The recipients of the Awards will:

- receive a certificate and authorization to use a SIDS Partnerships Awards Logo in partnership related material
- be recognized on the SIDS partnerships website
- be considered as 'Champion Partnerships' and the partners involved in the partnership will be considered advocates of the SIDS Partnership Framework
- be highlighted through OHRLLS and DESA communications channels
- be invited to speak at SIDS partnership events and/or Webinars as successful partnerships
- **[NEW]** be invited to participate in a virtual partnership training course organized by UN DESA's [2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator programme](#) to discuss in-depth how they are contributing to the sustainable development of SIDS. This will be recorded and posted online as good examples.
- **[NEW]** have their partnerships featured in 'SIDS partnerships briefs' to be prepared by the UN Secretariat, drawing from the above training course.