



United Nations SIDS Partnerships Awards Rules and Guidelines 2023

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).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.

The Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships 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 Committee is currently co-chaired by Permanent Representative of Portugal and the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN. 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 annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on SIDS Partnerships, an event held in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly.² The Dialogue 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.

The laureates of the awards:

¹ 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

² 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 any 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 website³;
- g) Will be invited to speak at SIDS partnership events and/or Webinars as successful partnerships;
- h) will be invited to participate in a virtual partnership training course organized by UN DESA’s [2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator programme](#)⁴ to discuss in-depth how they are contributing to the sustainable development of SIDS. This will be recorded and posted online as good examples;
- i) have their partnerships featured in ‘SIDS partnerships briefs’ to be prepared by the UN Secretariat.

Categories

The SIDS Partnerships Awards are given in each of the three dimensions of sustainable development: 1) economic, 2) social and 3) environment.⁵

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;

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

⁴ See <https://partnershipaccelerator.org/>

⁵ 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

- sustainable transportation;
- sustainable consumption and production;
- food security and nutrition

Category 2: Social

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;
- b) All partnerships that strive to follow and are in line with the small island developing States partnerships criteria and norms and 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 and/or the Sustainable Development Goals;
- c) The partnership must be registered on the SIDS Partnerships database as the Partnership as the Partnership will be assessed on the information provided to the

SIDS Partnerships database⁶ and in the Online Application Form. Registration can be done in conjunction with application;

- d) The partnership must be consistent with the guidance on SIDS Partnerships (SMART Criteria) and the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway;
- e) The initiative must also have a demonstrated and documented impact;
- f) Ongoing and recently completed partnerships (within the last calendar year before the award-year).

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.

Adjudication

The Laureates shall be selected by a judging panel. The President of the General Assembly shall 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 shall be for two years. The panel shall 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.

UN DESA and UN OHRLLS shall serve as the secretariat of the judging panel. Partnerships will be evaluated by the Judging Panel against the SIDS Partnership's SMART Criteria evaluation framework as used in the SIDS Partnerships Toolkit (see evaluation section below).

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

The Judging panel will also evaluate the finalists through a virtual discussion. This discussion will include a 3 min presentation by all finalists, followed by an interactive dialogue/Q&A with the judging panel. The judges will evaluate the partnerships, based on the discussion and other information provided to them beforehand. The results will be communicated to the finalists before the ceremony.

The Judge Panel

The Laureates will be selected by a judging panel. The following members of the judging panel 2022-2023 were appointed by the President of the General Assembly: Mr. Afonso Lages, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN, who chair 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) and Mr. Darian Stibbe, 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. Canvassing of the judging panel shall not be tolerated. UN DESA and UN OHRLLS shall serve as the secretariat of the judging panel.

Evaluation

Partnerships will be evaluated by the judging panel against the SMART Criteria evaluation framework as used in the SIDS Partnerships Toolkit⁷:

SIDS-Specific. Partnerships must advance the implementation of priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for SIDS, 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

⁷ See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/PartnershipToolbox>

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

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

Applications submitted in accordance with the nomination, organization and eligibility criteria explained in the corresponding sections of this guidance note shall be considered.

Applications can only be submitted through the Online Application Form found at: <https://forms.office.com/e/Wei9TrD4fA> **by the deadline of Friday 28 April 2023**

Only partnerships registered on the SIDS Partnerships Database shall be considered, any parties interested in nominating a partnership must complete the registration process 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>

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
infounpartnershipsawards@un.org