

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS 2024)

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

8 JUNE 2023

BACKGROUND

On 30 December 2022, the General Assembly adopted resolution [A/RES/77/245](#) on the follow-up to and implementation of the [SAMOA Pathway](#) and the [Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States](#) where it decided to convene the [4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS 2024\)](#) in 2024. The Conference, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda, will review the progress of SIDS towards achieving their sustainable development priorities, identify new opportunities for achieving these priorities, and renew the political commitment of the international community to effectively address the special needs of small island developing states.

Furthermore, paragraph 42 of A/RES/77/245 “stresses the need for the effective participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and other major groups, particularly from small island developing States” in the Conference itself and its preparatory processes.

Additional modalities (A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.1) and the format of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States were adopted on 30 May 2023, during the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the SIDS 2024 Conference.

Three regional meetings, one in each SIDS region, and one inter-regional meeting will be organized in the third quarter of 2023 to “identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work”.

To create a space for stakeholders to engage with the substantive preparations for the Conference, UN DESA, in collaboration with OHRLLS, will organize a global online stakeholder consultation to solicit inputs from stakeholders from different sectors to contribute to the substantive preparatory process, including the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the substantive online stakeholder consultation is to:

1. **Compile inputs from all stakeholders** from different sectors operating in the various SIDS regions on the key challenges that have hindered SIDS in their progress towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.
2. **Solicit recommendations and policy proposals** that could support resilience building in SIDS and that could be featured during the SIDS 2024 Conference, including on issues that have been identified as priority areas by SIDS such as addressing their vulnerabilities; resolving debt challenges; improving access to finance and funds; moving forward on disaster risk reduction and climate actions, including loss and

damage; overcoming the digital divide; advancing real and meaningful transfer of technology; and strengthening long-term capacity building.

3. **To seek stakeholder examples of game-changing actions and innovative partnerships** that are strengthening the resilience of SIDS and accelerating progress towards the implementation of SIDS' sustainable development priorities.

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE

The online consultation will be open to all stakeholders and will specifically target those based in SIDS countries and/or directly collaborating with SIDS countries on achieving their sustainable development priorities. All interested stakeholders will be able to submit their inputs through a [dedicated form](#) by: **5 pm (EDT) on 7 July 2023.**

Additional information on the stakeholder consultation will be made available through a dedicated website.

OUTCOMES

Contributions will be shared broadly, including by making them available online at the [official Conference website](#). The Secretariat will prepare three region-specific 'key messages papers' (1- 2 pages) to be made available prior to each regional preparatory meeting. The Secretariat will also prepare a summary of key inputs/messages considering all inputs received globally to be made available prior to the inter-regional preparatory meeting. All summaries will be made publicly available on the Conference website.

SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Stakeholders will be asked to reflect upon the following questions:

1. What are the five major challenges currently faced by Small Islands Developing States that should be discussed in depth during the SIDS 2024 Conference? *Please, pick up to 5 topics.*
 - Exposure to the adverse effects of climate change
 - Loss of biodiversity of oceans, seas and marine resources
 - Resilience to natural disasters
 - Accessing financing for sustainable development (incl. access to disaster-related funding and unlocking private investments)
 - Achieving debt sustainability
 - Resilience to external financial and economic shocks
 - Access to long-term capacity building
 - Supporting countries that are in the transition process of graduating from LDC status
 - Poverty eradication
 - Access to health
 - Quality Education for all
 - Gender equality
 - Youth engagement
 - Employment
 - Overcoming the digital divide
 - Transfer of technology

2. Policy recommendations

Please share **one policy recommendation** to support SIDS in overcoming these challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving their sustainable development priorities, that could be promoted at the SIDS 2024 Conference.

2.a Please, indicate the main topic your policy recommendation refers to:

- Addressing SIDS vulnerabilities
- Resolving debt challenges
- Improving access to finance and funds
- Moving forward on disaster risk reduction and climate actions, including loss and damage
- Overcoming the digital divide
- Advancing real and meaningful transfer of technology
- Strengthening long-term capacity building

2.b Please describe the **policy recommendation** to support SIDS and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving their sustainable development priorities, that could be promoted at the SIDS 2024 Conference. (*Max. 2,000 characters*).

Questions 2a and 2b to be repeated so stakeholders can add a 2nd policy recommendation.

3. Could you share **an example of a game-changing action and/or innovative multi-stakeholder partnership** that is making an impact towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other relevant international agreements?

Name of the initiative

SIDS Country(ies) where it is implemented

Description:

Partners:

Key words/SDGs:

Reference links:

4. What is your **main message to world leaders and other stakeholders** on strengthening the ability of SIDS to achieve their sustainable development priorities and to renew the political commitment of the international community to support them in this undertaking? *Please answer in the form of a one-sentence pitch that could be quoted in the summary report (max 280 characters).*

5. Would you like to suggest potential actions that could be taken to facilitate more meaningful, diverse and effective stakeholder engagement in the preparation and during the SIDS 2024 Conference? (*Max. 1,200 characters*).

PROPOSED TIMELINE*

*[*To be adjusted upon approval of concept note](#)*

Finalization of concept note	2 June 2023
Set up online consultation questionnaire, webpage and drafting outreach materials	9 June 2023

Opening of e-consultation and outreach	12 June 2023
Deadline for e-consultation	7 July 2023
Summary of e-consultation for the first regional preparatory meeting	20 July 2023
Atlantic, Indian Ocean & South China Sea Preparatory Meeting (Mauritius)	24 and 25 July 2023
Summary of e-consultation for the second regional preparatory meeting	1 August 2023
Caribbean Preparatory Meeting (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)	8 to 10 August 2023
Summary of e-consultation for the third regional preparatory meeting	10 August 2023
Pacific SIDS Preparatory Meeting (Vanuatu)	16 to 18 August 2023
Global summary of key inputs for the interregional preparatory meeting	21 August 2023
Interregional Preparatory Meeting (Cabo Verde)	30 August to 2 September 2023