



Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS
for the 4th International Conference on SIDS

Balaclava, Mauritius
24-26 July 2023

CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD RESILIENT PROSPERITY

Programme of Work

Monday 24 July		
8:30am – 9am	Registration	
9:00am-9:45am	Official Opening	<p>Master of Ceremony: Representative from Mauritius Government</p> <p>Welcome Remarks: The Hon Mr. Alan Ganoo, GCSK, Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and international Trade, Mauritius</p> <p>Remarks on Behalf of AOSIS: H.E. Ms. Tania Romualdo Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the UN and AOSIS Bureau Member</p> <p>Remarks: Mr. Li Junhua Under-Secretary-General UNDESA and Secretary General of the 4th International Conference on SIDS</p> <p>Key Note Address: The Hon Pravind Jugnauth Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity Mauritius</p>
9:45am-10am	Tea Break and Family Photo	
10:00am-10:15am	Election of the bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work	Chair: Mr. Li Junhua Under-Secretary-General UNDESA and Secretary General of the 4 th International Conference on SIDS

<p>10:15am-10:30am</p>	<p>The Way Forward: Presentation of the draft skeleton regional outcome document and how the results of the various sessions will inform the outcome document during the event.</p>	<p>Presenter: H.E. Mr Jagdish D. Koonjul, GCSK, GOSK Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN</p>
<p>10:30am-12:30pm</p>	<p>Plenary: Progress on the Implementation SAMOA Pathway: National and Regional Perspectives <i>Presentations by Member States</i> <i>Interactive discussion</i></p>	<p>Chair: H.E. Mr Jagdish D. Koonjul, GCSK, GOSK Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN National Presentations Mr. Frank Rutabingwa, UN Economic Commission for Africa - Presentation on the AIS Regional Report on Progress with implementation of the Samoa Pathway</p>
<p>12:30pm – 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
<p>1:15pm - 3:15pm</p>	<p>Session 1: Addressing SIDS Economic Priorities</p> <p>SIDS are among the most vulnerable countries to external shocks. They are facing an unprecedented set of events, stemming partly from i) the COVID-19 pandemic; ii) a developing country debt crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic and climate-related disasters, and; iii) the climate crisis</p> <p>Many SIDS are experiencing fiscal and financial stress. Unaddressed, there will be deepening hardship, debt defaults, widening inequality, political upheaval and a delayed shift to a low-carbon world.</p> <p>While addressing these immediate needs, the international community must also lay the path toward a new financial system that drives financial resources towards vulnerable countries. These goals require the rapid scaling up of investments and available financial resources to reduce vulnerability and build resilience through <i>inter alia</i> economic diversification and job creation. The work on the High level Panel on the MVI is crucial</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Aman Khaleel Senior Planning Analyst, Ministry of National Planning Housing and Infrastructure, Maldives</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dr Sen Narrainen, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development Mauritius</p> <p>Mr. Vimal Thakoor – Resident Advisor, IMF Training Institute</p> <p>H.E. Mr Jose Rocha Member of the High Level Panel on the MVI</p> <p>Dr Drishty Ramdenee, Secretary-General, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)</p> <p>Prof (Dr.) José Lopes Higher Institute of Business and Economic Sciences (ISCEE), Cabo Verde</p> <p>Ms. Ciara Coughlan, SIDS and Small States Hub, United Kingdom</p>

	<p>and support from the International Community will be necessary to move this agenda forward</p> <p>This session will focus on challenges and emerging issues deserving closer attention to enhance the economic resilience of AIS SIDS.</p>	
3:15pm – 3:30pm	<i>Tea Break</i>	
3:30pm–5:30pm	<p>Session 2: Social and Human Capital development Priorities</p> <p>Ensuring social justice, social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and safe communities with access to essential goods and services are some of the key elements for social development in SIDS. Youth engagement is also critical to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development. Access to quality education and employment opportunities for youth while ensuring gender equality are key for social inclusion.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted health and social protection systems in SIDS, which are exacerbated by existing challenges such as high level of NCDs and use of drugs among youth. This session will discuss challenges in social development in AIS region and how best these barriers could be addressed.</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Kadim Oussein Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Comoros to the UN</p> <p>Ms. Patricia Portela de Souza, Resident Coordinator Cabo Verde (virtual)</p> <p>Mr Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, (ESCAP)</p> <p>Dr K. Meethoo- Badulla, NCD Coordinator, Ministry of Health and Wellness</p> <p>Dr. Joni Musabayana Director ILO, Pretoria Office and Decent Work Team</p> <p>Prof. (Dr.) Romeela Mohee, Commissioner, Higher Education Commission, Mauritius</p> <p>Ms. Meghna Raghoobar Cofounder, SIDS Youth AOS Hub (SYAH), Mauritius</p> <p>Dr P. Kangloo, Specialist/Senior Specialist, Psychiatry, Ministry of Health and Wellness</p> <p>Mr. Jorge Aranda, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Portugal to the UN</p>
5:30pm – 6:15pm	Closed Session – Day 1	For AIS Member States Only

END DAY 1		
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6.30pm	Reception by host Government	
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TUESDAY 25 JULY

9:00am – 10:30am	<p>Session 3: Environmental Considerations/Priorities</p> <p>Climate change continues to threaten AIS SIDS efforts to achieve sustainable development. Its effects such as ocean acidification and loss of marine biodiversity can adversely impact livelihoods in SIDS. Over the coming decades, a changing climate, growing global population, and increased environmental stressors will have significant yet highly uncertain impacts on food security and human welfare. Adaptation strategies and science-informed policy responses to global change are urgently needed and will enhance opportunities for (Blue) economic growth and employment.</p> <p>SIDS also depend on their oceans. Ocean economies are among the most rapidly growing and promising in the world, providing benefits to many sectors of great economic value, such as fisheries, transport, biotechnologies, energy production, seabed resources exploration, tourism and many others.</p> <p>This session will also examine issues such as biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and the water-energy nexus.</p>	<p>Moderator: H.E Ms Tania Yvonne Romualdo, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the UN</p> <p>Mr. Jeremy Radegonde, Second Secretary Permanent Mission of Seychelles to the UN</p> <p>Mr. Mika Oddido, IOC Africa Coordinator, UNESCO</p> <p>Mr. Jared Bosire, Programme Officer, Sustainable Blue Economy, Marine and Oceans Branch, UNEP.</p> <p>Ms. Hwasue Sung, Counsellor Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Madagascar</p> <p>Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Director and Representative a.i. UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa</p>
10:30am-10:45am	Tea Break	
10:45am – 12:15pm	<p>Session 4: Toward Prosperity in AIS SIDS: Innovative actions for sustainable growth and development</p> <p>Stimulating investments in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) within SIDS as well as technology transfer to</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Hermansson Lima Da Freitas Maquengo, First Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sao Tome and Principe</p>

	<p>SIDS, is essential for catalysing technological advancements in SIDS and by extension strengthening a country's resilience. STI can not only allow for the design of practical solutions for everyday challenges but also to advance efficiency in the tourism or , agriculture-fishery sectors. It can also support gender inclusiveness. However, SIDS remain among the most disadvantaged countries in access to technological innovations. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digitalization but also highlighted the digital divide. Increasing connectivity and knowledge sharing through digitalization with robust cyber security could be key for sustainable development. This session will discuss barriers in AIS region in access to technological innovation and potential ways to stimulate the STI sector.</p>	<p>Prof. Theesan Bahrun, Executive director Mauritius Research and Innovation Council</p> <p>Mr. Weimin Guo, Deputy Director, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore</p> <p>Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director OHRLLS</p> <p>Ms. Arieta Rakai, Country Engagement and Partnerships Division (SIDS Lead), IRENA</p> <p>Ms. Mariana Smith Foreign Service Officer, USAID, Pretoria</p>
<p>12:15pm – 1:45pm</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	
<p>1:45pm – 3:30pm</p>	<p>Session 5: Governance and Effective Public Institutions</p> <p>Enhancing Statistical capacity, Building effective Public institutions in AIS SIDS</p> <p>Data is important for systematic follow-up and review of progress and to provide evidence for decision-making at all levels. Data still constitutes a tremendous challenge for AIS SIDS, as evidenced by the extensive data gaps across most thematic areas of the SDGs and Samoa Pathway, as well as the lack of recent data.</p> <p>Even analysis of progress in the AIS region is restricted to just SDG Indicators show that there are still significant data gaps with a number of indicators spread across</p>	<p>Moderator: H.E Ms. Ausenda Nosolini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Guinea Bissau to the UN</p> <p>Ms. Simona Marinescu, Senior Adviser Small Island developing States, UNOPS</p> <p>Ms. Nehali Anupriya Associate Programme Management Officer, UNDRR</p> <p>Ms. Sharon Lindo, Senior Strategic Adviser, Alliance of Small Island Developing</p> <p>Mrs Chandranee Rughoobur, Statistian, Statistics Mauritius</p>

	<p>the priority areas not having data for any of the AIS SIDS. This is a challenge.</p> <p>Effective governance and public administration is critical in delivering basic services to and ensuring safety of citizens, and in responding quickly to multiple crisis and external shocks and also relies on good data. Absence of public institutions and in some cases lack of capacity represent a barrier in many SIDS. This session will discuss some of the main challenges at the level of governance, data and institution building in public institutions in AIS region and explore way forward.</p>	<p>Ms. Priscilla Li Ying Head of Office, UNFPA for Mauritius and Seychelles.</p> <p>Ms. Anjelica Jacome, Director Office of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, FAO</p> <p>Ms. Amanda Serumaga, Resident Representative UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles</p>
<p>3:30pm – 3:45 pm</p>	<p><i>Tea Break</i></p>	
<p>3:45pm – 4:45pm</p>	<p>Session 6: Unlocking meaningful and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships to support implementation of sustainable development in the AIS region</p> <p>Discussion on how effective partnerships that have positive impact for the AIS region can be nurtured. What are the enabling factors that will develop, improve, and scale up multi-stakeholder partnerships, including policies that are supportive of collaboration, capacity building efforts, financing to drive incentives for cross sectorial partnering, and mechanisms that boosts multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement.</p> <p>This session will also explore how the SIDS Partnership Framework can be strengthened to support effective partnership building in the region.</p>	<p>Chair: H.E. Mr Jagdish D. Koonjul, GCSK, GOSK Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Matilda Bartley, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Samoa to the UN- Chair of AOSIS and Mr. Jorge Aranda, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN</p> <p>Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, UNDESA</p> <p>Ms. Lisa Singh UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles</p> <p>Ms. Lilowtee Rajmun Jooseery Director. Mauritius Export Association</p> <p>Ms. Rachael Pringle, First Secretary (Development), Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations</p>

<p>4:45pm – 6:00pm</p>	<p>Plenary : Regional coordinating mechanism for the AIS region, including Brainstorming session on what could be some priorities areas for regional AIS SIDS cooperation, the regional coordination mechanism could start with</p>	<p>Moderator: H.E. Mr Jagdish D. Koonjul, GCSK, GOSK Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Ali Naseer Mohamed Mr Raj Mohabeer, Chargé de Mission, Indian Ocean Commission</p>
<p>6:00pm- 6:30pm</p>	<p>Closed Session</p>	

END OF DAY 2

<p>Wednesday 26 July</p>		
<p>9:00am – 1pm</p>	<p>Presentation and Discussion of Outcome Document</p>	<p>Chair: H.E. Mr Jagdish D. Koonjul, GCSK, GOSK Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN</p>
<p>1:00pm – 2:00pm</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	
<p>2:00 PM</p>	<p>Closing ceremony</p>	<p>Mauritius</p> <p>Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh , UN Resident Coordinator For Mauritius and Seychelles</p> <p>Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, OHRLLS</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Walton Webson Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the UN</p> <p>Mr. Li Junhua Under-Secretary-General UNDESA and Secretary General of the 4th International Conference on SIDS</p> <p>Government Representative</p>