



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the Caribbean SIDS for the 4th International Conference on SIDS

Kingstown, St. Vincent & The Grenadines
8-10 August 2023

CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD RESILIENT PROSPERITY

Programme of Work

Tuesday 8 August		
8:30am – 9am	Registration	
9:00am-9:45am	Official Opening	<p>Master of Ceremony: Ms. Dionne John, General Manager, National Broadcasting Corporation, St. Vincent & The Grenadines</p> <p>Welcome Remarks: Ms. Sandy, Peters-Phillips, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, St. Vincent & The Grenadines</p> <p>Remarks on Behalf of AOSIS: H.E. Mr Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN and Chair of AOSIS</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: Hon. Keisal Peters, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, St. Vincent & The Grenadines</p>
9:45am-10:15am	Coffee/Tea Break and Family Photo	
10:15am-10:30am	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 4th International Conference on SIDS

10:30 – 10:45am	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.	Presenter: H.E. Ms. I Rhonda King Permanent Representative of St. Vincent & The Grenadines to the UN
10:45am-12:45pm	<p>Assessment of SAMOA Pathway Progress</p> <p>A regional overview of SAMOA Pathway outcomes and impacts will set the stage for an exchange on national experiences implementing the SIDS agenda</p> <p><i>Interactive discussion</i></p>	<p>Chair: H.E. Ms. I Rhonda King Permanent Representative of St. Vincent & the Grenadines to the UN</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>National Presentations (Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago)</p> <p>Ms. Diane Quarless, Director ECLAC-Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean</p>
12:45 – 1:45 pm Lunch		
1:45 - 3:15pm	<p>Session 1:</p> <p>Strategic Responses to External Shocks impacting Caribbean SIDS</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 which has exacerbated their debt situation ii) rising cost of living due in part to the situation between Russia and Ukraine and (iii) climate-related disasters.</p> <p>Caribbean SIDS are experiencing fiscal and financial stress from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, as a result of increased public spending to respond to the health emergency and to recover from its impacts. Remittances and national revenues from key economic sectors such as tourism have been slow to fully recover. At the same time these countries, climate change and weather related disasters continues to threaten achievement of sustainable development, destroying infrastructure and interfering with livelihoods</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Tumasie Blair, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Antigua & Barbuda to the UN</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Victor Alegria, Director Sustainable Development, Belize</p> <p>Mr Diosdado de Jesús Hernández Morera, Expert, Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cuba</p> <p>Mr. Ian Durant, Director Caribbean Development Bank</p> <p>Ms. Rueanna Haynes, Director Climate Analytics, Caribbean</p> <p>Mr Regis Chapman, Representative World Food Programme</p> <p>Mr. Jair Torres, Programme Management Officer, Regional Office for the Americas & the Caribbean, UNDRR</p>

	<p>Unaddressed, there will be deepening hardship, debt defaults, widening inequality, political upheaval and a delayed shift to a low-carbon world. Overcoming these challenges requires the rapid scaling up of investments and available financial resources as well as capacity building to reduce vulnerability and build resilience. Reform of the international financial architecture will need to be a key component of this. This session will focus on challenges and emerging issues deserving closer attention to enhance the resilience to external shocks in Caribbean SIDS and explore way forward.</p>	
<p>3:15 – 3:30pm</p>	<p><i>Tea Break</i></p>	
<p>3:30pm–5:15pm</p>	<p>Session 2: Social and Human Capital development Priorities</p> <p>Ensuring social justice, social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and secure communities with access to essential goods and services are key components of sustainable development in SIDS. Youth engagement also plays a critical role in accelerating the implementation of sustainable development. Facilitating access to quality education and employment opportunities for the youth while promoting gender equality are central to fostering social inclusion. The COVID-19 highlighted the challenges in the Caribbean region including inadequate social protection, poverty, and high levels of crime. In this session, participants will engage in a discussion about the pressing challenges in social development in the Caribbean region and explore effective strategies to address them. Issues such as health, food security, youth, education and citizen security will be explored, with the</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Vladimir Budhu, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Trinidad & Tobago to the UN</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mrs Merissa Finch-Burke, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement.</p> <p>Ms. Tonya Ayow, Director CARICOM IMPACS</p> <p>Dr Lorna Inniss, UNESCO IOC</p> <p>Ms Angelica Jacome Daza, Director, Office of SIDS, LDC, LLDC, FAO</p> <p>Dr. Florian Lütticken, Team Leader / Counsellor – EU Caribbean Partnership for Governance, Security and Human Development, Delegation of The European Union to Barbados, The</p>

	being to drive equitable and resilient social development.	Eastern Caribbean States, OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM
5:15pm – 6:00pm	Closed Session – Day 1	For Caribbean States Only
END DAY 1		
7:00pm	Donor Engagement with Caribbean Member States	

WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST

9:00 – 10:45am	<p>Session 3: Resource Mobilization and Concessional Financing for Caribbean SIDS</p> <p>Many Caribbean SIDS have economies heavily reliant on a narrow range of sectors, such as tourism and agriculture. This lack of economic diversification makes them susceptible to external shocks and changes in global market. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated already high fiscal imbalances and debt vulnerabilities in many SIDS in the region,.</p> <p>While addressing these immediate needs, the international community must lay the path toward a new financial system that drives financial resources towards vulnerable countries. This requires the rapid scaling up of investments and available financial resources to reduce vulnerability and build resilience In this regard reform of the international financial architecture and the work on the High level Panel on the MVI is crucial and support from the International Community will be necessary to move this agenda forward.</p> <p>This session will feature insightful discussions and expert insights into the current landscape of resource mobilization in the region, shedding light on successful initiatives and identifying potential areas of improvement.</p>	<p>Moderator: Ms. Kimberly Louis, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the UN</p> <p>Ms. Kereeta Whyte, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Barbados to the UN</p> <p>Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC – Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean</p> <p>Ms. Simona Marinescu, Senior Adviser SIDS, UNOPS</p> <p>Dr Courtney Lindsey, ODI/RESI</p> <p>Mr. Alain Archibald, Multilateral Engagement Lead for the Caribbean British High Commission Guyana</p>
10:45am-11:00am	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	
11:00am – 12:45pm	<p>Session 4: Building Institutional and Statistical Capacity to support informed decision making in Caribbean SIDS</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Royston Alkins, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Guyana to the UN</p>

	<p>In the pursuit of sustainable development, Caribbean SIDS face numerous challenges that demand well-informed and effective decision-making. Building institutional and statistical capacity is crucial for enabling governments to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate development initiatives accurately and transparently. The roundtable seeks to have an exchange to improve institutional and data capacity to support planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation for improved governance and operationalization of development plans</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms. Cyeth Denton-Watts, Consellor, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN</p> <p>Ms. Amrikha Singh, Programme Manager Sustainable Development, CARICOM Secretariat</p> <p>Dr. Laura Lee Boodram, Head Vector Bourne Diseases, Caribbean, Public Health Agency (CARPHA)</p> <p>Ms. Tonni Ann Brodber, Representative, UN Women, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean</p>
<p>12:45 – 1:45pm</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	
<p>1:45 – 3:30pm</p>	<p>Session 5: Innovative actions to stimulate transformative development in Caribbean SIDS</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency of embracing innovative approaches to building resilient economies and societies. This session focuses on scaling up innovative approaches to ensuring the sustainable development of SIDS through <i>inter alia</i> capitalizing on the region’s culture and creativity. It will examine how the region can remain competitive in a market that is focusing more on technology and digitalization. Discussions will also focus on leveraging digital advancements to enhance various sectors and also explore ways to stimulate novel solutions to local challenges, encourage start-ups, and boost private sector engagement in sustainable development.</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Travis Sinckler Senior Environmental Officer, Ministry of the Environment, Barbados</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms. Kennethia Douglas, Project Manager, SDGs, Technical Cooperation Unit Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad & Tobago</p> <p>Ms. Claudia Manfield Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the UN</p> <p>Mr. Chamberlain Emmanuel Head, Environmental Sustainability Division, OECS Commission</p> <p>Ms. Randi Davis, Senior Adviser for the Caribbean, UNDP</p>

		Mr. Vincent Sweeney Head, Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, UNEP
3:30pm – 3:45pm	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	
3:45pm – 5:15pm	<p>Session 6: Unlocking meaningful and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the sustainable development of the Caribbean region</p> <p>This session will explore essential enabling factors that can foster, enhance, and scale up multi-stakeholder partnerships, including policies that encourage collaboration, dedicated capacity-building initiatives, and innovative financing mechanisms to incentivize cross-sectorial collaboration. It will also include an exchange on opportunities for partnerships uniquely responsive to Caribbean development needs, with focus on a more structured role for the diaspora in financing and capacity development. A discussion on how the SIDS Partnership Framework can be strengthened to support effective partnership building in the region will also be included.</p>	<p>Moderator: H.E. Mr Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN and Chair of AOSIS and Mr. Jorge Aranda Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN Co-chairs of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, UNDESA</p> <p>Mr. Didier Trebucq, UN Resident Coordinator, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean</p> <p>Ms. Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director CANARI</p> <p>Mr. Travis Sinckler, Senior Environmental Officer, Ministry of the Environment, Barbados</p> <p>Private Sector Representative (TBC)</p> <p>Ms. Rachael Pringle, First Secretary (Development) Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the UN</p>
5:15pm- 6:00pm	Closed Session	

END OF DAY 2

Thursday 10 August		
8:30am – 10:45am	Discussion of Outcome Document (Closed Session)	Chair: H.E. Ms. I Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of St. Vincent & the Grenadines to the UN

10:45-11:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:00am – 11:45am	Rapporteur’s Report Presentation and Adoption of the Outcome Document	Vice Chair: Ms. Kimberly Louis, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the UN
12:00 PM	Closing ceremony	Mr. Tumasie Blair Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the UN Mr. Li Junhua Under-Secretary-General UNDESA and Secretary General of the 4th International Conference on SIDS Hon. Mr. Carlos James Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture

Documentation Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/smallislands/regional-preparatory-meeting-caribbean-region>