Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Relevant Stakeholders

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on 29 September 2023

1) Who can participate in the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) and its preparatory meetings?

Participation of representatives from non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the SIDS4 Conference is guided by General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/245 (Para 38, and Para 41) as well as by A/CONF.223/2024.PC.1 (Annex II, Section III).

Organizations that fall under the following categories will be able to request registration for their representatives to attend the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4):

1. Non-governmental organizations and major groups identified in Agenda 21 and other stakeholders in consultative status with ECOSOC. You can check if your organization has consultative status with ECOSOC [here](#).

2. Organizations that were accredited to any of the following previous United Nations’ conferences on the sustainable development of SIDS (please click on the links for details):
   - Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 26 April-6 May 1994, Bridgetown, Barbados;
   - International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 10-14 January 2005, Port Louis, Mauritius; and/or
   - Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, 1-4 September 2014, Apia, Samoa.

3. Organizations that receive special accreditation by the Preparatory Committee or the General Assembly to attend the SIDS4 Conference. Please refer to Question 2 below for details.
2) My organization is not on the lists above – can we attend the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and in the preparatory meetings?

Other relevant stakeholders, including the non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, and whose work is relevant to the subject of the International Conference, may participate as observers in the International Conference, as well as in the preparatory meetings, in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee or the General Assembly.

Interested organizations may apply for Special Accreditation to attend the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

Please carefully review the following sections of this FAQ before applying for special accreditation.

3) How can I request Special Accreditation for my organization?

The Special Accreditation process will be open from 29 September to 10 November 2023. Interested organizations should apply using this form: https://indico.un.org/event/1007774/

4. What information do I need to provide when submitting a request for Special Accreditation?

Accreditation applications can only be submitted on behalf of relevant organizations or entities. Applications by individuals are not accepted.

1. Applications can only be done through the dedicated online form available here: https://indico.un.org/event/1007774/
2. Important supporting documentation will be required, including:
   a. Purpose of Organization and expression of interest (template)
   b. Proof of legal status;
   c. Copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization;
   d. Copy of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements, and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;
   e. Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the conference and its preparatory process and the country or countries in which they are carried out. Non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation shall be asked to confirm their interest in the goals and objectives of the conference;
   f. Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;
   g. A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;
   h. A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution.

Please allow enough time to prepare all these documents!
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the ECOSOC or other entities listed on Question 1 (above) **do not need** to apply for special accreditation.

For questions related to the Special Accreditation process, please, email: ngls@un.org with the subject: [Special Accreditation – SIDS4].

5. **My organization applied for Special Accreditation. What is the process for Special Accreditation requests to be reviewed?**

The secretariat of the Conference will review the relevance of the work of the applicants on the basis of their background and involvement in sustainable development issues, in particular in the process of follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

Submissions must be in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. All submissions will be subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee or the General Assembly.

Approved organizations will be notified by the Secretariat by late January 2024 (estimated).

Once an organization or entity receives special accreditation, it will be able to register representatives to participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and/or its preparatory meetings, when registration is open for the Conference and/or its preparatory meetings. Approval of special accreditation does not automatically guarantee the organization’s participation in the Conference or its preparatory meetings.

6. **When will I know if my organization was specially accredited to participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States?**

Approved organizations will be notified by the Secretariat by late January 2024 (estimated).

7. **What is the difference between accreditation and registration for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings?**

Organizations that are accredited by the UN can request registration of their representatives (individuals) to attend the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings. Details about registration will be shared in due time on the Conference webpage.

8. **If my organization receives Special Accreditation to participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, do I still need to register for the Conference? Can I just show a copy of the confirmation letter to participate at the Conference and its preparatory meetings?**

Special accreditation of your organization **DOES NOT** automatically mean registration of individuals to attend the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States or its preparatory meetings. All organizations will still need to register their representatives to be able to participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings. Information
about registration to the preparatory meetings and for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be published in due time at the Conference’s website.

9. I do not belong to any organization. Can I attend the Conference or its preparatory meetings?

Unfortunately, you cannot register to attend the Conference or its preparatory meetings as an individual. Participants must be associated with an accredited organization in order to request registration and attend the Conference.

10. My organization has consultative status with ECOSOC. Do I need to register to attend the Conference?

Yes. All participants will need to register to participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings.

11. How can I register to participate at the Conference and/or its preparatory meetings?

Information about registration to the preparatory meetings and to the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be published in due time.

Please, check this page for updates: https://sdgs.un.org/smallislands.

12. How many representatives can each organization register to participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings?

Information about the number of participants each organization will be able to request will be available when registration opens. Please, check this page for updates: https://sdgs.un.org/smallislands.

13. Are funds available for stakeholders to participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings?

Registered stakeholders are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. The United Nations does not charge a fee for participation in the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States or any of its official events.

14. I represent a city and/or a regional government. Can I participate at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings?

Representatives of local and regional governments should register through their Member State delegation. Registration information for all categories of participants will be posted on the website: https://sdgs.un.org/smallislands.
Accredited associations of local and regional governments including those in consultative status with ECOSOC will also be able to register participants.

15. Are there opportunities for stakeholders to speak during the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meetings?

Information on engagement opportunities will be published here.

16. Can NGOs and other stakeholders organize side-events at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States?

Yes. Accredited organizations will be able to apply for side-events once the process is open. Information will be published on the website.

Do you still have questions?

Please, email: dsdg@un.org with subject [SIDS4 - Stakeholders]