



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Issue #1: 11 October 2023
229 days to go!

Message from the Secretary-General of the SIDS4 Conference:

“I am honoured to serve as Secretary-General of the [Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS4\)](#), which is taking place from 27 to 30 May 2024. Hosted by Antigua and Barbuda under the theme “charting the course toward resilient prosperity,” the Conference is expected to deliver a bold new Programme of Action for SIDS, with concrete, measurable targets to support SIDS to achieve their sustainable development objectives over the next ten years. The outcome will build on the [SAMOA Pathway](#) (2014); [Mauritius Strategy](#) (2004); and [Barbados Programme of Action](#) (1994).

The international community has long recognized the unique challenges that magnify SIDS vulnerability to external economic, social and environmental shocks including their small size, geographical remoteness, and comparatively narrow resource and export bases. The Conference will bring together world leaders, partners, civil society, private sector, academia, youth and other stakeholders, through a formal programme, including plenary sessions and interactive dialogues, as well as a range of side events, to develop practical and impactful solutions to address SIDS-specific challenges.

Over the past few months, SIDS have engaged in a preparatory process to lay the foundation for an ambitious outcome at SIDS4. Already, they are converging on priorities and proposing solutions for action at national, regional and global levels. I encourage all Member States to engage in the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations and support SIDS in this important endeavor.”

– Mr. Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs



Regional preparatory meetings

In preparation for SIDS4, regional meetings were held in each of the three SIDS regions to assess progress implementing the SAMOA Pathway and identify regional priorities and areas for action at SIDS4.

The Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Seas (AIS) Preparatory Meeting was hosted by Mauritius from 24 to 26 July. The AIS outcome document is available [here](#). The Caribbean Preparatory Meeting was hosted by St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 8 to 10 August. The Caribbean outcome document is available [here](#). The Pacific Preparatory Meeting was hosted by Tonga from 16 to 18 August. The Pacific outcome document is available [here](#).

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Interregional meeting

The interregional meeting, hosted by Cabo Verde from 30 August to 1 September, was an opportunity for SIDS to identify their shared priorities. The [Praia Declaration](#) sets out a common position, listing several action items under five pillars, which will be the basis of the new Programme of Action:

- Revitalizing our economies: strategies for dynamic and inclusive growth;
- Transformative actions to enhance environmental resilience;
- Forging a path to empowerment, equity, inclusion, peaceful societies and safe communities;
- Strengthening institutional and statistical capacity;
- Means of implementation: from vulnerability toward a more resilient future.

Among the priorities identified were climate change, access to concessional finance, including debt sustainability, biodiversity, blue economy, institutional capacity, partnerships, means of implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, including data.



Stakeholders' participation – special accreditation for non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders

Participation of representatives from non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders at 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.L1](#) (Annex II, Section III).

Who can participate?

Organizations that fall under the following categories will be able to request registration for their representatives to attend the SIDS4 Conference:

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.

Special accreditation process

As guided by resolution A/[CONF.223/2024.PC.L1](#) (Annex II, Section III), other relevant stakeholders who do not meet the above criteria but who wish to attend and contribute to the Conference may participate as observers in the Conference, as well as in the preparatory meetings, subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee or the General Assembly.

The secretariat of the Conference will review the relevance of the work of the applicant organizations on the basis of their background and involvement in sustainable development issues, in particular in the follow-up of 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](#).

Interested organizations must apply [here](#) by **10 November 2023**.

For additional information about stakeholder participation in the SIDS4 Conference, please visit: un.org/smallislands.

Global Online Stakeholder Consultation Report

To engage stakeholders, especially those in SIDS countries, with the substantive preparations for the Conference, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in collaboration with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), convened a [global online stakeholder consultation](#) from 13 June to 7 July 2023. Through the online form, stakeholders were asked to identify key challenges that SIDS face in achieving their sustainable development priorities and to highlight policy recommendations and examples of game-changing actions that can accelerate progress toward sustainable development in SIDS.

Based on more than 170 inputs from stakeholders, UN DESA prepared three regional snapshots and one interregional report that were promoted in connection with the regional and interregional preparatory meetings. The reports are available here:

- [Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea \(AIS\) Region](#)
- [Caribbean Region](#)
- [Pacific Region](#)
- [SIDS4 Conference Global Online Stakeholder Consultation Report](#)

For more information about the online consultation, please visit: bit.ly/SIDS4Consultation. All of the received answers can be accessed here: bit.ly/SIDSOnlineConsultationPublic.

Next steps

During the upcoming UN General Assembly Second Committee session, Member States will consider the annual resolution on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, which will begin to lay the groundwork for ambitious outcomes at SIDS4.

A zero draft outcome document for the Conference will be circulated to all Member States in December, ahead of intergovernmental negotiations commencing in January. Two Preparatory Committee sessions will be convened in New York from 22 to 26 January 2024 and from 1 to 5 April 2024 to progress the outcome document and build momentum toward the Conference.

For more information

- Visit the official SIDS4 website at sdgs.un.org/smallislands.
- Click [here](#) to sign up for our newsletter and receive the latest updates about the Conference straight to your inbox.
- Sign up [here](#) to receive regular updates and information regarding stakeholder engagement opportunities in the lead-up to and during the SIDS4 Conference.



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