



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

Issue #2: 8 December 2023  
**176 days to go!**

Message from the Special Adviser of the SIDS4 Conference:

*“The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be a pivotal moment to steer SIDS toward a resilient and prosperous future and assist them to overcome the barriers that hinder their progress and potential. It is our collective responsibility to help island states navigate the existential challenge posed by climate change and other adversities. Safeguarding oceans and marine ecosystems is crucial not only for the survival of SIDS, but for all of us.”*

– Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

The [fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS4\)](#) will take place from 27 to 30 May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda under the theme “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”. The Conference is expected to agree on a bold new Programme of Action for SIDS, with concrete and 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](#) (2005) and [Barbados Programme of Action](#) (1994).

The SIDS4 Conference will bring together world leaders, partners, civil society, the 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. For more details, please visit the SIDS4 Conference [website](#).

### **Themes for the interactive dialogues adopted**

As part of its formal programme, the SIDS4 Conference will feature five interactive and multi-stakeholder dialogues that will focus on addressing existing and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and ways and means to address

them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships. Member States had entrusted the Bureau of the Conference Preparatory Committee with finalizing the themes of these dialogues. To ensure an in-depth discussion, background notes will be prepared by the UN secretariat to inform each theme.

- Making climate finance work for SIDS: building on the outcomes of UNFCCC COP 28

The discussions will explore ways to significantly increase the provision and mobilization of climate finance, addressing both adaptation and loss and damage and upscaling solutions to climate change. Engagement in this theme should strategize around the outcome of COP 28 to fulfill the international community's commitment to limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, safeguarding our planet, its inhabitants and its biodiversity, and preventing the breaching further irreversible tipping points and surpassing of planetary boundaries, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement.

- Enhancing critical forms of financing and aid effectiveness through collaborative partnerships: a conversation

This session will encompass dialogues on global financial reform, utilizing multidimensional vulnerability index insights and policymaking to improve financial stability, enable debt relief and meet the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on shared partnership and private sector collaboration.

- Levering data and digital technologies and building effective Institutions for a resilient future in SIDS

This interactive dialogue will explore strategies and actions to bridge data gaps and enhance technological and institutional capacities that empower evidence-based policymaking. The dialogue can also explore tangible steps to implement and utilize the SIDS data hub and leverage recommendations from the Global Digital Compact to advance the adoption of digital technologies and infrastructure, building resilience and sustainable development in SIDS.

- Investing in human capital: addressing health crisis in SIDS and building the potential of youth in SIDS

This theme will facilitate focused discussions on developing actions to enhance social and human capital, addressing health, including mental health and education as pivotal components for unlocking opportunities for youth.

- Revitalizing SIDS Economies for accelerated and sustainable growth

Considering the challenges faced by SIDS across the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as those caused by external shocks, climate change, sea-level rise, rapid coastal erosion, the discussion should identify collective action towards enhancing SIDS' economic diversification, building resilience and disaster recovery, and propelling sustainable development through strategies, policies and initiatives. This theme would focus

on practical steps, partnerships and policies, including to utilize the blue economy for SIDS' sustainable growth, tourism, marine management, ocean industry expansion, renewable energy and ecosystem conservation.

## **First session of the Preparatory Committee**

The General Assembly ([A/RES/77/245](#)) had established the Preparatory Committee to undertake organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference. The Preparatory Committee held a one-day organizational session in May 2023 to adopt a [resolution](#) on the further modalities and format of the Conference.

Looking ahead, the Committee is set to convene two sessions in 2024, each lasting no more than five days. The first session, scheduled for 22-26 January 2024, at UN headquarters in New York, marks a significant milestone. During this session, the Committee will engage in the first substantive round of discussions on the zero draft outcome document of SIDS4, initiating a pivotal phase in shaping the trajectory of the Conference. More information will be posted [here](#).

## **Multi-stakeholder informative webinar**

On 26 October 2023, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the first informative webinar for stakeholders to share information about the SIDS4 Conference, including the special accreditation process. More than 670 registrations were received and around 370 participants attended the event. Ambassador Walton Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, Ambassador Carolyn Schwalger, Permanent Representative of New Zealand, and Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Maldives, delivered remarks. The recording and additional information are available [here](#).

## **SIDS4 at COP28**

Facing rising sea levels, excessive flooding and extreme storms, small island developing States (SIDS) suffer the worst effects of climate change despite contributing least to global carbon emissions. Ahead of SIDS4, Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Secretary-General of SIDS4 Conference, offered a preview of what to expect from this milestone event. Speaking at the COP 28 SDG Pavilion organized by UN DESA, he said that the conference will share the stories of people living in SIDS as well as showcase their solutions.

Watch the video of the SDG Pavilion SIDS4 session [here](#):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d55RRPe51Sk&t=3s>

## **For more information**

- Visit the official SIDS4 website at [www.un.org/smallislands](http://www.un.org/smallislands).

- Click [here](#) to sign up to our newsletter and receive the latest updates about the Conference straight to your inbox.



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