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Helping our world work better

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## **Report, ASTM International Side Event in Conjunction with the First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference; 22 January 2024**

ASTM International was honored to be selected to provide a side event in conjunction with the First Preparatory Committee Meetings for the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference. ASTM's program, titled "Standards: Practical, Science-Based Collaboration Building Resilience and Confronting Climate Change" was conducted on 22 January in Conference Room A of the United Nations Headquarters. This event represented the first side event ASTM International has conducted.

Teresa J. Cendrowska, Vice-president, Global Cooperation, ASTM International presented information about existing, practical, science-based consensus technical documents which support and enable the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and offer solutions to climate change and construction resilience.

The program addressed three key points:

- An introduction to ASTM International which has provided an open, transparent, consensus-based process for developing science-based, market relevant technical standards for 125 years.
- Information about ASTM's partnerships with 125 national and regional standardization bodies, designated as Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) partners, and a listing of the nations where these partnerships exist. It was noted that most partners are in transitioning economies, and that the ASTM's MoU community includes 21 Small Developing Island States
- Illustrations of technical standards which may serve as tools to enable policy makers to address climate change challenges and resilient infrastructure planning were provided. Examples ranged from topics such as construction materials and practices and energy alternatives to sustainable manufacturing and benefits of risk reduction strategies.

Attendees were informed of existing Memoranda of Understanding or the opportunity to establish a cooperative agreement for their respective nations, enabling economical (no-cost), efficient access to the technical standards. Participants were also reminded that they have the ability to influence the content of the standards to reflect local needs.

ASTM extends its appreciation for the opportunity to present a side event.