

SIDS Partnership Symposium

Advancing partnerships in support of the new Programme of Action for SIDS

19 and 23 February 2024, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok

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Introduction



The SIDS Partnership Symposium, held over two days on 19 and 23 February 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand, was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD). This event was conducted in the margins of the 2024 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and aimed to advance partnerships in support of the new Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Symposium had several objectives, including gathering insights and perspectives from SIDS stakeholders on improving the SIDS Partnership Framework¹ – the mechanism that emerged from the third International Conference on SIDS to promote, monitor, and stimulate the launch of new partnerships for SIDS - exploring ways to enhance coalitions and partnerships on key SIDS priorities, and fostering peer learning and knowledge exchange among stakeholders to build effective collaborations for SIDS.

Key priorities addressed during the Symposium included partnerships for science, technology, innovation, and digitalization; partnerships for climate finance; and the role of higher education in driving sustainable development in SIDS. These priorities were identified based on the Praia (Cabo

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states/sids-partnership-framework>

Verde) Declaration, which emphasized the need to strengthen the SIDS Partnership Framework² and enhance collaboration in various sectors. In addition, the zero draft of the outcome document of SIDS4 (as of March 2024) includes a request to the UN Secretary-General to provide recommendations for the strengthening of the Framework³.

To gather comprehensive insights from stakeholders, a survey on partnerships for SIDS⁴ was also launched, encouraging participants to contribute their perspectives. The Symposium aimed to translate these insights into actionable steps to support the prosperity and well-being of SIDS, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for all.

The proceedings of the Symposium will contribute to the development of two significant outputs, crucial for informing the discourse on partnerships in preparation for the fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4):

1. **Recommendations for Strengthening the SIDS Partnership Framework:** These recommendations will offer valuable insights into how the SIDS Partnership Framework can be enhanced within the new program of action for SIDS. By providing strategies and approaches to improve the framework's efficacy in supporting SIDS priorities, they will play a pivotal role in shaping discussions and actions leading up to SIDS4.
2. **Assessment of Partnership Development Requirements:** This assessment will analyze the requirements for scaling up partnership development in priority areas. By identifying key actors, initiatives, and resource needs, it will lay the groundwork for future collaboration efforts. The findings will inform discussions and planning sessions aimed at maximizing partnership outcomes in preparation for SIDS4.

SIDS Partnership Symposium website: <https://sdgs.un.org/SIDS/BKK>

Day 1 – Partnership Dialogue

Opening segment

Welcoming remarks, Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, delivered a comprehensive overview of the importance of partnership and collaboration in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the Pacific region. She began with gratitude for attendees and welcomed them to a Symposium focused on partnerships, acknowledging the significance of such initiatives leading up to the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Development in Antigua and Barbuda. The speaker recalled the previous meeting in Tonga, underscoring the continuity of discussions within the context of the Fourth International Conference.

Ms. Alisjahbana emphasized the critical role of partnership in achieving sustainable development and advancing the Pacific blue economy agenda by leveraging resources and expertise. She highlighted the unique vulnerabilities and needs of Pacific Island states, as outlined in the annual SDG report,

² Paragraph 95 of the Praia (Cabo Verde) Declaration, the outcome of the Interregional Preparatory Meeting of SIDS4, <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Interregional%20outcome%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

³ Paragraph 48c of https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/Clean%20version%20SIDS4_Zero_draft_Outcome_Document.pdf

⁴ <https://forms.office.com/e/zMjMMv8Je1>

while acknowledging progress made in the past decade through various initiatives and frameworks. The emphasis was placed on inclusive economic growth and social inclusion, climate action, and digitalization as key priorities.

The Executive Secretary underscored the importance of partnership in addressing these priorities, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, education, transportation, and renewable energy. She stressed the need for collaborative efforts in climate adaptation, protection of coastal ecosystems, and digital transformation to drive economic growth and job creation while mitigating climate change impacts.

Furthermore, Ms. Alisjahbana's address called for continued leadership and commitment to Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing the role of multilateralism and regional cooperation. It committed to monitoring progress and facilitating collaboration at both regional and national levels to ensure the effective implementation of initiatives.

In conclusion, Ms. Alisjahbana urged attendees to actively engage in discussions and initiatives related to sustainable development, expressing confidence in the collective efforts to address challenges and promote prosperity in the Pacific region.

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit at UN DESA

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit at UN DESA, opened the Symposium by extending a warm welcome to all participants. He expressed appreciation for the attendance of H.E. from Palau, noting her dual role as the Co-chair of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships and her representation at the United Nations. Mr. Navoti also acknowledged the presence of Mr. Sudip Basu and Ms. Andie Fong Toy from the UNESCAP Pacific office, emphasizing their collaborative efforts in organizing the event.

In his address, Mr. Navoti underscored the significance of the Symposium, which aligns with the General Assembly's resolution calling for interregional and regional preparatory meetings leading up to the 4th International Conference on SIDS. He emphasized that these meetings, including sessions focused on partnerships, were crucial in fulfilling the requests of member states. The Symposium, Mr. Navoti explained, serves as a continuation of these efforts, aiming to gather insights and recommendations on strengthening the SIDS partnership framework.

Highlighting the importance of collaboration and expertise, Mr. Navoti welcomed all participants and emphasized their valuable contributions in shaping discussions and providing guidance during the coming two days. As the event commenced, Mr. Navoti expressed optimism about the outcomes, anticipating productive exchanges that would ultimately contribute to enhancing the SIDS Partnership Framework in the next decade of action for SIDS.

Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, ESCAP

Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, ESCAP, delivered a warm greeting and expressed delight at the presence of esteemed attendees, including ambassadors, colleagues, participants, and friends from the Pacific. He outlined the purpose of the Symposium over the next two days: to understand policymakers' top priorities and ensure the Pacific's voices and expectations are integrated into the final declaration of the upcoming conference in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr. Basu outlined four dimensions of partnership in the Pacific, emphasizing collaborative efforts among UN agencies, member states, and stakeholders to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Pacific's development agenda. He highlighted the significance of recent initiatives and frameworks, such as the 2015 implementation plan, in driving regional progress.

The speaker emphasized the need for strong partnerships to address emerging challenges, including climate action and inclusive economic growth. He underscored the power of collaboration in unlocking development opportunities and achieving sustainable outcomes, citing examples of successful partnerships in the Pacific region.

Mr. Basu highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance partnership through technical assistance and collaboration within the UN system, particularly through multi-country offices in Fiji, Samoa, and Micronesia FSM. He emphasized the importance of platforms like the Pacific SDG Forum and annual Commission meetings in fostering dialogue and partnership.

In conclusion, Mr. Basu expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts and emphasized the importance of solidarity and partnership in achieving the Pacific's development goals.

Keynote address, H.E. Ms. Ilana Victorya Seid

H.E. Ms. Ilana Victorya Seid, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau and co-chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, delivered the keynote address. Ambassador Seid emphasized the significance of partnerships in fostering resilient prosperity for these nations. As the co-chair of the steering committee, she highlighted the impending 4th International Conference on SIDS, stressing the need for a new program of action to guide SIDS in achieving their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next decade.

Central to Ambassador Seid's remarks was the imperative outlined in the Praia Declaration to fortify the SIDS Partnership framework. This framework aims to strengthen communities through capacity-building initiatives, environmental conservation efforts, and enhanced knowledge-sharing mechanisms encompassing information, data, and coordination strategies. Notably, three priority areas for partnerships were identified: science, technology, and innovation; climate finance; and higher education.

Ambassador Seid delineated three key objectives for the participants. Firstly, she urged a critical examination of the existing SIDS Partnership Framework to identify areas for enhancement, stressing the importance of feedback from grassroots stakeholders to address operational challenges and optimize partnership effectiveness. Secondly, she advocated for the consolidation of coalitions and partnerships around the three priority areas identified in the Praia Declaration. Lastly, she emphasized the need to foster peer learning and knowledge exchange among stakeholders to facilitate effective collaboration for SIDS' development.

In line with these objectives, Ambassador Seid encouraged dialogue regarding the establishment of a Center for Excellence for SIDS, potentially to be hosted in Antigua and Barbuda, as a hub for knowledge dissemination and collaboration. She sought to harness the insights and recommendations garnered from the Symposium to strengthen the SIDS partnership framework and develop an assessment framework for scaling up partnerships integral to SIDS' developmental goals.

In conclusion, Ambassador Seid expressed anticipation for the forthcoming discussions and working groups during the Symposium, envisioning them as platforms for generating actionable recommendations to propel SIDS' development agenda forward.

Presentation - SIDS Partnership Framework - history, purpose, and the role of partnerships in driving SIDS' priorities, Mr. Ola Goransson

Mr. Ola Goransson, a Sustainable Development Officer from the Division for SDGs at UN DESA, began his address by expressing gratitude to the attendees, recognizing the efforts many had made to join the Symposium. He acknowledged the challenges faced by some in reaching the venue and extended heartfelt appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the event's objectives.

Highlighting the Symposium's purpose, Mr. Goransson emphasized the importance of gathering insights and perspectives from participants to enhance the effectiveness of the SIDS Partnership Framework. He stressed the need for open and candid discussions to assess the Framework's strengths and weaknesses, ultimately aiming to refine it for better support of SIDS priorities.

Providing a historical context, Mr. Goransson traced the origins of the SIDS Partnership Framework back to the third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa a decade ago. He detailed the framework's key components, such as the Steering Committee, the annual Global Partnership Dialogue, and the encouragement to organize regional and national partnership dialogues, emphasizing their role in facilitating collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, and the SIDS Partnership Awards.

Furthermore, Mr. Goransson elaborated on the UN's efforts to support partnership development within the Framework, including training sessions and comprehensive analysis of partnerships launched under its auspices. He underscored the organization's commitment to fulfilling the mandates set by member states, ensuring the Framework's activities align with the evolving needs of SIDS.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Goransson outlined the agenda for the Symposium, which encompassed sessions on various thematic areas such as science, technology, innovation, and climate finance. He encouraged active participation and collaboration among attendees, emphasizing the Symposium's role as a platform for constructive dialogue and idea exchange.

In closing, Mr. Goransson expressed sincere appreciation for the attendees' engagement and reiterated the importance of their contributions to the Symposium's objectives.

Partnership engagement exercise, Mr. Darian Stibbe

Mr. Darian Stibbe, Executive Director of The Partnering Initiative, began by introducing his organization, which collaborates closely with the UN system to facilitate effective collaboration for sustainable development. He emphasized the importance of bringing together all sectors of society and their respective resources to address challenges through collaboration.

Mr. Stibbe noted a shift in the nature of partnerships since their introduction in 2014 at the third international Conference on SIDS, moving beyond intergovernmental and funding partnerships to encompass diverse sectors such as business, academia, international investors, and civil society. He highlighted the need for innovative solutions and transformative collaborations to address challenges like the blue economy, where various stakeholders must combine efforts for effective outcomes.

To engage participants, Mr. Stibbe initiated a lively interaction to identify attendees' affiliations and experiences in traveling to the Symposium. He encouraged participation from government, civil society, UN system, academia, and business sectors, fostering networking and collaboration among attendees.

In conclusion, Mr. Stibbe energized attendees with a partnering exercise, emphasizing the importance of active participation and collaboration to achieve the Symposium's objectives.

Partnerships for Science, Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization

The session titled "Priority Area 1 – Partnerships for Science, Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization" as introduced by Mr. Ola Goransson, focused on the importance of partnerships for Science, Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization in advancing sustainable development in SIDS. Mr. Goransson emphasized that partnerships were crucial for leveraging resources and bringing innovative solutions to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS.

The session was divided into two parts. The first part featured presentations by Mr. Jonathan Tsuen Yip Wong, Chief of Innovation, Enterprise, and Investment from ESCAP, and Mr. Bridge Thomas, Special Assistant to the President of Palau, who shared their perspectives on science, technology, innovation, and digitalization partnerships. Additionally, insights from partnerships represented by Mr. Ashish Narayan from the International Telecommunication Union and Ms. Young Kim from the UN Environment Programme were introduced.

In the second part, participants engaged in group discussions to examine how collaboration could be scaled up in various sectors, discussing incentives and barriers to engagement in partnerships. The session aimed to gather insights to inform future collaboration strategies.

Part 1 – Setting the scene

Key questions addressed:

- *In what ways can partnerships leverage data and digitalization to support evidence-based decision-making for sustainable development in SIDS?*
- *What role can partnerships play in advancing sustainable development goals in SIDS through science, technology, innovation, and digitalization?*
- *How can coordination at the global, regional, and national levels contribute to fostering more effective partnerships in this area?*

Mr. Jonathan Tsuen Yip Wong, Chief of Innovation, Enterprise and Investment, ESCAP

During his presentation, Mr. Jonathan Tsuen Yip Wong, Chief of Innovation, Enterprise, and Investment at ESCAP, provided a comprehensive overview of the significance of partnerships for science, technology, innovation, and digitalization (STID), with a particular focus on the role of the private sector. He began by addressing the nuances between science, technology, and innovation within the UN system, highlighting their interrelated yet distinct characteristics. Wong then shifted the focus to ESCAP's approach towards fostering an inclusive digital future, emphasizing the imperative of digital inclusion in government transformation strategies and economic frameworks.

One of the central points of Wong's presentation was the stark reality of the digital divide, particularly evident in the Asia-Pacific region, where over 2 billion people lack access to digital resources. He

underscored ESCAP's policy priorities aimed at bridging this gap, including initiatives to enhance connectivity, digital skills, and digital identification services. Wong provided examples of successful initiatives across the region, such as Thailand's provision of free public Wi-Fi hotspots and targeted digital skills training programs in countries like Türkiye.

Moreover, Wong highlighted the pivotal role of private sector partnerships in driving innovation and addressing societal challenges. He cited collaborations such as the South Pacific Connected Initiative with Google and initiatives supporting women entrepreneurs in Fiji and Samoa as exemplary models of private sector engagement in advancing digital inclusion. Wong emphasized that private sector involvement brings not only financial resources but also expertise and innovative solutions to complex problems.

In terms of recommendations for enhancing public-private collaboration, Wong emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing, open policymaking, and private sector capacity development. He stressed that governments must integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the core business models of private enterprises and incentivize sustainable practices. Wong cited examples of policies, such as Thailand's Social Enterprise Act, which offer tax breaks and other incentives to businesses that prioritize social and environmental impact alongside profit.

In conclusion, Wong's presentation provided valuable insights into the critical role of private sector engagement in advancing STID and fostering inclusive digital development. By highlighting successful partnerships and offering actionable recommendations, he underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges of the digital age and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Bridge Thomas, Special Assistant to the President, Office of the President of Palau

Mr. Bridge Thomas, representing the Office of the President of Palau as a Special Assistant, conveyed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Symposium and represent Palau's interests. Expressing an understanding of the importance of sharing insights from Palau's unique perspective, Thomas underscored his eagerness to engage with fellow attendees and glean knowledge from their diverse experiences. Despite his relative novelty to such forums, Thomas introduced himself as a pivotal figure involved in Palau's policy and planning processes, particularly focusing on the development of the country's second Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Mr. Thomas provided an outline of his presentation, assuring brevity while covering essential aspects of Palau's VNR outlook, challenges, achievements, and future trajectories. Initially intending to forgo slides, he decided to prepare them to enhance clarity and organization in his delivery. Thomas stressed the need to draw lessons from past VNR processes, highlighting the imperative to bolster inclusivity, data quality, and forward-thinking strategies in Palau's ongoing VNR efforts.

Transitioning to Palau's progress across various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Mr. Thomas offered detailed insights into specific initiatives aimed at social protection, equitable access to basic services, food security, climate resilience, gender equality, and partnership-building. He elaborated on Palau's endeavors, including the implementation of social protection programs, educational subsidies, disaster response frameworks, and measures to mitigate climate change impacts. Despite acknowledging challenges such as data inadequacy, high rates of overnutrition, and vulnerability to climate disasters, Thomas remained optimistic about the opportunities for capacity building and partnership enhancement.

Addressing key questions posed in the Symposium's program, Mr. Thomas articulated Palau's commitment to leveraging data and digitalization for evidence-based decision-making, advancing SDGs through innovation, and enhancing coordination across different levels of governance. He underscored Palau's focus on utilizing technology for informed decision-making, fostering collaboration for innovative solutions, and ensuring policy coherence at national and regional levels.

In conclusion, Mr. Thomas expressed gratitude to the individuals supporting Palau's representation at the Symposium and reiterated his commitment to contributing constructively to the discussions, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Ashish Narayan, Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Ashish Narayan, from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, commenced his presentation by expressing gratitude and introducing himself as responsible for coordinating with Pacific Island countries and overseeing digital services in the Asia Pacific region.

Mr. Narayan then delved into the broader context of digital transformation, emphasizing ICT's pervasive influence across Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at both international and national levels. With a respectful acknowledgment of ITU's historical significance as one of the firsts UN specialized agencies, he provided a brief overview of its specialized role in telecommunications.

Transitioning smoothly to the core of his presentation, Mr. Narayan outlined the trajectory of digitalization from global agendas to national strategies, with a particular focus on digital transformation policies and sectoral strategies. It was evident that his expertise in the field allowed him to navigate complex concepts with ease, ensuring clarity for his audience.

With the stage set, Mr. Narayan then delved into the concept of "smart villages" and "smart islands," elucidating the need for a holistic approach to leverage existing infrastructure and enhance sustainability. Through his articulate delivery, he conveyed the importance of connectivity, skills development, affordability, and digital service provision in empowering communities.

Drawing from a compelling case study in South Malekula Island, Mr. Narayan exemplified how ITU's initiatives, in collaboration with various partners, have facilitated digital inclusion and socioeconomic development in remote areas. His narrative was not only informative but also deeply engaging, capturing the audience's attention and fostering a sense of empathy for the communities impacted by these transformative projects.

As Mr. Narayan concluded his presentation, he extended an invitation for further discussion and elaboration on specific projects or initiatives, highlighting the tangible impacts and transformative potential of ITU's interventions in bridging the digital divide.

Ms. Yujeong Kim, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN Environment Programme

Ms. Yujeong Kim, Senior Sustainable Development Officer at UNEP, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the audience and emphasized the urgent need to confront the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, particularly in SIDS (SIDS). She underscored

the unique challenges faced by SIDS, including vulnerability to climate change and resource constraints, highlighting the importance of evidence-based development planning and policymaking.

Ms. Kim elaborated on UNEP's collaborative initiatives tailored to the specific needs of SIDS, with a focus on science, data, and digitalization. She highlighted the development of an environmental data portal for 14 SIDS as a successful partnership project aimed at strengthening data production capacity and enhancing data availability for informed decision-making. Concrete examples of the portal's impact included improved management of protected areas in Tonga, development of national environment sector plans in Samoa, and the regulation of single-use plastics in Vanuatu.

Furthermore, Ms. Kim discussed the potential of citizen science in data collection, citing the Green Fins initiative led by the Reef World Foundation as an example. This initiative involves dive centers, instructors, and divers in monitoring coral reef health and marine mammal populations, leveraging the enthusiasm of tourists for conservation efforts during recreational diving activities. The data collected is used locally by park managers and scientists, nationally by governments, and internationally by various organizations.

In closing, Ms. Kim reaffirmed UNEP's commitment to supporting SIDS in addressing environmental challenges and highlighted the importance of partnerships involving diverse stakeholders for creating synergies and fostering collective action.

Part 2 - Scaling up collaboration

Mr. Darian Stibbe began by emphasizing the importance of partnerships across different societal sectors in addressing challenges related to innovation, digitalization, and science. Mr. Stibbe outlined various stakeholders, including government, academia, civil society, NGOs, funders, and the private sector, highlighting the diverse resources and expertise each brings to the table.

Mr. Stibbe presented a conceptual map illustrating the potential contributions of each stakeholder group, emphasizing the need for collaboration to create comprehensive solutions. Mr. Stibbe proposed a structured discussion format, where participants would join different sector group tables to explore challenges, incentives, and strategies for promoting collaboration.

The session aimed to identify barriers to engagement and encourage brainstorming on how to incentivize partnerships. Participants were encouraged to consider perspectives outside their usual sector and contribute ideas on how to foster stronger collaboration. Mr. Stibbe concluded by outlining the objectives of the group discussions and emphasized the importance of reporting back to the plenary session to share insights and ideas generated during the discussions.

Group discussions were then conducted over 30 minutes to explore the resources offered by different sectors and identify factors motivating or hindering their involvement in forming partnerships to advance science, technology, innovation, and digitalization in SIDS.

Key questions addressed:

- What resources do different sectors offer to support sustainable development in SIDS, particularly in science, technology, innovation, and digitalization?
- What motivates or hinders their involvement in forming partnerships to advance these goals?

Following the group discussions, 20 minutes were dedicated to synthesizing insights from each group. This involved an open plenary discussion aimed at exploring actionable steps to scale up collaboration, drawing from the diverse perspectives shared throughout the session.

Overall, the exercises provided valuable insights into how various sectors can contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS and identified strategies to overcome barriers and enhance collaboration in this important endeavor.

Synthesizing insights

- **Government:** The government group stressed the crucial role of leadership in driving partnerships and facilitating development initiatives. They emphasized that governments are uniquely positioned to leverage their authority, infrastructure, and policy-making capabilities to address challenges and create opportunities for progress. Additionally, they highlighted the importance of engaging trusted knowledge institutions, such as universities, for research and data-driven decision-making. However, they acknowledged challenges such as the disconnect between researchers and policymakers, which hinders effective collaboration. Overcoming these challenges requires fostering stronger connections and ensuring that research findings are relevant and accessible for informing policy decisions.
- **Academia:** Representatives from academia group emphasized the wealth of resources that universities and research institutions bring to partnerships, including research data, funding opportunities, and existing infrastructure for research. They underscored the role of academia in driving innovation, enhancing learning and teaching, and contributing to evidence-based solutions. However, they also recognized challenges such as the need for better integration between research and policy spheres and ensuring that research outputs are relevant and applicable to real-world problems. Addressing these challenges requires fostering closer collaboration between academia and policymakers and enhancing the visibility and impact of academic research.
- **Funders and Donors:** The discussion on funders and donors group highlighted the diverse range of organizations and entities that contribute to funding initiatives, including foundations, donor governments, development banks, and private sector entities. Participants outlined the various resources and incentives that funders bring to partnerships, such as financial support, technical assistance, and networks. However, they also identified challenges such as the complexity of funding processes, small market sizes, regulatory barriers, and capacity limitations. Overcoming these challenges requires streamlining funding mechanisms, enhancing collaboration among funders, and addressing the specific needs and constraints of SIDS.
- **Civil Society:** The Civil society group emphasized the invaluable role of communities and grassroots organizations in partnerships, bringing the voice of the community, feedback, and local knowledge to the table. They highlighted the importance of understanding and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups and ensuring that data collection and storytelling are respectful and inclusive. However, they also acknowledged challenges such as limited resources, funding constraints, and the need for effective planning and sustainability. To strengthen civil society engagement, participants stressed the importance of empowering local communities, building effective partnerships, and advocating for meaningful participation in decision-making processes.
- **Private Sector:** In discussing the private sector's role in partnerships, participants distinguished between large companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), highlighting the importance of recognizing and supporting SMEs' contributions. They emphasized the potential for innovation and resilience within SMEs, as well as the need to

give them a voice and space in partnership discussions. Additionally, participants discussed challenges such as top-down approaches, lack of recognition for SME innovation, and the need for better connectivity and collaboration platforms. To maximize private sector engagement, participants stressed the importance of fostering an enabling environment, promoting local innovation, and facilitating collaboration between large companies and SMEs.

Overall, the group discussions underscored the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, and innovation in driving partnerships for sustainable development in SIDS. By leveraging the unique strengths and resources of each sector and addressing common challenges, stakeholders can work together more effectively to achieve shared goals and create positive change in SIDS communities.

Higher education and SIDS

The Symposium featured a lunch-time brown bag event on how the need requirements to build a coalition to scale up efforts to enhance the knowledge in higher education to support implementation of sustainable development in SIDS.

Higher education institutions are instrumental in fostering sustainable development in SIDS by inspiring future generations to cultivate the skills, mindsets, and attitudes needed for societal transformation. It's essential to integrate increased investment opportunities in higher education institutions into SIDS development strategies. Enhancing the teaching of sustainable development across disciplines, supporting innovative research and analysis, and adopting sustainable campus practices while nurturing local ecosystem building endeavors can foster a participatory approach throughout SIDS. Additionally, bolstering partnerships among higher education institutions in SIDS is crucial for enhancing collaborative efforts in areas such as mobility, funding, teaching, capacity building, and research.

Ms. Elena Proden, UNITAR

Ms. Elena Proden, representing UNITAR, extends her gratitude for the opportunity to contribute remotely to the event. She introduces a collaborative initiative between UNITAR and UNESCO aimed at advancing sustainability competencies within higher education institutions, with a particular focus on SIDS.

The program, developed in conjunction with UNESCO and various universities, seeks to facilitate a comprehensive approach to sustainability education. Ms. Proden emphasizes the inclusive nature of the initiative, which encompasses not only universities, but also local authorities and centers involved in sustainability and community engagement efforts.

She elaborated on the program's objectives, which include promoting sustainability competencies defined by UNESCO and fostering leadership dialogue within higher education institutions. This strategic approach aims to instigate transformative change across faculties and educational programs, encouraging a holistic view of sustainability within academic institutions.

The initiative involves engaging university leaders, such as rectors and deans, in strategic discussions to identify and enact institutional transformations supportive of sustainability goals. Additionally, faculty members participate in capacity-building programs focused on integrating sustainability competencies and interdisciplinary approaches into their teaching practices.

Recognizing the importance of knowledge dissemination and institutional buy-in, the program includes a component where participating faculty members mentor their colleagues and facilitate the spread of knowledge within their institutions. Furthermore, there are plans to expand the program regionally, sub-regionally, and nationally, allowing participating institutions to share best practices and collaborate on sustainability initiatives at various levels.

Ms. Proden underscored the innovative and participatory nature of the program's development, citing input and feedback from participating universities and stakeholders as integral to its success. She hopes that the program will not only foster engagement among higher education institutions but also serve as a model for collaborative and inclusive program development in the field of sustainability education.

Mr. Ola Goransson, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for SDGs, UN DESA, co-chair of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative

Mr. Ola Goransson from UN DESA expressed gratitude to Ms. Elena for her insights, highlighting the potential for the discussed initiatives to incorporate a focus on SIDS. He underscored the purpose of the gathering, which was to foster collaboration among various stakeholders to advance sustainability through higher education.

Mr. Goransson, in his role as a representative of the Higher Education and Sustainability Initiative (HESI), emphasized the importance of exploring the role of higher education in promoting sustainability within society. He acknowledged the diverse expertise present in the room, including representatives from UNESCO, UNITAR, ESCAP, and other institutions.

Mr. Goransson called for discussion on how to establish a coalition that could effectively address SIDS' priorities through higher education initiatives. He invited Ms. Navoti to provide an overview, particularly focusing on the ongoing efforts of the University Consortium for Small Islands.

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, Division for SDGs, UN DESA, focal point for the Universities Consortium of Small Island States

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit at UN DESA, discussed efforts to monitor the sustainable implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda for SIDS (SIDS). He mentioned ongoing negotiations for the next agenda, to be agreed upon at the 4th International Conference on SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr. Navoti highlighted the focus of the conversation on higher education and the efforts to incorporate SIDS (SIDS) into the higher education for sustainable development framework. He outlined the history of the SIDS University Consortium and noted the need for its revitalization due to changes in the higher education landscape in SIDS.

Collaboration with UNESCO and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) was emphasized as integral to revitalizing the consortium. Mr. Navoti proposed including the consortium in the outcome document of the upcoming SIDS conference to formalize its role and support from governments and development partners. He suggested partnerships between universities in SIDS and those in developing countries, as well as under South-South cooperation, as a way forward.

Despite challenges, including the impact of COVID-19 on funding, Mr. Navoti expressed optimism about continuing the revitalization efforts with support from various stakeholders and under the

umbrella of HESI. He emphasized the importance of revitalizing the SIDS University Consortium as part of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, UN ESCAP

Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head of the Subregional Office for the Pacific at UN ESCAP, on behalf of Mr. Jaap Van Hierden, Resident Coordinator for Micronesia, discussed several key points regarding the role of higher education institutions in SIDS (SIDS) in driving sustainable development:

- **Inspiring and Equipping Future Generations:** Higher education institutions in SIDS must provide holistic education, including academic, technical, vocational, and lifelong learning opportunities. They play a crucial role in shaping future leaders, providing essential knowledge in various fields, and promoting social and environmental responsibility.
- **Integrating Sustainable Development Principles:** Strategies for integrating sustainable development principles across all disciplines include shifting from disciplinary silos to interdisciplinary approaches, embracing cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge, and promoting teacher training and professional development in climate change education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
- **Supporting Innovative Research:** Higher education institutions can enhance sustainable technology usage and innovations, align research with the needs of SIDS, mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into curricula, and establish centers of excellence for climate change and biodiversity sciences.
- **Adopting Sustainable Campus Practices:** Universities in SIDS can lead by example by implementing sustainable campus practices such as emission-free campuses, virtual learning, and long-term campus development frameworks in collaboration with authorities and partners.
- **Promoting North-South and South-South Exchange and Partnerships:** Initiatives such as the UNESCO Global and Regional Conventions on Recognition of Qualifications, the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) network, and ongoing support from the United Nations system facilitate exchange and partnerships among higher education institutions in SIDS, enhancing efforts towards sustainable development in the region.

Ms. Lily Bosen Liu, Head, Partnership and UN Liaison Unit, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education (IESALC)

Ms. Lily Bosen Liu emphasized the importance of revitalizing the SIDS University Consortium and maximizing its potential impact around the following areas:

- **Networking and Collaboration:** Lily highlighted the significance of the consortium as a platform for connecting higher education institutions within SIDS and leveraging partnerships with other global networks such as UNESCO chairs, High C, and the South-South University Collaboration network. She emphasized the need for meaningful engagement within the consortium to ensure its effectiveness.
- **Concrete Impact and Grassroots Projects:** She proposed preparing ahead with multiple lines of projects to ensure concrete grassroots impact within one to three years of the consortium's revitalization. This proactive approach aims to address common challenges and explore solutions specific to SIDS.
- **Student Engagement and Indigenous Needs:** Lily stressed the importance of engaging students in entrepreneurial missions and addressing the specific needs of indigenous groups

within the SIDS region. She highlighted the consortium's potential to deliver relevant solutions in local languages and create a comprehensive understanding of local contexts.

- **Ethical and Responsible Leadership:** Lily advocated for higher education institutions to lead by example in promoting ethical, responsible, and sustainable practices. She emphasized the role of higher education in shaping groundbreaking practices from the outset, thus contributing to sustainable development efforts.
- **Support from IESALC:** Lily reiterated IESALC's commitment to providing evidence-based partnership data and support for the consortium's establishment. She expressed willingness to engage in projects with the consortium and collaborate with initiatives like HESI and the South-South University Cooperation network.

Overall, Ms. Liu underscored the importance of thorough preparation and meaningful engagement to maximize the impact of the revitalized SIDS University Consortium in driving sustainable development within the SIDS region and beyond.

Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)

Dr. Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), shared insights based on Thailand's experience in education development, highlighting the importance of university networks and practical education:

- **Education Development in Thailand:** Dr. Chaisrisawatsuk acknowledged Thailand's journey through various stages of education development, emphasizing efforts to improve access to higher education. He noted the impact of different policies, some with positive outcomes and others with negative consequences.
- **Importance of University Networking:** He emphasized the growing significance of university networks, particularly the consortium discussed in the Symposium. Dr. Chaisrisawatsuk expressed interest in Thailand participating in South-South collaborations in education, recognizing the need for higher education to adapt to student interests and practical relevance.
- **Practical Education Approach:** Dr. Chaisrisawatsuk advocated for blending theoretical knowledge with practical aspects within educational programs, especially in developing countries like Thailand. He highlighted the challenge of students not utilizing their degrees in relevant fields and suggested making education more practical and relevant to real-world needs.
- **Potential Areas of Collaboration:** Drawing from his participation in the Pacific Economic Forums, Dr. Chaisrisawatsuk suggested exploring agreements related to higher education within regional forums. He proposed continuing discussions on how higher education can align with regional agreements to address pertinent issues.

Overall, Dr. Chaisrisawatsuk emphasized the importance of practical education, collaboration through university networks, and exploring opportunities for regional cooperation in addressing educational challenges and meeting the needs of students and society.

Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Samoa

Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Samoa, expressed interest in the ongoing developments discussed in the Symposium. She highlighted Samoa's interest

in addressing the lack of a Science Academy in the Pacific region, as noted in the transitional outcomes document for 2024. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of considering the role of women in the science academia. Ms. Simi also mentioned Samoa's current focus on higher education, indicating that they are at a stage of development in this regard.

Ms. Elena Proden, UNITAR

Ms. Elena Proden expressed the willingness of UNITAR to support the SIDS consortium and the HESI initiative. She mentioned the Leap Fast program conducted with UNESCO as a separate initiative, likening it to a small laboratory that can provide insights and models to inform the revitalization of the consortium. Ms. Proden also highlighted the active participation of institutions like AIT in Thailand and universities from Canada, Australia, and Honolulu in incorporating indigenous knowledge into curricula. She emphasized the practical, hands-on nature of the discussions and the importance of capacity-building programs to inform the future activities of the consortium. Additionally, she noted the importance of involving all universities from SIDS in the consortium, echoing a sentiment shared by ESCAP colleagues.

Mr. Ola Goransson, UN DESA

Mr. Goransson concluded the discussion by emphasizing the importance of leveraging existing efforts and ecosystems within the UN and beyond. He acknowledged the need for language insertion into relevant documents and urged participants to use their persuasive skills to ensure governmental support for this initiative, especially leading up to the 4th SIDS conference in May. He suggested utilizing the time until then to further understand the landscape of actors involved and clarify the goals for this coalition in the next five years. Mr. Goransson expressed gratitude to everyone for their engagement and indicated a commitment to continue the conversation and work towards the objective of building a broad coalition to scale up efforts to enhance the knowledge in higher education to support implementation of sustainable development in SIDS.

Partnerships for Climate Finance

Part 1 – Setting the scene

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, Division for SDGs, UN DESA

Mr. Sai Navoti introduced the session on "*Partnerships for Climate Finance*" He emphasized the distinction between climate finance and development finance, highlighting the importance of initiatives like the Green Fund and the loss and damage fund in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change. He acknowledged differing perspectives on the integration of climate and development finance. The session aimed to explore how partnerships can support SIDS in accessing climate finance, developing projects that meet requirements, effectively implementing climate-related programming, and coordinating efforts at global, regional, and national levels.

Ms. Beatrice Olsson, Asian Development Bank

Ms. Beatrice Olsson's presentation delved into the multifaceted challenges and opportunities surrounding climate finance in the Pacific region, particularly for SIDS (SIDS). She provided a comprehensive overview of the pressing issues faced by SIDS, including the disproportionate impacts of climate change, the urgent need for adaptation actions, and the persistent climate finance gap. By highlighting the significant financial resources required for climate adaptation and the limited

availability of funding, Ms. Olsson underscored the critical role of partnerships in addressing these challenges.

Throughout her presentation, Ms. Olsson emphasized the importance of tailored financing strategies that are country-driven and fit for purpose. She stressed the need for increased focus on long-term transformational adaptation investments based on scientific evidence and the lived realities of Pacific communities. Furthermore, she outlined the necessity of strengthening enabling environments and implementation capacities at both the national and local levels to ensure effective utilization of climate finance resources.

In discussing the role of partnerships, Ms. Olsson provided insights into the ADB Blue Pacific Finance Hub (BPFH), an innovative initiative aimed at supporting resilient coastal communities and sustainable blue economies in the region. The BPFH serves as a coordinating mechanism for donors, facilitates project identification and prioritization, provides technical support for project design, preparation and implementation, and matching projects to appropriate finance. By leveraging partnerships, the BPFH aims to raise US\$50 million in grant finance to leverage US\$500 million in ocean investments for the Pacific.

Additionally, Ms. Olsson highlighted examples of successful partnership initiatives, such as the ADB South Tarawa water supply project in Kiribati, which utilized partner financing to expand its scope and impact. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of climate finance efforts. Overall, Ms. Olsson's presentation underscored the crucial role of partnerships in addressing climate finance challenges and advancing climate adaptation and resilience in the Pacific region.

Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Samoa

Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, in her presentation, addressed the critical role of partnerships in supporting SIDS (SIDS) in accessing climate finance and implementing climate-related programs. She highlighted the unique challenges faced by Pacific Island countries in accessing climate finance due to their vulnerability to climate change impacts. Despite these challenges, Ms. Simi outlined several strategies to unlock access to climate funds, including collaboration with international accredited entities such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

She emphasized the importance of international partnerships in facilitating access to climate finance, citing successful examples of accessing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through these entities. However, Ms. Simi also acknowledged challenges in implementing partnership initiatives, such as issues with project restructuring and coordination.

Additionally, Ms. Simi discussed the establishment of national climate trust funds and regional climate change funds as mechanisms to enhance access to finance across multiple Pacific Island countries. She underscored the importance of strengthening national institutions and building capacity to effectively manage climate finance and implement adaptation programs on the ground.

Ms. Simi emphasized the need to differentiate between development financing and climate finance, highlighting Samoa's preference for working with climate finance based on the principles of the global partnership for effective development cooperation.

Furthermore, she emphasized the broader benefits of partnerships beyond funding, including risk-sharing, access to new markets, resource optimization, and opportunities for innovation and creativity. Ms. Simi highlighted the importance of coordination in ensuring harmonious collaboration among institutions and individuals towards common organizational goals.

She concluded by highlighting Samoa's approach to partnerships, which focuses on specified objectives and priorities, building capacities, and fostering equal partnerships for the improvement of systems, organizations, and the scalability of projects in the Pacific region.

Ms. Vuki Buadromo, Principal Adviser, The Pacific Community

Ms. Vuki Buadromo, Principal Adviser at The Pacific Community, discussed the accountability of partnerships and their role in supporting the goals outlined in the Blue Pacific vision and the 2050 strategy. She emphasized the need for transparency and effectiveness in tracking the outcomes of partnerships, citing challenges in assessing the impact of partnerships in the Pacific region.

Ms. Buadromo outlined the complex architecture of regional organizations and intergovernmental agencies, highlighting the existing mechanisms for accountability and collaboration. She emphasized the integration of climate resilience across sectors and the importance of partnerships in addressing climate and disaster risks.

Several innovative partnerships were presented, including the NDC hub, the Climate Finance Access Network, and the Pacific Prosperity Fund. Ms. Buadromo discussed the governance structures and reporting mechanisms established to support the implementation of these partnerships and ensure accountability.

Key messages included:

- **Accountability and Transparency:** Ms. Buadromo stressed the critical importance of accountability and transparency in partnerships. She highlighted the need for clear mechanisms to track the effectiveness of collaborative efforts. This involves transparent reporting structures, comprehensive monitoring, and evaluation frameworks. By establishing robust accountability mechanisms, stakeholders can ensure that partnership initiatives deliver tangible results and effectively address the region's climate challenges.
- **Capacity Building:** Ms. Buadromo underscored the role of partnerships in building the capacity of Pacific Island countries to address climate change. She emphasized the importance of investing in skills development, institutional strengthening, and knowledge transfer. Capacity building initiatives can empower local stakeholders to access climate finance, implement adaptation measures, and integrate climate considerations into decision-making processes. By enhancing local capacity, partnerships can foster sustainable development and resilience-building efforts at the grassroots level.
- **Innovation and Adaptation:** Ms. Buadromo highlighted how partnerships foster innovation and adaptive management approaches. Collaborative efforts enable the exchange of ideas, technologies, and best practices to address climate-related challenges. By promoting innovation, partnerships can support the development and implementation of context-specific solutions that meet the evolving needs of Pacific Island communities. Additionally, adaptive management approaches allow stakeholders to adjust strategies in response to changing environmental conditions, enhancing the effectiveness and resilience of partnership initiatives.

- **Community Engagement:** Ms. Buadromo emphasized the importance of meaningful community engagement in partnership initiatives. She highlighted the need for inclusive decision-making processes that involve local communities in project design, implementation, and monitoring. Community engagement ensures that initiatives are culturally appropriate, socially inclusive, and sustainable in the long term. By empowering communities to actively participate in climate action, partnerships can build social cohesion, ownership, and resilience at the grassroots level.
- **Multi-stakeholder Collaboration:** Ms. Buadromo stressed the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration in addressing climate change. She emphasized the need for governments, civil society organizations, private sector entities, and international agencies to work together to leverage their respective expertise, resources, and networks. Multi-stakeholder collaboration enables partnerships to harness the collective efforts of diverse stakeholders, leading to greater impact, innovation, and resilience in addressing climate-related risks.
- **Policy Alignment:** Ms. Buadromo highlighted the importance of aligning partnership initiatives with national and regional policy frameworks. She emphasized the need to integrate climate resilience priorities into development plans, sectoral strategies, and regulatory frameworks. Policy alignment ensures coherence and synergy between partnership objectives and broader development priorities, enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of collaborative efforts.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Ms. Buadromo emphasized the need for partnerships to prioritize long-term sustainability. She highlighted the importance of building local ownership, fostering institutional continuity, and securing reliable funding sources beyond short-term project cycles. Long-term sustainability ensures that partnership initiatives deliver lasting impacts and resilience-building efforts in Pacific Island countries, contributing to the region's long-term development goals.

Overall, Ms. Buadromo's presentation underscored the multifaceted nature of partnerships and their pivotal role in addressing climate change and advancing sustainable development in the Pacific region. By embracing principles of accountability, capacity building, innovation, community engagement, multi-stakeholder collaboration, policy alignment, and long-term sustainability, partnerships can catalyze transformative change and build resilience in the face of climate-related challenges.

Part 2 - Scaling up collaboration

Mr. Darian Stibbe began by acknowledging the significant ongoing efforts in climate investment and collaboration while highlighting the need to identify areas where partnerships can be strengthened, or new partnerships established. He outlined the general project cycle involved in partnerships for climate financing, emphasizing the importance of identifying projects, building enabling conditions, preparing and submitting project applications to funding sources, implementing projects effectively, and ensuring sustainability. Mr. Stibbe further highlighted the diverse financial mechanisms and partnerships needed to support different types of climate investments, including blended finance models involving public and private sector collaboration. He raised concerns about project implementation capacity and the potential role of partnerships in addressing this challenge.

Mr. Stibbe proposed group discussions to identify areas for strengthening partnerships along the project life cycle and to gather insights on challenges and potential solutions. He encouraged participants to share their perspectives on where the system may need strengthening and where new partnerships could be beneficial. The aim was to gather feedback from participants to inform future actions and improvements in climate financing initiatives.

Synthesizing insights

During the group discussions, several key points emerged regarding the partnerships needed to strengthen climate projects and their implementation. Here are the main highlights:

- **Project Identification and Development:** The emphasis on coordination across ministries and with regional partners reflects the complex nature of climate projects, which often require multi-sectoral collaboration. Strengthening coordination ensures that projects are aligned with national priorities and leverage expertise from various stakeholders. Additionally, involving private sectors and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the project identification phase enhances stakeholder buy-in and promotes ownership of initiatives. This collaborative approach fosters inclusivity and ensures that projects address the diverse needs of communities.
- **Building Enabling Conditions:** The call to strengthen public financial management systems and procurement processes is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in project implementation. Effective financial management reduces the risk of mismanagement or corruption, thereby safeguarding project funds. Moreover, increasing access to regional workers addresses capacity constraints in SIDS (SIDS), where skilled labor may be limited. By tapping into regional expertise, SIDS can enhance their project implementation capacity and overcome logistical challenges.
- **Project Implementation:** Strengthening monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks is essential for tracking project progress and assessing outcomes. Robust M&E systems provide valuable insights into project effectiveness and enable adaptive management strategies. Moreover, emphasizing local capacity building in project implementation empowers communities to take ownership of development initiatives. By involving local stakeholders in project design and execution, projects are more likely to be contextually relevant and sustainable in the long term.
- **Financing Partnerships:** The discussion on co-financing and blended finance models highlights the importance of leveraging diverse funding sources for climate projects. Co-financing arrangements involve pooling resources from multiple partners, thereby spreading financial risk and maximizing impact. Similarly, blended finance models combine concessional funding with private investment to catalyze climate action. Promoting financial literacy among stakeholders enables informed decision-making and fosters collaboration between public and private sectors. Exploring alternative financing options, such as microfinance, empowers local communities to participate in project funding and promotes economic resilience.
- **Partnerships for Community Engagement:** Engaging local communities and NGOs in project implementation fosters bottom-up approaches to development. By soliciting input from those directly affected by climate projects, initiatives are more likely to address local needs and priorities. Partnerships with community-based organizations enhance social inclusion and ensure that marginalized groups have a voice in decision-making processes. Furthermore, building local capacity through partnerships strengthens community resilience and empowers individuals to participate actively in sustainable development efforts.
- **Addressing Challenges with Technical Experts:** The turnover of technical experts during project implementation poses a significant challenge to continuity and project quality. Documenting project outcomes and ensuring clear communication channels can mitigate the impact of personnel changes. Moreover, investing in capacity building and knowledge transfer programs fosters local expertise and reduces reliance on external consultants. Building a talent pipeline within SIDS ensures continuity in technical support and promotes institutional memory for future projects.

- **Innovation and Influencing Donors:** Innovation labs play a crucial role in driving forward-thinking solutions to climate challenges. By fostering creativity and experimentation, innovation labs generate novel approaches that address complex issues. Influencing donors to support innovative projects requires strategic advocacy and evidence-based arguments. Demonstrating the feasibility and scalability of innovative approaches enhances their attractiveness to donors and paves the way for broader adoption. Additionally, fostering partnerships with donors facilitates knowledge sharing and mutual learning, creating synergies for sustainable development.

Wrap up discussion

The first day of the Symposium concluded with a discussion focused on fostering innovative ideas and actionable recommendations to improve the SIDS Partnership Framework in the upcoming program of action for SIDS. The session was facilitated by H.E. Ms. Ilana Victorya Seid, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau.

H.E. Ms. Ilana Victorya Seid, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau, initiated the discussion by querying the audience's familiarity with and utilization of the SIDS Partnership Framework. Observing a modest response, she articulated a desire to augment the Framework's visibility and accessibility. Transitioning to deliberating strategies for fortifying the SIDS Partnership Framework within the new SIDS program of action, she underscored the necessity for practical implementation at the local level. Soliciting input on specific strategies and initiatives to realize these aims, she urged participants to contemplate both overarching enhancements and pragmatic implementation hurdles.

Kick of presentation

Mr. Stibbe introduced findings from a study conducted by UN DESA, Partnerships2030, The Partnering Initiative, and the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies that explores the enabling environment for partnership – what's holding back greater collaboration and what needs to happen to unleash partnerships.

The study identified seven key elements necessary for successful partnerships:

- **Professional capabilities for partnering:** This includes having the right mindset for collaboration, understanding partner sectors, and possessing relationship-building skills.
- **Organizational readiness for partnering:** Many organizations lack the systems, processes, and cultures conducive to collaboration.
- **Partnership quality:** Partnerships often fall short of good practice standards, hindering their effectiveness.
- **Platforms for collaboration:** Adequate platforms are needed to bring stakeholders together and support partnership development.
- **Supportive policies:** Governments lack policies that facilitate collaboration, particularly with the private sector.
- **Funding modalities:** Current funding mechanisms are inadequate for supporting partnership development.
- **Cross-societal trust:** Trust between government, civil society, and business sectors is limited, hindering collaboration efforts.

Discussion

Key points from the ensuing discussion included:

- **Familiarity and Utilization:** Participants stressed the importance of better marketing and tools to encourage wider utilization of the SIDS partnership framework, especially at the national and local level.
- **Strategies for Enhancement:** Ideas included synthesizing past experiences and challenges, incorporating best practices and context-specific initiatives, and strengthening regional and national aspects of the framework.
- **Involvement of National Governments:** Recognizing the lack of active involvement of national governments in partnerships, suggestions were made to incentivize knowledge sharing and establish dedicated departments for partnership activities within governments.
- **Clarity on Partnerships:** Emphasis was placed on the importance of clarity regarding the definition of partnerships and the need for accountability to prevent partnerships from being merely announcements of existing projects.
- **Longer-term Focus and Coordination:** Participants called for encouraging longer-term focus, sharing good examples, improving coordination among various entities, and establishing principles for strategic partnerships.
- **Visibility and Simplification:** Concerns were raised about confusion due to the multitude of frameworks and platforms, with suggestions to simplify the framework and increase visibility to encourage engagement.
- **Challenges in Sustaining Engagement:** Participants acknowledged challenges in sustaining engagement, such as the drop-off in participation after initial enthusiasm, and to ensure to address partnership reporting fatigue.
- **Focus on Priority Areas:** Suggestions were made to prioritize specific thematic areas each year to focus discussions and actions, emphasizing localization of the framework and alignment with SIDS priorities.
- **Evaluation and Accountability:** Calls were made for clearer criteria for partnerships and harmonized reporting to ensure accountability and effectiveness, along with discussions about tracking partnership progress and evaluating their impact.
- **Resource Allocation:** Concerns were raised about resource limitations within the UN Secretariat to support the framework effectively, with suggestions for additional resources to accompany any efforts to strengthen the framework.

Overall, the discussion underscored the need for clarity, simplification, and focus of the SIDS Partnership to ensure its effectiveness and usefulness in supporting partnerships for advancing sustainable development in SIDS.

Day 2 – Policy Dialogue

Day of the Symposium was held as part of UN DESA Global Policy Dialogues and streamed live on YouTube with over 150 participants from over 80 countries following the proceedings online.

Opening segment

Ms. Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP

At the opening of Day 2, Ms. Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP, set the tone for the day's discussions and activities.

Ms. Yang emphasized the significance of the Symposium as a platform for advancing partnerships in support of the new program of action for SIDS (SIDS) within the Asia-Pacific region. She highlighted the importance of collaboration and collective action in addressing the unique challenges faced by SIDS, particularly in the context of sustainable development and resilience-building efforts.

Throughout her statement, Ms. Yang underscored the urgent need for concerted efforts to address pressing issues such as climate change, socio-economic challenges, and post-pandemic recovery. She emphasized the role of regional partnerships in charting the course towards resilient prosperity and sustainable development for SIDS. She emphasized the importance of seizing the opportunities offered by the milestone events such as the forthcoming SIDS4 conference, the Summit of the Future, and in 2025 the FfD4 as well as the World Social Summit.

In closing, Ms. Yang reaffirmed UN ESCAP's commitment to supporting SIDS in the Asia-Pacific region and expressed optimism for productive discussions and outcomes during the Symposium. She encouraged participants to seize the opportunity to exchange insights, share best practices, and strengthen partnerships for the benefit of SIDS and their communities.

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, Division for SDGs, UN DESA

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals at UN DESA, addressed the participants at the SIDS Partnership Symposium. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the organizers during the final session of the event. Mr. Navoti highlighted the importance of partnerships in the context of the SIDS Accelerated Modality of Action, particularly in advancing Sustainable Development Goals and resilient prosperity for small island nations.

He mentioned upcoming events, such as expert group meetings and ambassadorial meetings, which aim to strengthen partnerships and agree on the agenda for future conferences. Mr. Navoti acknowledged the collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and highlighted the significance of regional and subregional partnerships.

Reflecting on the draft outcome document, Mr. Navoti emphasized member states' commitment to long-term sustainable development and the promotion of equitable partnerships across priority areas. He cited examples of thematic areas where partnerships are crucial, such as renewable energy, ocean-based economies, and combating plastic pollution.

Mr. Navoti outlined actions to mobilize partnerships, including expanding and diversifying partnerships with various stakeholders such as local authorities, civil societies, private sectors, and international financial institutions. He expressed optimism about the continued growth and importance of partnerships in the next decade, highlighting the efforts of colleagues and governments in supporting the development agenda for SIDS.

In conclusion, Mr. Navoti thanked UN ESCAP for their support and the opportunity to participate in the Symposium. He expressed appreciation for the collaboration and looked forward to further improvements in partnership efforts in the next ten years.

Key messages from Day 1 of the Symposium

Partnerships for Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalization, Ms. Telesia Kobiti, Pacific Disability Forum

In this session, it was highlighted that partnerships are crucial for advancing sustainable development in SIDS. Presentations by experts emphasized the significance of collaborations, particularly with the private sector, in addressing challenges related to digital inclusion, innovation, and driving sustainable development in SIDS.

Key points included:

- The stark reality of the digital divide in the Asia-Pacific region, with over 2 billion people lacking access to digital resources.
- Successful initiatives in various SIDS aimed at social protection, climate resilience, and utilizing technology for informed decision-making.
- The transformative potential of digitalization, exemplified by initiatives like "smart villages" and projects in remote areas like South Malekula Island.
- UNEP's initiatives addressing environmental challenges in SIDS through the development of an environmental data portal and citizen science programs like the Green Fins initiative.

Insights from group discussions highlighted:

- The crucial role of leadership in driving partnerships and facilitating development initiatives.
- The wealth of resources that academia and research institutions bring to partnerships.
- Challenges such as the complexity of funding processes and the need for better integration between research and policy spheres.
- The invaluable role of communities and grassroots organizations in partnerships, alongside challenges like limited resources and funding constraints.
- The importance of recognizing and supporting the contributions of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in partnership discussions.
- Recommendations included fostering closer collaboration, streamlining funding mechanisms, and empowering local communities for meaningful participation.

In conclusion, the session underscored the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, and innovation in driving partnerships for sustainable development in SIDS. These recommendations provide a roadmap for stakeholders to work together effectively and create positive change in SIDS communities.

Partnerships for Climate Finance, Ms. Juliette Hawka, Government of Vanuatu

Throughout the discussions, the vital distinction between climate finance and development finance became apparent, with a spotlight on initiatives like the Green Climate Fund and loss and damage fund. These mechanisms are pivotal in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly for SIDS. The dialogue emphasized the necessity of partnerships in assisting SIDS to access climate finance, craft projects that meet requirements, and effectively implement climate-related programs.

It was underscored that tailored financing strategies, rooted in scientific evidence and community realities, are essential for long-term, transformative investments in climate adaptation.

Moreover, the session highlighted the multifaceted role of partnerships beyond financial assistance. Principles such as accountability, capacity building, innovation, and community engagement were identified as critical components of effective collaborations. By fostering inclusive, transparent, and sustainable partnerships, stakeholders can ensure that initiatives not only secure funding but also deliver tangible benefits to vulnerable communities.

In exploring areas for partnership enhancement, discussions identified several key avenues. These include streamlining coordination efforts, enhancing enabling conditions for project implementation, strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, fostering innovative financing models, promoting community-led initiatives, addressing challenges with technical expertise, and advocating for donor support for forward-thinking solutions.

In summary, the discussions underscored the indispensable role of partnerships in addressing climate finance challenges and advancing climate resilience in SIDS. By embracing collaborative, transparent, and sustainable approaches, stakeholders can maximize the impact of collective efforts and work towards a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

Higher Education and SIDS, Mr. Ola Goransson, Division for SDGs, UN DESA

The lunch-time brown bag event focused on enhancing knowledge in higher education to support sustainable development in SIDS and building a broad coalition to support these efforts.

The crucial role of higher education in driving sustainable development in SIDS was outlined.

Key points include:

1. **Integration of Investment in Higher Education:** There's a call to incorporate increased investment opportunities in higher education institutions in SIDS.
2. **Teaching Sustainable Development:** Higher education institutions should focus on enhancing the teaching of sustainable development across various disciplines.
3. **Support for Research and Analysis:** It's important to support innovative research and analysis within these institutions to address sustainability challenges specific to SIDS.
4. **Adopting Sustainable Campus Practices:** Higher education institutions should lead by example by adopting sustainable practices within their own campuses.
5. **Bolstering Partnerships:** Collaboration among higher education institutions in SIDS is crucial. This includes enhancing partnerships in areas such as mobility, funding, teaching, capacity building, and research to amplify efforts towards sustainable development.

In conclusion, it is imperative to capitalize on existing efforts and ecosystems within the UN and beyond to cultivate a robust coalition in favor of higher education in support of sustainable development of SIDS.

Enhancing the SIDS University Consortium is essential to effectively tackle these challenges.

Participants also reiterated these aspirations and stressed the importance of ongoing dialogue in the months ahead to develop a comprehensive roadmap for the Consortium in anticipation of the 4th Conference on SIDS this coming May.

Panel discussion - Advancing partnerships in support of the new Programme of Action for SIDS

Mr. Darian Stibbe, The Partnering Initiative

Mr. Darian Stibbe, Executive Director of The Partnering Initiative, began by highlighting the need for effective collaboration across societal sectors to achieve sustainable development. He emphasized the challenges and opportunities facing society today, including the need to decarbonize economies, address climate adaptation, and tackle issues such as plastic pollution and mental health.

Mr. Stibbe stressed that these challenges are interconnected and require the involvement of all societal resources, including funding, private sector engagement, academia, NGOs, and civil society. He underscored the importance of aligning interests across sectors to build transformational partnerships that can drive lasting change.

Moving forward, Mr. Stibbe acknowledged the difficulties in fostering collaboration at the scale necessary to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. He outlined the focus of the day's discussions, which would address the challenges and barriers to collaboration and explore how a new SIDS partnership framework for action could overcome these obstacles.

Mr. Stibbe concluded by expressing optimism about the potential for collaboration, noting the presence of a diverse panel and a room full of experts ready to contribute their insights and examples of successful partnerships to drive meaningful change. He encouraged active participation from all attendees, both in-person and online, to enrich the discussions and generate actionable solutions.

Ms. Villaney Remengesau, Belau Association of NGO

Ms. Villaney Remengesau, representing the Belau Association of NGOs, emphasized the importance of centering people in all efforts towards sustainable development. She highlighted the role of her organization as a coordinating mechanism for civil society organizations and local community groups in Palau.

Ms. Remengesau stressed the necessity of including people as a primary focus rather than an afterthought in development initiatives. She shared a best practice example from Palau, citing a public-private partnership focused on accessibility efforts. This partnership involved collaboration among government sectors, private sectors, and community-based organizations to address accessibility challenges, particularly in the context of digitalization.

Ms. Remengesau expressed the hope that such collaborations would continue to raise awareness, build capacity, and foster ongoing collaboration to drive sustainable development efforts in Palau.

Ms. Kate Brown, Global Island Partnership

Ms. Kate Brown, representing the Global Island Partnership, reflected on the evolution of partnerships since the World Summit on Sustainable Development. She acknowledged an increase in the number of partnerships but highlighted persistent challenges in coordination, with many initiatives operating independently and competing for resources.

Ms. Brown noted the unique paradox within SIDS, where countries share similarities in socio-economic and environmental challenges but are geographically remote from each other. She

emphasized the need to find effective solutions for collaboration beyond online platforms, recognizing the value of bringing people together, particularly at a technical level.

She praised local initiatives for their impactful work and stressed the importance of elevating these efforts to the international stage to garner attention and support. Ms. Brown underscored the necessity of partnerships making tangible impacts on people in island communities and emphasized the importance of data, monitoring, and evaluation in achieving this goal.

She highlighted the Local 2030 Islands Network as an example of a promising partnership aimed at bringing together island communities worldwide to address common challenges and advance sustainable development rapidly.

In conclusion, Ms. Brown emphasized the urgency of moving swiftly to tackle challenges, as the pace of change in island communities demands rapid action.

Mr. Gilson Pina, National Director for Planning, Ministry of Finance, Government of Cabo Verde

Mr. Gilson Pina, National Director for Planning at the Ministry of Finance of Cape Verde, emphasized the critical role of partnerships in addressing vulnerability, particularly in SIDS like Cape Verde. He highlighted the necessity for partnerships to generate resources and reduce vulnerability, especially in areas such as digitalization and climate change adaptation, aligning with the SDGs.

Mr. Pina underscored his government's responsibility in implementing policies to achieve SDGs, acknowledging the challenges of maintaining progress, particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed the significance of resilience-building and vulnerability reduction through partnerships, advocating for sustained efforts beyond short-term achievements.

Using examples from Cabo Verde, Mr. Pina outlined partnerships focusing on coastal economy and marine conservation, involving collaboration among government, municipalities, civil society, and the private sector. He expressed optimism about the progress made through such partnerships and highlighted the importance of community engagement, particularly in initiatives like marine protected areas, where local support is essential for successful implementation.

Ms. Misha Kaur, Senior Lead & Specialist, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Ms. Misha Kaur from the OECD shared insights on the vision for partnerships, emphasizing the collective effort needed to address sustainable development challenges effectively. She highlighted the importance of partnerships in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improving institutional capacities, drawing from her experience in supporting governments and leading health and justice partnerships in the Australian government.

Ms. Kaur stressed that partnerships are essential for achieving SDGs, as they harness collective knowledge, learning, action, and resources. She outlined two key aspects of the partnership vision: first, viewing partnerships as a sustainable approach to achieving SDGs, and second, ensuring partnerships enable stakeholders to achieve more collectively than they could individually.

She provided an example of a partnership event hosted with multiple international organizations and countries, illustrating the complexities and challenges inherent in partnerships, even for seemingly

straightforward initiatives like organizing conferences. This highlighted the importance of aligning processes and overcoming logistical hurdles to ensure effective collaboration.

Mr. Willie Ningalo, Government of Solomon Islands

Mr. Willie Ningalo, representing the Government of Solomon Islands, shared his vision for development initiatives centered around people's participation. He highlighted the importance of individuals playing their part in sustainable development efforts. Mr. Ningalo provided an example of partnership within his division, specifically the Solomon Islands Aid Management and Development Cooperation Policy. This framework aims to bring together partners from various sectors to coordinate and collaborate on development projects. He mentioned regular joint dialogues, monthly meetings, and annual multilateral meetings as examples of initiatives where stakeholders come together to discuss and coordinate efforts.

Ensuing discussion

Following the introductory statements by each panelist, a comprehensive discussion between the panel and the audience ensued, encompassing various dimensions of partnership and collaboration for advancing sustainable development in SIDS. Here are the synthesized key points:

1. **Leadership and Collaboration:** Strong leadership and inclusive decision-making processes are deemed essential for driving partnerships forward. Collaborative leadership, emphasizing complementary roles among different actors, is favored over top-down approaches.
2. **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Challenges:** Integrating efforts across ministries presents significant challenges, with multi-issue problems necessitating coordinated approaches. Lack of alignment and conflicting priorities emerge as obstacles.
3. **Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** CSOs are recognized as crucial partners in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, especially in SIDS. However, they face challenges such as limited resources and insufficient support.
4. **Building Trust and Aligning Objectives:** Trust-building among stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector, is vital for effective partnerships. Aligning objectives ensures that all parties feel invested in collective goals.
5. **Professional Capabilities and Training:** Enhancing professional capabilities and providing training in collaboration and partnership skills are recommended to equip stakeholders with the necessary tools for effective engagement.
6. **Triangular Relationships and Regional Cooperation:** Triangular relationships involving government, private sector, and international partners are valuable for leveraging resources and expertise. Regional cooperation, particularly in SIDS, aids in addressing common challenges and sharing best practices.
7. **Promoting Private Sector Engagement:** Successful partnerships involve promoting private sector engagement by aligning government policies with private sector interests, as demonstrated in Cabo Verde.

8. **Action-Oriented Approach:** Emphasizing the importance of action over analysis, participants stress the need to move from discussion to action promptly, echoing Nike's slogan, "Just do it."
9. **Learning from Successes:** Highlighting successful partnership models provides inspiration and insights into effective collaboration and initiatives, such as the New Ocean Conservation Commitment.
10. **Support for SIDS (SIDS):** Despite resource constraints, SIDS have made significant achievements, necessitating more support and recognition on the global stage.
11. **Capacity Building and Whole-of-System Thinking:** Enhancing skills, trust, and organizational capacities are crucial for effective partnership development. Adopting a whole-of-system approach ensures the participation of all actors in their successful implementation.
12. **Measurement of Impact and Institutional Challenges:** Challenges in measuring partnership impact and addressing institutional barriers underscore the need for better alignment, coordination, and capacity building.
13. **Resource Constraints and Policy Coordination:** Resource limitations and policy coordination challenges require leveraging regional organizations and adopting context-specific approaches.
14. **Practical Solutions and Tangible Outcomes:** Practical solutions, including case studies, tools, and training programs, are essential for supporting partnership development and sustaining progress.

Overall, the discussion emphasizes the importance of collaborative leadership, trust-building, action-oriented approaches, and capacity building to effectively address challenges and maximize the impact of partnerships for sustainable development in SIDS.

Closing

Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, UN ESCAP

Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head of the Subregional Office for the Pacific at UN ESCAP, expressed gratitude to all participants for their commitment throughout the week-long event. She acknowledged the significant effort it takes for individuals from the Pacific region to travel to Bangkok for such gatherings and thanked them for their dedication.

Ms. Fong Toy emphasized the importance of ensuring that the event was valuable for all attendees, highlighting the substantial commitment involved in attending. She thanked the partner organization, DESA, for their substantive work and financial support, without which the event wouldn't have been possible.

Furthermore, Ms. Fong Toy expressed appreciation to the OECD for their upcoming event and conveyed her regrets for not being able to attend due to prior commitments. She reaffirmed UN ESCAP's support for the continued journey toward the SIDS 4 conference and expressed hope for maximizing outcomes through collaboration with partners.

In closing, she wished those staying back for the following days an enjoyable and productive time and safe travels for those returning home, concluding with a final thank you to all participants for their contributions.

Mr. Ola Goransson, Division for SDGs, UN DESA

Mr. Ola Goransson, from the Division for SDGs at UN DESA, expressed sincere gratitude to all participants for their active involvement and insightful contributions during the SIDS Partnership Symposium. He highlighted the dedication shown toward advancing partnerships in support of the new Programme of Action for SIDS, which was truly inspiring.

Throughout the Symposium, critical areas for the sustainable development of SIDS were explored, including partnerships for science, technology, innovation, climate finance, and higher education. From these discussions, several key themes and recommendations emerged:

1. Enhancing awareness and utilization of the SIDS Partnership Framework.
2. Building on past experiences, fostering regional and national collaborations, and incentivizing active involvement from all sectors and stakeholders.
3. Emphasizing clarity, accountability, and long-term focus in partnerships, along with simplifying processes and increasing visibility.
4. Prioritizing resource allocation and capacity building for sustaining partnership initiatives and driving meaningful progress.

Looking ahead, Mr. Goransson announced two next steps:

1. Compiling a comprehensive report summarizing key findings and recommendations on strengthening the SIDS Partnership Framework. This report will be presented to the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships for further consideration, aiming to inform discussions in preparation for the SIDS4 conference.
2. Conducting an assessment of requirements for scaling up partnerships in select priority areas, including mapping key actors and initiatives and identifying required resources.

In closing, Mr. Goransson reiterated appreciation for the commitment shown to advancing partnerships for the prosperity of SIDS, expressing confidence in the collective ability to navigate toward a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future. He also extended thanks to co-organizers UN ESCAP and UNOSD for their support in facilitating the event.

Next steps

The proceedings of the Symposium will contribute to the development of two significant outputs, crucial for informing the discourse on partnerships ahead of SIDS4:

- Recommendations for strengthening of the SIDS Partnership Framework in the next decade of action for SIDS, and
- Assessment of partnership development requirements for the priority areas addressed.

These recommendations and assessments will undergo further review and consultation at:

- Expert level and Ambassadorial-level meetings of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS (scheduled for March and April 2024, New York)
- A dedicated side event on “Partnerships in the new Decade of Action for SIDS” during SIDS4 (planned for May 2024, St John’s, Antigua and Barbuda)

Participants

The SIDS Partnership Symposium was attended by approximately 50 participants from various sectors involved in the sustainable development of SIDS. Below is a list of the participating entities.

In addition, Day 2 of the Symposium was part of UN DESA’s Global Policy Dialogue series⁵ and streamed live on YouTube, with over 150 attendees from over 80 countries following the proceedings online.

#	Governments
1.	Cabo Verde
2.	Fiji
3.	Nauru
4.	Palau
5.	Samoa
6.	Solomon Islands
7.	Timor-Leste
8.	Tuvalu
9.	Vanuatu
Regional organizations	
10.	Asian Development Bank
11.	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
12.	Pacific Islands Forum

⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/desa/policy-dialogue>

13.	The Pacific Community
United Nations	
14.	International Organization for Migration (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific)
15.	International Telecommunication Union (Regional office for Asia and the Pacific)
16.	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
17.	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
18.	UN Environment Programme
19.	UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education
20.	UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok
NGOs, academia, private sector	
21.	Belau Association of NGO (BANGO)
22.	Civil Society Education Partnership
23.	Global Island Partnership
24.	Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency
25.	National Institute of Development Administration
26.	Pacific Disability Forum
27.	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
28.	The Partnering Initiative

Analysis of survey responses

Based on the five responses received to date, the following is an analysis of the insights provided.

Science, Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization:

- **Existing Partnerships:** Partnerships like the one with Synergy International System demonstrate efforts to develop integrated systems for aid tracking and management, involving government ministries and external organizations.
- **Opportunities:** There is a focus on capacity building and data management to enhance the effectiveness of development programs.

- **Challenges:** Differing priority areas among member nations and centralized structures pose challenges in implementation.
- **Encouraging Collaborations:** Understanding the specific needs of each member nation and fostering decentralized approaches, such as university networking, could promote sustainable collaboration.

Partnerships for Climate Finance:

- **Existing Partnerships:** Initiatives like the partnership with UNDP to integrate climate budget tagging into national budgets highlight efforts to strengthen climate-related initiatives.
- **Opportunities:** Pulling resources together can bolster the implementation of climate-related projects.
- **Challenges:** Limited funding and lack of attention to climate finance priorities in certain countries hinder progress.
- **Encouraging Collaborations:** Enhancing collaboration between organizations and prioritizing climate finance can drive impactful partnerships.

Higher Education and SIDS:

- **Existing Partnerships:** Collaborations between universities and government bodies exist, but there's a need to expand research collaboration and improve resource allocation.
- **Opportunities:** There's an opportunity to enhance higher education services in SIDS by strengthening collaborations between universities and government agencies.
- **Challenges:** Limited resources, language barriers, and a lack of willingness to collaborate pose challenges.
- **Encouraging Collaborations:** Setting up administrative centers for collaboration and incentivizing partnerships through visible tracking mechanisms can promote collaboration in higher education.

SIDS Partnership Framework:

- **Strengthening the Framework:** There's a need to focus on accountability, trust-building, and partnership learning to ensure effective collaboration.
- **International Financial Institutions:** These institutions can strengthen their involvement by prioritizing private sector participation, exploring South-South trade, and fostering university collaboration.
- **Catalyzing Effective Partnerships:** Prioritizing private sector involvement, enhancing partnership learning, and ensuring accountability are essential measures for accelerating partnerships in SIDS.