



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

Issue #5: 23 April 2024
34 days to go!



Delegates participate in the Second Preparatory Committee meeting for the SIDS4 Conference in April. (UN DESA photo)

Member States agree to draft outcome document at second Preparatory Committee meeting

On 11 April 2024, at the resumed second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), Member States unanimously approved the outcome document of the Conference: [The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS \(ABAS\) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity](#). The document sets out the sustainable development aspirations of small islands over the next ten years and the

support required from the international community to achieve them. It reaffirms that, despite the significant progress SIDS have made over the past three decades, they remain a special case for sustainable development due to their unique vulnerabilities.

SIDS aspire to build resilient economies; foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies; achieve water, food and energy security; conserve biodiversity; protect and sustainably use the ocean and its resources; and halt and urgently mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. To help SIDS to meet these ambitions, the text contains commitments to facilitate easier access to affordable and concessional finance, increase effectiveness of development finance, scale-up biodiversity finance and climate action and support, including climate finance, in line with existing obligations and commitments. In the text, Member States also agreed to launch a Center of Excellence for SIDS and Debt Sustainability Support Service. To support effective implementation, the text also calls upon the UN system to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets and indicators, to be completed by no later than the second quarter of 2025.

The ABAS will be formally adopted by all Member States at the closing plenary meeting of the [SIDS4 Conference](#), to take place in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May.

Information for SIDS4 participants

The SIDS4 secretariat has released an advance version of the Information Note which contains detailed information for participants about logistical arrangements inside the Conference venue, the American University of Antigua, and can be accessed [here](#). A related Member State briefing from 22 April is [available to watch here](#).

For other logistical details regarding travel to, and stay in Antigua and Barbuda, such as accommodation, visas and transportation, participants are invited to visit the of the host government: sids4.gov.ag.

Still open: SIDS4 registration for all categories of participants

Registration is still open for all categories of participants at the SIDS4 Conference. Deadlines of registration for all categories are listed below:

- Participating States and the European Union: Pre-registration in New York until **10 May**
- Intergovernmental Organizations, International Financial Institutions and Other International Bodies accredited: **10 May**
- Associated Members of the Regional Commissions: **10 May**
- UN Secretariat, Funds, Programmes, Regional Commissions and Other Entities: **10 May**
- NGOs, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders: **26 April**

For detailed information regarding registration portals and required documents for each category, please check the website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/sids2024/participate>.

Special events at SIDS4

As proposed by Antigua and Barbuda, the host government of the SIDS4 Conference, the following high-level special events will be organized in connection with the Conference:

- SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit, **24-26 May**
- SIDS Gender Equality Forum, **25-26 May**
- 2024 SIDS Global Business Network Forum, **25-26 May**
- SIDS4 Private Sector Roundtable (onsite), **28 May**
- SIDS4 Civil Society Forum (onsite), **29 May**

These special events aim to create additional platforms for in-depth and broader discussions among stakeholders on how to chart the course towards resilient prosperity in Small Island Development States. For more information including concept notes of each event, please visit: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/sids2024/programme/special-events>

Now available: Programme of side events

The SIDS4 secretariat has completed the official side events programme, comprising about 200 events scheduled to occur inside the Conference Venue, outside the Conference Venue across Antigua and Barbuda, and virtually. The programme is available on the SIDS4 website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/sids2024/programme/side-events>

For questions related to side events, please contact sids4@un.org with [Side Events] in the subject.

Selected journalists for the Voice the Future SIDS Journalism Campaign to be notified soon

The UN secretariat received more than 100 applications for the Voice the Future SIDS Journalism Campaign, and selected candidates will be notified soon. For more information, including the terms and conditions, please visit the [Media tab](#) of the SIDS4 website.



Sylvania Burton (l), President of Dominica, with Lorenzo Sanford, Chief of the Kalinago people. (UN News/ Brianna Rowe)

Partner corner

Indigenous Kalinago lead the way towards making Dominica ‘climate resilient’

Dominica aims to become the world’s first “climate-resilient” nation, and the indigenous Kalinago people are playing a leading role in developing the country and helping its people to thrive in the face of the climate emergency.

Dominica, which lies in Eastern Caribbean, is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which are being exacerbated by the climate crisis: Hurricane Maria in 2017 was a devastating example, damaging almost all homes and buildings, destroying around three-quarters of the fishing fleet and crippling the economy.

The indigenous Kalinago people were particularly affected but, since then, community leaders have been working with the UN to help its people to become more resilient, in anticipation of the next climate shock.

Ahead of the 2024 session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) Conor Lennon from UN News met Sylvanie Burton – who is both the country’s first Kalinago, and also first woman, Head of State – and Lorenzo Sanford, the youngest-ever Chief of the Kalinago community, to find out how they plan to achieve their goal of making the island the world’s first “climate-resilient” nation, and why the young people of the community are central to the resurgence of the indigenous culture on the island.

[Read the interview at UN News.](#)

For more information

- Visit the official UN SIDS4 website at un.org/smallislands.

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



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