

# SIDS PARTNERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

**19 & 23 FEBRUARY 2024**  
UNITED NATIONS  
BANGKOK, THAILAND

ADVANCING **PARTNERSHIPS** IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW  
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR **SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

Organized by **UN Department of Economic and  
Social Affairs** in collaboration with **UN ESCAP**

More at:  
[sdgs.un.org/SIDS/BKK](https://sdgs.un.org/SIDS/BKK)



An aerial photograph of a city at dusk, with a dark, semi-transparent overlay covering the image to allow for text. The city lights are visible, and the sky is a mix of dark blues and oranges from the setting sun. A vertical white line is positioned to the right of the main text block.

# SIDS Partnership Framework - history, purpose, and the role of partnerships in driving SIDS' priorities

**Mr. Ola Goransson**, Sustainable  
Development Officer, Division  
for SDGs, UN DESA



# SIDS Partnership Symposium

## Objective

1. Gather insights and perspectives from SIDS stakeholders on how the **SIDS Partnership Framework** can be improved in its upcoming phase
2. Explore how to **enhance partnerships on three SIDS priorities**
3. Foster **peer learning and exchange of knowledge among stakeholders** in building effective collaborations for SIDS.

## Outputs

1. **Recommendations** on how the SIDS Partnership Framework can effectively be strengthened in the new programme of action for SIDS.
2. **Assessment of requirements** for scaling up development of partnerships on select priority areas, including mapping of key actors and initiatives, and required resources. Next steps would envision organizing **dedicated roundtable discussions with donors and interested actors** to scale up collaboration in these priority areas.

# SIDS Partnership Framework

## 2014

*SAMOA Pathway*

Request the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to present recommendations for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS.

The framework should ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of SIDS, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development

## 2015

General Assembly established the SIDS Framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS, in order to promote the effective and efficient follow-up to the existing partnerships, in particular new partnerships launched at the third International Conference on SIDS, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS

## 2024

*Zero draft SIDS4*

Request the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, to present recommendations for the strengthening of the SIDS Partnership Framework.

# SIDS Partnership Framework

**A Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS** - to support the follow-up of existing, and promote and advocate the launching of new, SIDS partnerships

An annual action-oriented, results-focused, **Global multi stakeholder SIDS partnership dialogue** - reviewing progress existing partnerships, sharing of good practices, lessons learned, challenges and solutions, and encourage the launch of new partnerships for SIDS

Encourage **regional multi-stakeholder SIDS partnership dialogues** - for reviewing and providing policy recommendations at the regional level.

Encourage **national multi-stakeholder SIDS partnership dialogues**.

**SIDS Partnership Database** for promoting new and reporting of existing.

**SIDS Partnerships Awards** recognize noteworthy partnerships

# Activities

**8** Global SIDS Partnership Dialogues

**10** regional and inter-regional SIDS Partnership Dialogues

**4** national partnership trainings  
***Bahamas, Jamaica, Samoa, Maldives***

**150+ partnerships** with and for SIDS have been featured

**140+ stakeholders from various sectors** received training on effective partnership building

# Guidance and analysis



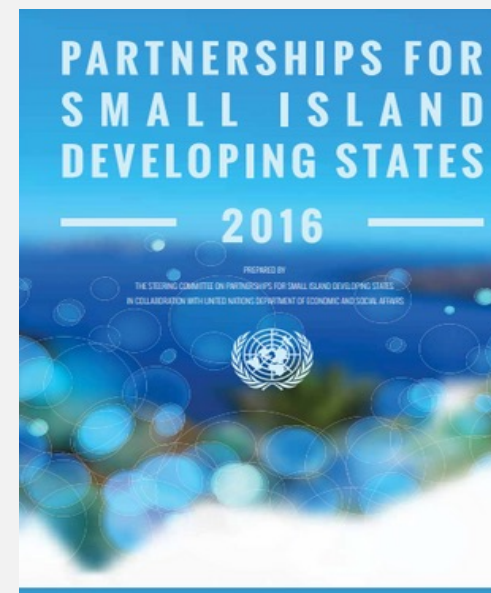
**Insights and guidance** for developing multi-stakeholder partnerships in SIDS



**Analysis on SIDS partnerships**, reviewing progress, trends and their impact on SIDS



**Tools** to assist development, monitoring and review of SIDS partnerships



A **snapshot** on that remarkable work that has taken place, and is ongoing in SIDS through partnerships

# Programme

## Day 1 – Monday

- **9 AM** - Opening segment
- **10 AM** - Coffee & networking
- **10.30 AM** - Partnerships for Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalization
- **12.15 PM** – Lunch
- **12.45** - Higher Education and SIDS - A brown bag lunch event
- **01.30 PM** - Partnerships for Climate Finance
- **03.15 PM** – Coffee & networking
- **03.45 PM** – Wrap-up discussion
- **04.45 PM** – Close & Free time

## Day 2 – Friday

- **10 AM** - Opening segment
- **10.15 AM** – Key messages from Day 1
- **10.30 AM** - Panel discussion - Advancing partnerships in support of the new Programme of Action for SIDS
- **11.45 AM** - Closing and next steps
- **12 PM** – Free time



# Partnerships for Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalization

## Part 1 – Setting the scene

### Guiding questions:

- *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?*

Presentation – “The essential role of partnerships in enhancing progress in science, technology, innovation, and digitalization for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States” (10 mins) - **Mr. Jonathan Tsuen Yip Wong**, Chief of Innovation, Enterprise and Investment, ESCAP

The SIDS perspective - sharing of experiences, opportunities, and challenges (10 mins) - **Mr. Bridge Thomas**, Special Assistant to the President, Office of the President of Palau

Featuring innovative partnerships (10 mins)

- **Ms. Ashish Narayan**, Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, International Telecommunication Union
- **Ms. Yujeong Kim**, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UNEP

## Part 2 – Scaling up collaboration

### Group discussions (30 mins)

- *What resources do different sectors offer, and what motivates or hinders their involvement in forming partnerships to advance science, technology, innovation, and digitalization for the sustainable development of SIDS?*
- *How do we systematically support the development of more and more effective partnerships for enhancing progress in science, technology, innovation, and digitalization for the sustainable development of SIDS?*

### Synthesizing insights (20 mins)

- Open plenary discussion on actionable steps to scale up collaboration, drawing from learnings shared throughout the session

# Partnerships for Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalization

## Part 2 – Scaling up collaboration

### Group discussions (15 mins)

- *What resources do different sectors offer, and what motivates or hinders their involvement in forming partnerships to advance science, technology, innovation, and digitalization for the sustainable development of SIDS?*
- *How do we systematically support the development of more and more effective partnerships for enhancing progress in science, technology, innovation, and digitalization for the sustainable development of SIDS?*

### Synthesizing insights (15 mins)

- Open plenary discussion on actionable steps to scale up collaboration, drawing from learnings shared throughout the session



# Partnerships for Climate Finance

## Part 1 – Setting the scene

### Guiding questions:

- *How can partnerships support SIDS in accessing climate finance, including with the development of projects to ensure they meet the necessary requirements?*
- *How can partnerships help the effective implementation of climate related programming and projects, including ensuring adequate resources for implementation?*
- *How can coordination at the global, regional, and national levels support these efforts?*

Presentation – “The role of partnerships in supporting access to climate finance for SIDS” (10 mins) - **Ms. Beatrice Olsson, Asian Development Bank**

The SIDS perspective - sharing of experiences, opportunities, and challenges (10 mins) - **Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Samoa**

Featuring innovative partnerships (5 mins)

## Part 2 – Scaling up collaboration

### Group discussions (30 mins)

- What multi-stakeholder partnerships at national, regional, or global level could most effectively support SIDS in:
  - Identification of fundable project ideas
  - Preparation of project concept and access to finance
  - Project implementation

### Synthesizing insights (10 mins)

# Higher Education and SIDS

## Objective

An open discussion on how we can build a broad coalition to scale up efforts to enhance the knowledge in higher education to support implementation of sustainable development in SIDS.

### Guiding questions

- *How can higher education institutions in SIDS effectively inspire and equip future generations with the skills, mindsets, and attitudes necessary to drive transformative change for sustainable development?*
- *What strategies can be implemented to integrate sustainable development principles across all disciplines of study within higher education institutions in SIDS?*
- *In what ways can higher education institutions support and promote innovative research focused on addressing sustainability challenges specific to SIDS?*
- *How can universities in SIDS lead by example through the adoption of sustainable campus practices and active engagement in local sustainability initiatives?*
- *What role does higher education play, and what strategies can higher education institutions implement to promote partnerships towards achieving SIDS priorities?*
- *What are the next actionable steps to scale up collaboration?*

## Speakers

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

### Speakers:

- **Mr. Sai Navoti**, Chief, SIDS Unit, Division for SDGs, UN DESA, focal point for the Universities Consortium of Small Island States
- **Mr. Jaap Van Hierden**, UN Resident Coordinator, Federated States of Micronesia-MCO
- **Dr. Santi Chairsawatsuk**, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)
- **Ms. Lily Bosen Liu**, Head, Partnership and UN Liaison Unit, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education (IESALC)
- **Ms. Heejeong Ahn**, Programme Specialist in Higher Education, UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok
- **Ms. Elena Proden**, UNITAR (connecting virtually)



# Wrap up discussion

## Focus

The SIDS Partnership Framework serves as a crucial a mechanism to promote, monitor, and stimulate the launch of new partnerships for SIDS.

The session aims to generate ideas and recommendations for how to the Framework can be strengthened in the new programme of action for SIDS.

Facilitated by **H.E. Ms. Ilana Victorya Seid**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau

### Kick off presentation

*“Building the enabling factors for widespread collaboration in SIDS”* - **Mr. Darian Stibbe**, Executive Director, The Partnering Initiative (10 mins)

## Questions

### Guiding questions

- *How can the SIDS Partnership Framework be strengthened within the new programme of action for SIDS? What specific strategies and initiatives could enhance its objectives?*
- *Drawing from past experiences, what approaches have shown promise, and conversely, what strategies have proven ineffective or failed to yield meaningful progress?*
- *How can international financial institutions strengthen their involvement in supporting SIDS through the Framework to further advance sustainable development in SIDS?*

# How can partnerships support

## *From Zero Draft SIDS4*

- Access to Finance
- Scaling-up Climate Finance
- Strengthening Data Collection
- Science, Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization
- Productive populations

## *From Stakeholder consultation for SIDS4*

- **Participation in Regional and International Organizations:** Partnerships can support SIDS leaders' active participation in regional and international organizations and networks. This involvement can enhance their ability to engage in global dialogues and access resources.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Collaborative partnerships can facilitate knowledge exchange among SIDS countries. Sharing expertise and best practices can help SIDS address common challenges and find innovative solutions.
- **Access to Funding Opportunities:** Partnerships can assist SIDS in accessing financial resources. This is crucial for funding development projects and initiatives that promote sustainability and resilience.
- **Capacity Building:** Collaborative endeavors can reinforce the capacity of SIDS countries. Partnerships can provide training, technical assistance, and support to build the skills and capabilities needed for sustainable development.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** There is a call for a renewed focus on public-private partnerships. These partnerships can create shared value by involving both public and private sectors in SIDS development initiatives.