



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

## **SIDS4 Conference Side Event**

### **Delivering Impact and Building Capacity – Bringing the SIDS Principles to Life**

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 14:00 – 15:30, Room 8**

**Organized by: United Kingdom, Canada, AOSIS**

#### **Background on the event**

The side event brought to life the '[Principles for Improved Development Impact in SIDS](#)' and focused on a critical element: delivering tailored, sustainable, and impactful capacity support. It leveraged the findings of the OECD report '[Improving public sector capacity-strengthening support for SIDS](#)' as a springboard for enhancing the sustainability and effectiveness of capacity-strengthening support in SIDS and elevated the discourse to a high-level discussion, catalyzing collaborative efforts for a brighter future for SIDS.

Welcome remarks were delivered by **Rt Hon Lord Benyon**, Minister of State at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Presentations by OECD representatives **Mr. Eric Bense** and **Mr. Timothy Tennant** provided updates on the status and implementation of the Principles and key findings from OECD research on improving public sector capacity-strengthening support for SIDS, setting the stage for a panel discussion moderated by **Ms. Rebecca Fabrizi**, the UK SIDS Envoy.

Panelists were **Ms. Leah Gutierrez**, Director General of the Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank, **Ms. Tracelyn Joseph**, Senior Statistician at the Statistics Division of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, Antigua and Barbuda, **Mr. Daniel Muñoz-Smith**, Caribbean Representative for the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and **Mr. Robert Rae**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York, who also offered closing remarks.

## Key Issues discussed

- **Coordinated capacity strengthening and country ownership:** ensuring that capacity strengthening efforts are aligned and integrated with local systems, enhancing sustainability and relevance.
- **Building local institutional capacity:** empowering local institutions to shape their own development agendas and sustain progress over the long term.
- **Addressing brain drain and engaging diasporas:** mitigating the loss of skilled professionals and leveraging external resources to support economic resilience and development.
- **Continuous training and sustainable funding:** keeping local skills updated and initiatives effective, ensuring ongoing support for capacity-strengthening efforts.
- **Regional and Development Partner collaboration:** maximizing resources and expertise, minimizing duplication of efforts, and fostering comprehensive and effective capacity strengthening initiatives.
- **Tailored capacity-strengthening initiatives:** making interventions context-specific and responsive to the unique needs and challenges faced by SIDS communities, enhancing their effectiveness and impact.
- **Collaborative learning and integrated approaches:** promoting knowledge sharing, mutual learning, and synergies among all stakeholders, leading to more holistic and resilient development outcomes.

## Key recommendations for action

- **Establish coordinated capacity-strengthening mechanisms:** develop structured frameworks for coordinating capacity-strengthening efforts across different sectors and stakeholders, ensuring alignment with local priorities and ownership.
- **Invest in local institutional capacity:** allocate resources towards strengthening local institutions through training programs, mentorship initiatives and institutional support systems to enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.
- **Create brain gain initiatives:** implement programs to incentivize skilled professionals to stay or return to their home countries by offering career development opportunities and support for entrepreneurship.
- **Sustain training programs and funding streams:** establish long-term training programs for local civil servants and ensure consistent funding streams for capacity-strengthening initiatives to maintain skill levels and support ongoing development efforts.
- **Foster regional and Development Partner collaboration:** facilitate platforms for regional collaboration and partnerships between Development Partners, such as joint policy matrices, to leverage resources, share best practices, and coordinate efforts for more impactful capacity-strengthening interventions.
- **Tailor capacity-strengthening interventions to local contexts:** tap into local knowledge of on-the-ground needs and engage local communities in the design and implementation of capacity-strengthening initiatives to ensure relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.