



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

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

IBSA and India-UN Fund Championing Advocacy and Walking the Talk on Supporting SIDS Resilience

Thursday, 30 May 2024 – 10.00 to 11.30 am
Conference Room 3, SIDS4 Conference Venue
Antigua and Barbuda

Organized by: United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The Governments of India, Brazil, and South Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), showcased the commitment of South-South cooperation Trust Funds to supporting resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during a side-event at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4).

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

Seeking to enable the most conducive environment for horizontal exchanges among peers, the ideal side-event format may be a roundtable discussion with SIDS Ministers or Head-of-delegation; opened by the IBSA Heads-of-delegation and moderated by the UNOSSC Director. The side event discussion would focus on the results and impact of these Fund's projects in SIDS and run through a pre-established set of pertinent questions such as:

- a. What are the main accomplishments of the project(s) in your country and why/how have they been catalytic for greater change, resilience and sustainable development?

b. How could further scale-up and expansion of these projects contribute to the ‘Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity’ and impact the delivery on the Plan of Action for the next 10-year’s agenda for SIDS?

c. What are lessons learned from these projects that can feed into Southern Centers of Excellence on or supporting SIDS; and what could these projects contribute to such centers in terms of data or experiences?

d. How have these projects been distinctly South-South in their cooperation approaches, and responsive to the singularities of SIDS and their development needs?

e. Going forward, would support to inter-regional, regional and subregional projects; particularly on infrastructure -- including digital infrastructure—, climate early warning systems, platforms to share data and experience, and on e-commerce, be of particular relevance to SIDS; or which types of initiatives would be most catalytic?

Key recommendations for action (5-6 bullet points)

- SIDS benefit from a high level of participation in South-South trust funds managed by UNOSSC. As a grouping, SIDS are the single largest beneficiary of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund).
- In total, over 30 SIDS have been supported through 63 country-level projects and 3 multi-country projects. 64% of the portfolio of the India-UN Fund, and 37% of the portfolio of the IBSA Fund, representing a total of \$55.5 million (\$38.2 million and \$17.2 million, respectively), have been allocated to SIDS.
- These projects range from supporting climate resilience, through early warning systems and refurbishment of extreme weather resistant infrastructure; to enabling better health, notably thanks to COVID-19 response or reproductive health projects; to facilitating the adoption of solar energy and its applications; and to expanding the use of information technology, both in education and through digitalization.
- Support to SIDS has been provided across all geographical regions. Overall, 14 SIDS in the Caribbean, 12 SIDS in the Pacific and 4 SIDS in Africa have accessed these two South-South trust funds.
- Noting the Funds’ demand-driven and non-prescriptive approach, discussions during the side-event were instrumental in highlighting a shared vision for the coming years.