



## 2025 UN SIDS Partnerships Awards

### Concept Note

#### Background

The United Nations (UN) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnerships Awards was established by the Member States of the United Nations in 2021 to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)<sup>1</sup>. The Awards provide an opportunity to reward the most successful SIDS partnerships, highlight best practices, increase the visibility of the SIDS Partnership Framework, motivate the creation of new SIDS partnerships and incentivize the registrations of new partnerships for SIDS.

This initiative stems from the Third International Conference on SIDS (SIDS3) held in 2014 that has resulted in announcement of more than 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships. As a follow up mechanism to the partnerships, Member States established the SIDS Partnership Framework and its Steering Committee by the General Assembly resolution<sup>2</sup>. Ten years later, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)<sup>3</sup>, the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4) held in 2024, recognized the importance of taking new, innovative and bold approaches to partnership based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability, transparency, including with relevant stakeholders, and cooperation that leverages a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. It also seeks to strengthen the SIDS Partnership Framework.

The co-chairs of the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS in 2025 are Permanent Representatives of Latvia and Maldives to the United Nations. The Awards are supported and managed collaboratively, by the SIDS Unit of the UN DESA and SIDS Sub-Programme of the UN OHRLLS within their respective mandates.

---

1 A/RES/76/203, 20(a) “Decides to establish an awards programme, to be named the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards, to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, consistent with the Samoa Pathway...”

2 A/RES/70/202, paragraph 11 “...to establish the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States 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 Small Island Developing States, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States”

3 A/RES/78/317 The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity

The SIDS Partnerships Awards are given in each of the three dimensions of sustainable development: 1) economic, 2) social and 3) environment, as stipulated in the Article 2 sub-paragraph 1 of the Annex of the resolution 76/203.<sup>4</sup>

The UN SIDS Partnerships Awards ceremony will be held during the Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue. Nominations for the Awards must be submitted through the online application form on UNDESA's website.<sup>5</sup> The judging panel, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, is composed of: one representative from the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee; one representative from each of the three regions of SIDS; two representatives from the major groups and other stakeholders; and one each from UNDESA and OHRLLS as ex officio members.<sup>6</sup> The judging panel selected the laureates in line with the criteria and norms<sup>7</sup>. The judging panel members for 2025, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, are follows:

- Mr. Emīls Dombrovskis, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Latvia to United Nations, as the Chair
- Ms. Kereeta Whyte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations
- H.E. Ms. Shiruzimath Sameer, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Maldives
- Ms. Fiona Indu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands to the United Nations.
- Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
- Dr. Satesh Bidaisee, Professor and Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, St. George's University, Grenada.
- Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit, UN-DESA
- Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme, UN-OHRLLS

## 2025 Award

The fourth UN SIDS Partnerships Awards ceremony will be held during the Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue in 2025, tentatively scheduled at the end of the year.

## Application

All applicants are required to submit their nomination through an online form (<https://forms.office.com/e/5TSuFsZ1pY>). **The deadline for the application is Friday 13 June 2025**

## Outreach

- UN DESA's Partnership Platform for SIDS (circulate messages to all partnerships)
- Permanent missions / Steering Committee members

---

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/203 Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, available from [undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/203](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/203)

<sup>5</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/SIDSPartnershipsAwards>

<sup>6</sup> pursuant to Article 4 sub-paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Annex to resolution 76/203

<sup>7</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/SMART%20criteria.pdf>

- SIDS Global Business Network
- SIDS National Focal Points
- Social media channels of DESA and OHRLLS; Hashtags #Partnerships2030, #ABAS, #SDGs #PartnerSIDS\*
- UN inter-agency channels - IACG members

## Evaluation

The evaluation will be based on the SIDS Partnership’s **SMART criteria** – i.e. SIDS specific; measurable and monitorable, achievable and accountable; resource-based and results-focused; timeline for implementation and transparency by all parties,<sup>8</sup> as well as **innovation**. It will be categorized into three areas: economic, social and environmental, and in line with the priority areas of the ABAS.

The evaluation process consists of the following steps.

1. Once the applications have been vetted for minimum requirements, the UN Secretariat (DESA and OHRLLS) will review nominations based on the criteria and recommend nine finalists (three partnerships per category) to the judging panel.
2. An interactive discussion between the judging panel members and the finalists will be held. The discussion will include a 3 min presentation by each finalist, followed by an interactive discussion/Q&A with the judging panel members.
3. The judging panel will evaluate the nine finalists based on applications and the interactive discussion based on SMART criteria and innovation. The judges will then use a score sheet to evaluate the partnerships. The score sheets will be sent to the UN Secretariat team who will sum up scores. The ranking (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place) will be publicly announced at the Awards ceremony. The results will, however, be communicated to the finalists before the ceremony.

## Award Ceremony

Subject to funding, the three winners (one per category) will be invited to the Award ceremony to receive a certificate, to make a brief statement and to take pictures with the co-chairs of the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS. The ceremony will take place during the Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue.

## The Awards recipients

The recipients of the Awards will:

- receive a certificate and authorization to use the SIDS Partnerships Awards logo in partnership related material in line with the logo guideline (Waiver form must be submitted);
- be featured on the website of the UN SIDS Partnerships Awards;
- be highlighted through OHRLLS and DESA communications channels;

---

<sup>8</sup> See SMART criteria: <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/SMART%20criteria.pdf>

- be invited to speak at SIDS partnership events and/or webinars as successful partnerships.
- have an opportunity to connect with potential partners and donors.