

## **OHRLLS Talking Points**

**On behalf of OHRLLS I thank all stakeholders for the many valuable recommendations we've received—from Member States, the UN system, and civil society organisations.**

**At the beginning of this year, we prepared a strategy and work plan for the SIDS-GBN and many of the insights from the recommendations not only affirmed much of our current thinking, but also introduced fresh and practical ideas to take the GBN forward.**

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### **Recommendations from Member States**

**A key message that came through strongly is the need to raise awareness and clearly communicate the value of the Network.**

**Many ministries, investment agencies, and academic institutions are still unaware of what the SIDS-GBN offers.**

**We must change that.**

**We need targeted outreach and communication that makes the benefits clear—what’s in it for companies, why it matters for MSMEs, and how stakeholders can get involved.**

**We will continue and build on our regular newsletters and webinars - sharing success stories to keep the network vibrant and active.**

**At the same time, we heard a consistent call to strengthen the capacity of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. These are the backbone of many SIDS economies, yet they often lack the tools to fully engage in global opportunities. The GBN can fill this gap by offering targeted training, mentoring, and support tailored to their needs.**

**There is also strong support for mobilizing finance and making the GBN a hub for sustainable investment. This includes tapping into innovative financial instruments—such as green and blue bonds, ESG finance (*Environmental, Social, and Governance*), and diaspora capital—and steering thematic workstreams focused on enabling business environments and transitioning to green and blue economies. Several responses emphasized that this should be done in collaboration with financial hubs, IFIs, and regional development banks.**

**Equally important is deepening strategic partnerships. We are determined to ensure that the GBN does not operate in a silo. It**

**must bring together civil society, academia, the private sector, and international institutions.**

**One suggestion we strongly endorse is to coordinate with and leverage synergies between the GBN's biennial Forum with the Island Investment Forum under the SIDS Centre of Excellence. This is being seriously considered as we support the operationalization of the Centre to drive implementation of ABAS, in consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks.**

**Where resources allow, we should even consider more frequent convenings of the GBN Forum to sustain momentum.**

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### **Recommendations from the UN System and Inter-Agency Consultative Group**

**From within the UN system, additional recommendations emerged.**

**First, is that we need to grow and diversify GBN membership. That means reaching out to a wider spectrum of businesses—especially**

**local enterprises—and providing clear, step-by-step guidance on how to join. Working through chambers of commerce, industry associations, and showcasing tangible success stories will help generate interest and build trust.**

**Through the recommendations, we are also being encouraged to explore the creation of a SIDS Green Investment Platform and a digital investment marketplace that can directly connect projects with investors. Regional business hubs and thematic alliances—on the blue economy, digital transformation, and renewable energy—could help drive collaboration across islands and sectors. There’s also a steer from the recommendations to foster inter-island partnerships and joint ventures that boost regional trade and technology transfer.**

**Capacity-building came through strongly in the recommendations from the UN system. This includes not just training, but also knowledge sharing on sustainable business practices, climate resilience, and responsible entrepreneurship. Through business-to-business matchmaking and public-private dialogues, we can ensure that private sector perspectives inform policy—and that opportunities are matched with the right partners.**

**Visibility and accountability were also emphasized. Respondents proposed an annual SIDS-GBN Forum that goes beyond networking—it should celebrate standout partnerships, highlight impact, and link**

**directly to the SIDS Partnership Framework's recognition and monitoring systems, including the Partnerships Awards.**

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### **Recommendations from Civil Society**

**Finally, civil society organisations brought forward a set of bold and constructive ideas. One is the creation of a CSO–Private Sector Innovation Lab and Funding Platform to develop ocean-based sustainable solutions. They also called for independent governance of the GBN—free from political interference and built on equal representation between civil society and the private sector. And they asked us to use the SIDS Partnership Framework and GBN as platforms to support social innovation through capacity-building, business mentoring, and targeted funding.**

### **Conclusion**

**All of these recommendations underscore the same principle: the SIDS Global Business Network is more than a platform—it's a catalyst.**

**A catalyst for investment, innovation, and inclusive development across island economies. And with the momentum from SIDS4 and the strong foundation we've built, we now have a unique opportunity to evolve the Network into a truly transformative force.**

**The recommendations that we have garnered from this process will also help guide discussions at the 2026 SIDS-GBN Forum in the Maldives, and so, once again, we are grateful for all the constructive feedback from all stakeholders.**

**Note – DESA will present their next steps followed by OHRLLS**

## **Next Steps**

**Convene Side events at Key Fora to raise awareness and strengthen engagement around the GBN and its activities, as well as to explore opportunities for strategic partnerships for SIDS.**

- **Side Event - UN Ocean Conference, Nice, France**

**Innovate, Invest, Inspire: Driving Private Sector Partnerships for Ocean Action in Small Island Developing States**

**Date: 12 June**

**Time: 8:45-10:00**

**Venue: Room 2 (Blue Zone)**

- **SIDS High Level Event at FFD4, where we will underscore the important role of private sector engagement in delivering ABAS**
- **Side Event: UNFCCC COP30, Belen, Brazil | 10–21 November**

## **Forum**

- **2026 SIDS-GBN Forum – Maldives**

### **Other Preparatory Activities**

**Dispersed throughout the period between now and the 2026 Forum we will roll out a webinar series and continue to release our quarterly newsletter. Through the webinar series we will explore possibilities for concrete pilot projects to implement recommendations from the 2024 GBN Forum. We will also link our GBN work with that of the SIDS National Focal Points network, including engaging RCs and their partnership officers, to ensure a coherent approach at all levels.**

**As alluded to earlier, we will also explore how the SIDS GBN will work synergistically with the SIDS Center of Excellence Island Investment Forum, toward a strengthened investment deliverable at the GBN Forum in Maldives.**