

Introduction of the SIDS Partnership Framework recommendations

30 May 2025, SIDS Partnership Steering Committee

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Excellencies, colleagues, good morning,

As you know, following the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held in Samoa in 2014, the *SIDS Partnership Framework* was launched in 2015 to monitor existing partnerships and encourage the development of new, genuine, and durable partnerships in support of SIDS' sustainable development.

In the past seven months, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in close consultation with the co-chairs of this Committee, has led a comprehensive consultation process to gather views from Member States, the UN system, and civil society on how to strengthen the SIDS Partnership Framework.

This process has included:

- A **Member State survey**, with 9 submissions representing 21 countries, including 15 from SIDS (Australia, PSIDS – Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu –Germany, Ireland, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Portugal and Seychelles).
- An **expert meeting of the Steering Committee**, held on 6 March 2025, where the Secretariat presented preliminary findings of the survey submissions.
- A **civil society and UN system survey**, which received 62 responses.
- **Three regional stakeholder webinars** with 65 participants.
- A **SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum** (12–13 May 2025), which brought together 27 civil society organizations from across the Caribbean, Pacific, and AIS regions to co-develop recommendations from a stakeholder perspective.
- A **dedicated SIDS Partnership Symposium held in Bangkok in 2024**, which brought together SIDS governments, regional organizations, UN entities, NGOs, academia, and the private sector, including the development of initial strategies for strengthening the Framework, funded generously by the Government of Portugal.

In addition, we have reviewed statements and interventions made by delegations over the past decade of Steering Committee meetings, drawing on this institutional memory to inform and strengthen the recommendations.

Excellencies,

It is evident from the insights received that Member States view a strengthened SIDS Partnership Framework as a meaningful way to support the sustainable development of SIDS and the implementation of the ABAS.

The recommendations we are presenting today are the result of these consultations and reflect the views of Member States and other stakeholders.

The recommendations are as follows:

1) Strengthening the Committee

Member States have emphasized the need for the Committee to be more strategic in its agenda items, linking discussions with ABAS implementation and ongoing UN processes. They also called for improved mechanisms to engage key stakeholder groups in such discussions. To recall, the Committee's mandate already allows for contributions from UN entities, international and regional organizations, and major groups, which could be more fully utilized.

2) Increase Stakeholder Access and Clarify the Value of Engagement

There is a clear need to raise awareness of the Framework and articulate the benefits of engagement—ideally through a multilingual strategy. This would foster more inclusive and meaningful participation from various stakeholders across regions, connecting local and national realities with global processes.

3) Strengthen National and Regional Coordination

This recommendation talks about the need to conduct assessment and dialogues at the national level to understand opportunities, strengths, and challenges in building partnership across sectors at the national level.

As a side note, UN DESA has conducted similar "*national partnership landscape assessments*" in the past for several SIDS, which have been instrumental in understanding the challenges and opportunities for building partnerships nationally.

Furthermore, Member States and civil society suggested establishing regional SIDS hubs to help coordinate efforts, scale up civil society-led initiatives, and support cross-regional collaboration. Convening regular civil society fora was also suggested, as part of supporting the implementation of the SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and Roadmap. **To note, the SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and**

Roadmap was developed by civil society in SIDS to support civil society's role in implementation of ABAS and is not a negotiated document by UN member States.

4) Expand the Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue

This recommendation addresses ways to improve the annual Dialogue. Ideas from delegations include broadening its scope to include side events and breakout sessions, aligning discussions more clearly with ABAS, and considering holding it as a standalone event to allow for more focused participation.

As you know, the Dialogue has traditionally been held during the margins of the HLPF, which brings visibility but also means competing with other events. Given the recent decline in Member State attendance to the Dialogue, this idea holds potential for carving out a stronger space in the SIDS partnership agenda.

5) Developing Guidance on Best Practices for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

This recommendation came strongly from civil society—a call for clearer guidance on what makes partnerships effective and accountable.

As a side note, UN DESA has in the past produced several partnership guides, so there's a solid foundation we can build on and tailor such guidance to the needs of civil society, as appropriate, and with the Committee's overall guidance.

6) Strengthen UN Secretariat Support for SIDS Partnerships

This recommendation from member States calls for ensuring there is adequate resources within the Secretariat to carry out the mandates of member States, and clearly define the responsibilities within the Secretariat, with delegations expressing the idea that, moving forward, UN DESA takes the coordinating role of the overall Framework, and OHRLLS takes the coordinating role of the SIDS Business Network.

The recommendation also speaks about enhancing the support to UN Resident Coordinator Offices in SIDS by providing training and tools for building partnerships. On this point, UN DESA has provided such support in the past and is partnering with the RCO in Mexico and The Partnering Initiative to organize a training session during the 2025 HLPF on "*Building country capacity for multi-stakeholder partnerships*".

7) Explore the feasibility to establish a SIDS Partnership Incubator and Investment Platform

This proposal came from both Member States and stakeholders as a way to facilitate matchmaking between donors and SIDS partnerships, connecting new and emerging partnerships to investors and donors, and to provide technical assistance and capacity-building—including the possibility of a

dedicated SIDS Civil Society Development Fund to provide inclusive, easily accessible support for grassroots, informal, and underrepresented groups. Given the broad scope of this proposal, the recommendation is to first explore its feasibility, considering existing mechanisms and maximizing synergies. This could be done through a feasibility study by the Secretariat, if deemed appropriate.

8) Map Stakeholders and Establish an Online SIDS CSO Registry

This final recommendation, coming from civil society, proposes conducting regional mapping exercises to identify key actors, resources, and priority areas, and using this information to guide implementation of the SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and Roadmap.

The proposal also includes creating an interactive platform to showcase initiatives, promote knowledge exchange, and support SIDS-SIDS cooperation. It also suggests setting up a mechanism to regularly review and update such registry through the annual Dialogue and the SG report on ABAS.

Excellencies,

This concludes the presentation of the recommendations to strengthen the SIDS Partnership Framework.

We would like to thank all delegations for their active engagement, creativity, and valuable insights, which have shaped these strong and forward-looking recommendations. Today marks not the end of the journey, but indeed an important milestone along the way.

In terms of next steps, the recommendations will be included in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General and will serve as a basis for further consideration during deliberations on the Second Committee resolution on SIDS this fall.

In the interim, the Secretariat will also take time to explore which actors could be most engaged in advancing these recommendations, as well as assess potential funding implications—so we are well-prepared to support delegations as they consider the way forward.

Thank you for your attention.