

## CONCEPT NOTE & TENTATIVE AGENDA



**2020 Annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnerships Dialogue**  
**Friday, 10 July 2020 3:00pm – 6:00pm**  
*(Virtual Platform)*

***“Fostering effective partnerships to realize the Decade of Action in the context of COVID-19 and Beyond”***

The Annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Dialogue (the “Global Dialogue”), is an Event organized annually under the auspices of the SIDS Partnerships Framework. The 2020 Global Dialogue will be the 6<sup>th</sup> of such gathering and it will take place on **10 July 2020, 3:00pm to 6:00pm**, via an online platform, in the margin of the 2020 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

### **BACKGROUND**

The Third International Conference on SIDS held in September 2014, Apia, Samoa, (‘the SIDS Conference’) resulted in the adoption of an intergovernmental agreed outcome document entitled the “Accelerated Modalities of Action ( SAMOA) Pathway and the announcement of 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS.

One of the positive outcomes of the SIDS Conference was the subsequent establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework, designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS. A key element of this Framework is the annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, which provides a global platform for SIDS and partners to review progress of existing partnerships for SIDS, launch new partnerships in line with their priorities, and for all stakeholders to exchange lessons learned, identifying good partnering practices, and engage in dialogue.

## **CONCEPT**

The theme for the 2020 Global Dialogue is “*Fostering effective partnerships to realize the Decade of Action in the context of COVID-19 and Beyond*” in line with the 2020 HLPF theme of “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*” and taking account of the present and on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 poses a significant health and economic challenge for SIDS. The high prevalence of health conditions, including non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and obesity, make populations in SIDS particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. SIDS are small open economies tied into the global economic system and are often dependent on vulnerable industries affected by the global economic downturn.

The COVID-19 pandemic is projected to inflict the worst global recession since the Great Depression, sparing no country or region in the world. Many SIDS will likely experience acute recessions in 2020, severely affected by falling tourism revenue, remittances, capital flows, volatility of commodity prices and pressures of high and growing debt servicing costs. This crisis threatens to derail the progress towards the sustainable development goals and SAMOA Pathway and requires us to deepen our resolve to achieve a more peaceful, sustainable and equitable future for all.

The Global Dialogue provides a space to reflect on partnerships for SIDS in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and seeks ideas, suggestions and recommendations on how to forge and strengthen new partnerships which are responsive to the effects of COVID-19. Further, the Dialogue offers the space to reflect on the future direction of partnerships for SIDS post COVID-19, on positioning and strengthening the partnerships framework to be more responsive to the needs of those forging partnerships at the national, regional and global levels.

## **PARTICIPATION**

The 2020 Dialogue will be a Virtual Event open to up three participants each from all Members States, Observers, UN system Agencies and Organizations and Civil Societies. While UN-DESA is responsible for the registration of interested Civil Society members, the UN Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) is responsible for the overall conduct of the Meeting.

## **WEBCAST**

The Dialogue will also be webcast live on: <http://webtv.un.org/live/>

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

<p><b>Item. 1</b></p>	<p><b>OPENING REMARKS</b> (3:00pm-3:20pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson</b> - Co-Chair, Permanent Representative of Antigua &amp; Barbuda to the United Nations</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier</b> Co- Chair, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin</b>, Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mrs. Fekita 'Utoikamanu</b>, High Representative, OHRLLS</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Lois Young</b>, Chair of AOSIS, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item. 2</b></p>	<p><b>SIDS PARTNERSHIPS &amp; INITIATIVES SHOWCASE</b> 3:20pm – 3:45pm</p> <p><i>(This Item will hear presentations, showcasing Partnerships efforts and initiatives in SIDS. The first two presentations will provide updates on activities under the SIDS Partnerships Framework, followed by a brief showcasing a Partnership Initiative between a SIDS and a Developed Partner, highlighting an example that can be emulated going forward. The final presentation will hear a brief from a global multi-stakeholder SIDS partnership perspective.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox</b> (Director, OHRLLS), <i>SIDS Global Business Network</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Alex Trepelkov</b> (OIC- DSDG, UNDESA), <i>SIDS Partnerships Accelerator</i></li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Mitchell Fifield</b>, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, <i>The Fiji – Australia “Vuvale” Partnerships.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>7 minutes is allocated per speaker – no Q&amp;A is envisaged for this segment although questions can be directed to presenters during the interactive discussion in Item 3(a)&amp;(b).</i></p>
<p><b>Item. 3(a)</b></p>	<p><b>EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS, THE DECADE OF ACTION &amp; POST COVID-19</b> (3:45pm – 4:35pm)</p> <p><i>(This segment is an interactive session, discussing ideas, suggestions and recommendations on how to forge and strengthen new partnerships in the context of COVID-19. Conversation to include topics such as, tourism, health issues, commodity dependence issues, economic diversification, debt matters, political partnerships etc. It should highlight lessons learned and best practices with regard to sustainable recovery from advanced economies and the types of partnerships needed to achieve this in SIDS.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Timothy Antoine</b>, Governor, <i>Eastern Caribbean Central Bank</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Donna Lagdameo</b>, Senior Policy Advisor, <i>UNDRR</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Courtney Nemroff</b> – Ambassador, <i>US Mission- Representative to ECOSOC “Blue Dot Network and Partnerships”</i></li> </ul> <p><i>7 minutes is allocated to each speaker, 29 minutes for Q&amp;A – 50 minutes total</i></p>

	<p><b>GUIDING QUESTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Which partnerships should be encouraged to strengthen SIDS response to and recovery from COVID-19 in the immediate and long-term perspective?</li> <li>➤ What are the lessons to be learned, best practices and opportunities with regard to sustainable recovery from advanced economies and the types of partnerships needed to achieve this in SIDS?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item. 3(b)</b></p>	<p><b>STRATEGIC GLOBAL DIALOGUE</b> (4:35pm – 5:25pm)</p> <p><i>(This segment is envisaged to generate more focused discussions on the future direction of the SIDS Partnerships Framework in a post COVID-19 World. Issues such as the nature and types of partnerships, registration, global outreach, regional engagement, national incentives, the SMART Criteria and views on topics like partnerships vs ODA to be discussed)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Gabriella Cassola</b>, Assistant Director, <i>Small States Centre of Excellence, Malta</i></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jorge Chediek</b>, Director and Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, <i>United Nations Office for South-South Co-operation (UNOSSC)</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Kate Brown</b>, Executive Director, <i>Global Island Partnership (GLIPSA)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>7 minutes allocated to each speaker, 29 minutes for Q&amp;A – 50 minutes total</i></p> <p><b>GUIDING QUESTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How should the SIDS Partnership Framework be further enhanced post COVID-19 and what actions should we take to better foster and monitor genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS?</li> <li>➤ How can the SIDS Partnership Framework provide incentives for project managers to register partnerships to promote effective monitoring?</li> <li>➤ How can the SIDS Partnerships Framework more effectively stimulate new partnerships?</li> </ul>
<p><b>ITEM. 4</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING</b> (5:25pm – 5:35pm)</p> <p><b>Remarks by Co-chairs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson</b> - Co-Chair, Permanent Representative of Antigua &amp; Barbuda to the United Nations</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier</b> Co- Chair, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations</li> </ul>