



Draft Concept Note

Event title: Unlocking sustainable future in SIDS: national climate policies and actions on clean energy and climate finance.

Date and Time: 30 May 2024 | 10:00 – 11:30

Venue: SIDS4 Conference, American University of Antigua, Room: 6, St John's, Antigua and Barbuda

1. Introduction and Background

The Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) is being held under the overarching theme of "Charting the course toward resilient prosperity". The Conference will aim to assess the ability of SIDS to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. It will result in an intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward looking and action-oriented political outcome document.

The side event is an opportunity to focus on practical and impactful solutions and to forge new partnerships and cooperation at all levels. Bringing to the forefront a discussion on the tools and mechanisms available to unlocking a sustainable future in SIDS is directly in line with the objectives of SIDS4. Island States are widely known to be endowed with a wide variety of renewable resources and potential to generate clean energy, albeit underexploited. Addressing existing barriers and strengthening drivers in investments in sustainable energy infrastructure and technologies will lead to the achievement of national targets and goals, and ultimately the SDGs.

SIDS countries that are party to the Paris Agreement are now starting the process of updating and submitting their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UN Climate Change. At COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in December 2023 these countries were encouraged to come forward in their next NDCs with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories. Additionally, they were encouraged to communicate these updated NDCs in 2025.

Effective participation in the Paris Agreement through biennial transparency reports (BTRs), will enable governments to make informed decisions, design policy responses, attract climate finance, and achieve broader development goals in line with their priorities. Further, it provide

and opportunity to communicate support needs to the international community, with a view to meet priorities, address challenges, gaps and barriers. It will provide a strong signal to support providers, so they will be responding in a way that best meets the needs and priorities of each country.

This side event will highlight the advantages of clean energy investments to national planning. In most SIDS, the energy sector is the largest emitter of GHG emissions, and it stands to reason that their mitigation targets would focus on that area. For these countries, the NDCs can be used as a vehicle to support this transformative change and drive real implementation towards their goals. The first BTRs are due 31 December 2024, and will provide essential information on the starting point of Parties to report on their mitigation targets and elaborate on key sectors such as clean energy, including indicators to track the related progress.

2. Objectives

Objectives:

- Discuss challenges and opportunities on the clean energy transition in SIDS including assessing the perspectives for an interconnect energy market
- Facilitate SIDS debate on the importance of clean energy national policies, long-term development strategies and sustainable development efforts
- Share experiences on sustainable energy initiatives, models of energy transition and on mobilizing climate finance for national climate action
- Discuss the role of carbon markets in NDCs and how they can drive implementation and transformative change in SIDS
- Discuss the critical role of BTR reporting to assess the starting point for tracking NDC progress, to document national policies and a vehicle for sustainable development, including financial support needs and communication of national priorities

3. Target Audience

The side event will be targeting government officials from SIDS (Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Africa) and non-Party stakeholders including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), regional organizations and private sector with interest in clean energy development.

4. Format

The Side Event will be divided into three parts:

1. The first part will be providing the bigger picture on SIDS and clean energy transition, and how UNFCCC processes can support
2. The second part will be a moderated panel discussion comprising of a moderator and various regional and international organisations. The moderator will introduce each panelist and give a brief overview of their respective organizations. The moderator will then proceed to ask three (3) questions and open the floor for responses from the

panelists. Each panelist will have a maximum of 5 min to respond to each question. The audience will be invited to ask questions related to the panel discussion.

3. The third part will include information on countries' processes of National Determined Contributions (NDCs), Long Term Low GHG Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) and importance of BTR submission (first SIDS submission from Guyana). Countries will be invited to share success stories and lessons learned on clean energy initiatives planned or implemented in their respective countries, describe how they contribute to NDC and LT-LEDS implementation and how the BTR preparation could be used as a vehicle to achieve sustainable development and communicate financial needs. The audience will be invited to ask questions relating to their presentations.

4. Tentative Agenda

| Time | Topic | Responsible |
|----------------|---|---|
| 10:00 10:05 | <i>Welcome Remarks</i> | UNFCCC RCC Caribbean lead |
| 10:05 10:15 | <i>Scene Setting</i> | Donald Cooper – UNFCCC Director Transparency Division |
| 10:15 10:35 | <p>Moderator - Island Innovation CEO – James Elsmoor</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 1 (IRENA) Charting a Green Course: Climate Action and Clean Energy Transition Investments in SIDS • Panelist 2 (Commonwealth Secretariat): The transition to low-carbon energy systems in the Commonwealth • Panelist 3 (UNFCCC RCCs) - Cooperative Approaches under Article 6; Financing/Blended Financing. • Panelist 4 (GIZ): NDC 3.0 - The role of carbon markets mechanisms in raising ambition | <p>SIDS Lighthouse Initiative (IRENA) - TBC</p> <p>Unnikrishnan Nair – Head of Climate Change at the Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Patrick Munyaneza – UNFCCC RCC</p> <p>Annett Fleischer– GIZ/Global Carbon Market Project</p> |
| 10:35 10:45 | Q&A Session | |
| 10:45 11:15 | <p>Moderator - Island Innovation CEO – James Elsmoor</p> <p>“Setting country scene”</p> <p>Global Renewable and Energy Efficiency Pledges at COP 28 and linkage with the NDC and BTR preparation</p> <p>Experience Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guyana (BTR) - TBC • Dominica (Caribbean: Geothermal/Green Hydrogen) • Vanuatu (Pacific: Solar Energy) - TBC • Mauritius (Africa: Carbon Pricing and/or Cogeneration) - TBC • OECS / Alliance on Carbon Market and Climate Finance | <p>Jason Williams – NDC LT-LEDs expert – UNFCCC RCCs</p> <p>Shanna Emmanuel– OECS Commission</p> |

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| 11:15 11:25 | Q&A Session | |
| 11:25 11:30 | Closing Remarks | Island Innovation |