

Small Island Developing States

**International Meeting for the 10-year Review
of the Barbados Programme of Action
for the Sustainable Development of
Small Island Developing States**

10-14 January 2005 • Mauritius

**United Nations Office of the High Representative for
the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries
and Small Island Developing States**



United Nations

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“Progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action has been mixed. The small island developing States (SIDS) still face major challenges to their sustainable development, some of long standing and others of more recent origin... To further sustainable development in small island developing States, consideration should be given to creating novel strategies to strengthen the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. Such a programme should involve a collaborative approach that includes the small island developing States, the development partners, the donor community, the regional organizations and the United Nations system. There is, in particular, a need for more systematic monitoring and assessment to indicate progress or lack thereof in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, and to identify the factors hindering its implementation.”

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

March, 2004

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for
the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
Small Island Developing States, New York

Websites

www.un.org/ohrlls

<http://www.un.org/smallislands2005>

www.sidsnet.org

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Foreword



In December 2003 I was designated the Secretary-General of the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In keeping with the mandate to my Office and as Secretary-General of the International Meeting, I have taken steps to initiate the preparations for the Meeting scheduled to be held in Mauritius. At the Inter-regional Meeting in the Bahamas (26-30 January 2004), and thereafter, I advised SIDS to work towards an outcome that had the full support of the international community, and above all, was implementable. I also launched a vigorous campaign for contributions to the voluntary fund in keeping with General Assembly resolutions (57/262 and 58/213A).

I am happy that my Office has been able to issue this information booklet in time for the International Meeting. The objective of this booklet is to provide participants with basic information on the Meeting, as well as access to brief information on the substantive aspects as a quick reference. It is hoped that the booklet will serve its intended purpose.

Anwarul K. Chowdhury
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
New York
November 2004

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 through its resolution 56/227 with functions recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraph 17 of his report A/56/645.

QUICK FACTS

About the Mauritius International Meeting

Meeting	International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Mauritius (10 - 14 January 2005), with two days of informal consultations on 8-9 January 2005. The high-level segment will be on 13-14 January 2005
Host Country	Mauritius. Venue: Conference Centre at Pailles (3 kms from Port Louis)
Participation	Open to all United Nations member states. Other participants and observers in accordance with Provisional Rules of Procedure (A/58/567)
Secretary-General of the International Meeting	Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
Executive Secretary	Mr. Manuel Dengo, Chief of Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States, Division of Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN-OHRLLS Coordinator	Mr. Om Pradhan, Chief, Policy Development and Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
UN departments and offices involved in providing services for the International Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States • Department of Social and Economic Affairs/SIDS Unit • Department of General Assembly and Conference Management • Department of Public Information • Department of Management • Office of Central Support Services • Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts • Office of Legal Affairs

“The international community, equipped with the lessons of the past, needs to come together to support, in real terms, the genuine aspirations of the SIDS and their determined efforts for a new resurgence in Mauritius to bring true benefit and progress for women, men and children of this most vulnerable segment of humanity.”

Anwarul K. Chowdhury
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
Secretary-General of the International Meeting
United Nations, New York, December 2003

The Road to the International Meeting in Mauritius

- The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 57/262 called for an international meeting to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. This was in pursuance of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In resolution 58/213A, the General Assembly accepted the offer of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to host the international meeting. The meeting was scheduled to take place in Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September 2004. These initial dates had to be changed as the host country requested a postponement. The new dates approved by the General Assembly for the International Meeting are 10 to 14 January 2005, including a high-level segment on 13 and 14 January, and informal consultations on 8 and 9 January 2005 (A/58/213B).
- Three regional preparatory meetings have been held as follows:
 - Apia, Samoa, 4-8 August 2003 for the Pacific region
 - Praia, Cape Verde, 1-5 September 2003 for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the South China Sea (AIMS) region. A resumed meeting of the AIMS preparatory meeting was held in Mahe, Seychelles, 8-10 January 2004.
 - Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6-10 October 2003 for the Caribbean region
- An Inter-regional Meeting to consider the reports of the three regional meetings was held in Nassau, the Bahamas from 26 to 30 January 2004. This meeting resulted in two documents, namely, the Nassau Declaration and the AOSIS Strategy Paper.
- The AOSIS Strategy Paper was endorsed by the Group of 77 and China on 4 March 2004 and submitted as the Group's Strategy Paper to the open-ended preparatory meeting.

- At the global level, a three-day open-ended preparatory meeting for the International Meeting took place in New York from 14 to 16 April 2004. As work on the draft strategy paper could not be completed at the preparatory meeting, the Commission on Sustainable Development appointed Ambassador Don MacKay, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations as the Facilitator. The responsibility of the Facilitator is to organize informal consultations on the draft strategy paper so that most issues could be agreed upon by the time delegations reached Mauritius for the International Meeting.
- Prior to the International Meeting, two days of informal consultations is envisaged in Mauritius on 8-9 January 2005 to complete any outstanding work on the outcome document. In addition, the International Meeting will also issue a Political Declaration, the initiative for which, according to practice, will be taken by the host country.
- A Civil Society Forum will take place on 6 to 9 January 2005 in Mauritius prior to the International Meeting

NOTE: For these and other SIDS-related documentation please go to the following websites:

www.un.org/ohrlls

www.sidsnet.org and

www.un.org/smallislands2005

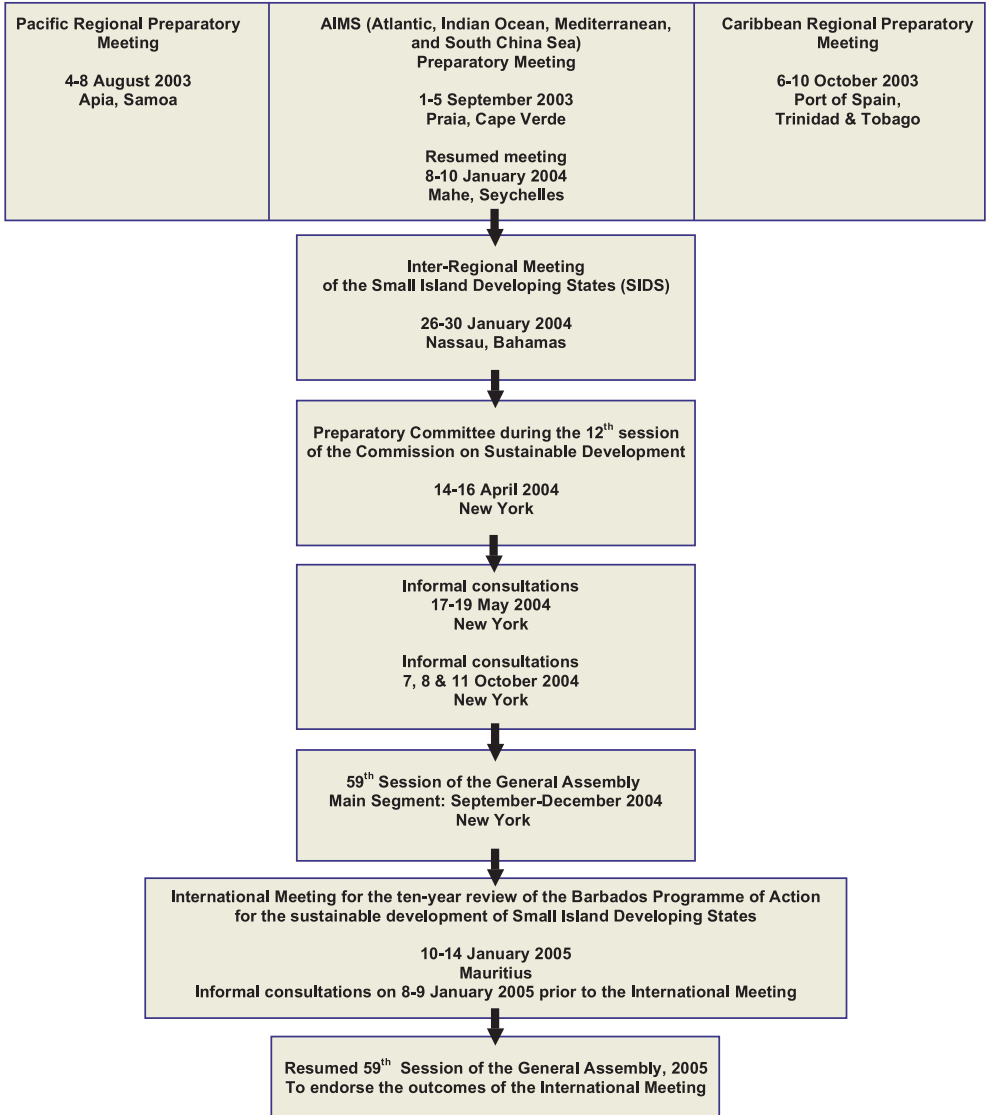
Institutional Arrangements

- An Inter-Agency Task Force was established in January 2003 to coordinate matters within the UN system to prepare for the International Meeting.
- In December 2003, the United Nations Secretary-General designated Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, as the Secretary-General of the International Meeting.
- As called for in General Assembly resolutions 57/262 and 58/213A, the Secretary-General of the International Meeting launched a campaign for contributions to the voluntary trust fund established to enable participation of SIDS delegates at the International Meeting and the preparatory process.
- In accordance with Rule 6 of the provisional Rules of Procedure, A/58/567, the International Meeting is required to elect a President and 14 Vice-Presidents, three from each of the following UN regional groups: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and the Western European and other States. The Secretary-General of the International Meeting addressed letters to the Chairpersons of the five regional groups for the month of February 2004 to initiate the process of finalizing nominations of respective groups for the Bureau of the International Meeting in keeping with the provisional Rules of Procedure. The list of candidates nominated by regional groups is given below:

Bureau of the International Meeting Nominations by Regional Groups

African Group	Cape Verde Mauritius Morocco
Asian Group	Tuvalu Nauru Timor-Leste
Eastern European Group	Croatia Lithuania Czech Republic
GRULAC	Belize Bahamas Barbados
WEOG	Italy Belgium New Zealand

2003-2005 Road map to the International meeting



Background to the International Meeting

The idea of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) emerged at the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) - the Earth Summit - held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (3-14 June 1992).

The Earth Summit was convened to address urgent problems relating to the world's environment and the socio-economic development of countries. The leaders at the Summit signed the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, endorsed the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles, and adopted Agenda 21, for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century.

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created to monitor and report on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements.

In order to promote the well being of people living in island countries, the Earth Summit called for the United Nations to convene a Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Conference was held in Barbados in May 1994 and produced a Programme of Action designed to assist these environmentally and economically vulnerable countries.

1992: Agenda 21

Agenda 21 was adopted at the UNCED. In terms of economic and social dimensions, Agenda 21 emphasizes international cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries while at the same time ensuring the health of the natural environment. The main issues were combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, demographic dynamics and sustainability, and protecting and promoting human health conditions.

Conservation and management of resources for development was posited as an essential segment of Agenda 21, and included protection of the atmosphere, management of land resources, combating deforestation, managing fragile ecosystems, promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, conservation of biological diversity, environmentally sound management of biotechnology, protection of the oceans and seas, protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources, environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, hazardous and/or radio-active wastes, and sewage related issues.

1994: Barbados Programme of Action - The fourteen priorities

The 1994 Global Conference for the sustainable development of the SIDS was held in Barbados, where the Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS (BPOA) was adopted. The BPOA presents a basis for action in fourteen agreed priority areas and defines a number of actions and policies related to environment and development planning

that should be undertaken by SIDS with the cooperation and assistance of the international community.

The fourteen priorities outlined in the BPOA are briefly reflected below:

1. Climate change and sea level rise
2. Natural and environmental disasters
3. Management of wastes
4. Coastal and marine resources
5. Freshwater resources
6. Land resources
7. Energy resources
8. Tourism resources
9. Biodiversity resources
10. National institutions and administrative capacity
11. Regional institutions and technical cooperation
12. Transport and communication
13. Science and technology
14. Human resource development

1999: Five-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action

A comprehensive review of the BPOA was conducted after five years of Barbados at the Twenty-second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (27-28 September 1999). The Session adopted a declaration and endorsed the Programme of Action outlined in the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body.¹

The special concerns and the specific constraints of SIDS were recognized. Among other things, it was noted that the means of implementation required taking into account national and regional sustainable development strategies, and the need to create strong and committed partnerships between the SIDS and the international community.

It was noted that resource mobilization was one of the main challenges for SIDS, and this aspect remains crucial and needs to be addressed with a new resolve by all partners to provide impetus at every level to implement the BPOA.

¹ General Assembly resolution A/RES/S-22/2 of 12 June 2000

2000: Millennium Summit, New York

In 2000, Heads of State/Government and other world leaders at the United Nations resolved in the Millennium Declaration to address the special needs of small island developing states, and expressed their commitment to implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly “rapidly and in full”. They also urged the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of Small Island Developing States are taken into account. The road map for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration subsequently outlined the following strategies for SIDS:

- Ensuring progress towards a special and differential treatment of small island developing states in the financial and trade-related spheres;
- Supporting and assisting small island developing states in specific aspects of multi-lateral trade negotiations;
- Supporting any additional efforts necessary towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

In the fulfillment of these strategies, Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals is of particular importance to the Small Island Developing Countries. This relates to building global partnerships for development. It specifically calls for an open, rule-based trading and financial system, more generous aid to countries committed to poverty reduction, and relief for debt problems. It draws attention to the problems of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, which have greater difficulty competing in the global economy. It also calls for cooperation with the private sector to address youth unemployment, ensure access to affordable, essential drugs, and make available the benefits of new technologies.

2002:

International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico

The International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Monterrey, Mexico (18-22 March 2002). The conference addressed the challenges of financing for development around the world, particularly in developing countries. The goal was to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote c within a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system.

The conference, while calling for special consideration for disadvantaged countries, reaffirmed the commitment of Heads of State or Government to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and the Global Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. At Monterrey the developed countries made substantive commitments to enhance Official Development Assistance (ODA) that had been declining during the past decade.

2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (24 August - 4 September, 2002), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, drew up a declaration on sustainable development and a Plan of Implementation. The Johannesburg Summit built on the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro and Agenda 21. The Summit set more concrete and tangible targets, timetables, and commitments on a wide range of issues, including poverty eradication, devising sound environmental patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development; trade issues; health and sustainable development; and regional initiatives with a special concern for Africa and Small Island Developing States.

The JPOI called on the international community to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the BPOA in 2004, in accordance with the provisions set forth in resolution S-22/2 of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly, and requested the General Assembly at its regular session to consider convening an international meeting for the review of the BPOA.

United Nations General Assembly decides to hold the International Meeting in Mauritius

At its 57th regular session in 2002 the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/262 and decided to hold the International Meeting as recommended by the JPOI. Again, at its 58th session the General Assembly welcomed the offer of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to host the Meeting from 30 August to 3 September 2004 (58/213A). Subsequently on 10 June 2004 the General Assembly decided to change the dates for holding the International Meeting to 10-14 January 2005, with a high level segment on 13 and 14 January, and if required, the informal consultations during 8-9 January 2005 (A/58/213B).

2003-2004: SIDS Regional Preparatory meetings and

The Inter-Regional Meeting at Nassau, Bahamas

For the ten-year review, the Small Island Developing States prepared and discussed their national assessments at the three regional meetings that were organized in the latter half of 2003. The preparatory process culminated in the Inter-regional Meeting in Nassau, Bahamas (26-30 January 2004). The Nassau meeting resulted in the Nassau Declaration and the AOSIS Strategy Paper. The declaration was forwarded by Bahamas to the United Nations Secretary-General for issuance as a document of the United Nations. The Strategy Paper was submitted to the Group of 77 and China for consideration and adoption and onward submission to the Preparatory Meeting for the Mauritius International Meeting (14-16 April 2004).

Issues of Concern to SIDS

In the AOSIS Strategy Paper that was subsequently endorsed by the Group of 77 and China, the issues identified were as follows:

Climate change and sea-level rise
Natural and environmental disasters
Management of wastes
Coastal and marine resources
Freshwater resources
Land resources
Energy resources
Tourism resources
Biodiversity resources
Transport and communication
Science and technology
Graduation
Trade: globalization and trade liberalization
Sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development
Sustainable production and consumption
National and regional enabling environments
Health
Knowledge management and information for decision-making
Culture
Implementation
Monitoring and evaluation
Access to financial resources

Constraints confronting SIDS

Some of the specific constraints identified in the sustainable development of SIDS are:

- A narrow resource base that restricts small island developing states from benefiting from economies of scale;
- Small domestic markets, resulting in heavy dependence on export markets and import sources, and often aggravated by long distances and low and irregular international traffic volumes;
- High costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation, communication and servicing;

- Fragile natural environments and limited resilience to natural disasters;
- Limited opportunities for the domestic and international private sector.

In addition, SIDS face constraints in implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action due to:

- Insufficient financial resources;
- Inadequate skilled and technically qualified manpower;
- An inadequacy of institutional infrastructure and administrative capacity;
- Difficulties in meeting obligations relating to international conventions and agreements due to a lack of national capacity.

International conventions and agreements pertaining to SIDS are:

- (i) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- (ii) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- (iii) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD)
- (iv) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- (v) Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
- (vi) United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- (vii) International Coral Reef Initiative.

New and emerging issues

The Barbados Programme of Action has been acknowledged as the principled international instrument to address the sustainable development of the SIDS. Some new and emerging issues have however been identified that have begun to impact the SIDS in their development efforts, and they need urgent international attention. These are:

- Trade
- HIV/AIDS
- Renewable energy resources
- Information Communications Technologies
- Security

International Support Measures

While initiatives on the part of the SIDS are expected to persist in their bid to implement the BPOA, they will continue to require the enhanced support of the international community. Following are some of the international measures that are needed:

- Enhancing the flows of Official Development Assistance;
- Enhancing the flows of concessional financing;
- Attracting more foreign direct investment into SIDS;
- Technologies to address specific problems like freshwater, energy, information technology, climate change and adaptation, coping with natural and manmade disasters, and others;
- Capacity building in multifarious fields;
- Strengthening of national, regional and international abilities to cope with security, health issues, and natural and manmade disasters;
- Special and differential treatment for the international trade of SIDS.
- The establishment of an environmental vulnerability index to serve as an aid in socio-economic planning and as a criterion for access to external sources of aid;
- Climate change and sea-level rise: concerted international action is needed to reverse adverse trends, and adequate measures need to be taken to enable affected SIDS to successfully adapt to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise;
- The problems arising for the sustainable development of SIDS Least Developed Countries upon graduation from LDC status need to be addressed effectively by ensuring that they are not adversely affected in the process, and their sustainable development efforts do not suffer.

Follow-up and Monitoring

The Need for a Road Map – the Way Forward

The follow-up of the outcome of the Mauritius International Meeting will be the primary responsibility of the SIDS and the development partners. Lessons learned from past conferences of this nature suggests that a road map for the implementation of the outcome in Mauritius be prepared at a high international political level to enable timely and appropriate follow-up to implement the outcome.

United Nations General Assembly mandate for UN-OHRLLS

Resolution 56/227

When it comes to the *SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES*, the mandate translates into the following responsibilities for the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States:

Firstly, supporting the coordinated follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*coordination*)

Secondly, to undertake advocacy work in favour of the small island developing states in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations as well as with civil society, media, academia and foundations (*advocacy*)

Thirdly, assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action (*mobilization of support*)

Fourthly, provide support to group consultations of SIDS (*support in consultations*)

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List of Small Island Developing States (UN Members)

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Bahamas
3. Barbados
4. Belize
5. Cape Verde
6. Comoros
7. Cuba
8. Dominica
9. Dominican Republic
10. Fiji
11. Grenada
12. Guinea-Bissau
13. Guyana
14. Haiti
15. Jamaica
16. Kiribati
17. Maldives
18. Marshall Islands
19. Federated States of Micronesia
20. Mauritius
21. Nauru
22. Palau
23. Papua New Guinea
24. Samoa
25. Sao Tome and Principe
26. Singapore
27. St. Kitts and Nevis
28. St. Lucia
29. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
30. Seychelles
31. Solomon Islands
32. Suriname
33. Timor-Leste
34. Tonga
35. Trinidad and Tobago
36. Tuvalu
37. Vanuatu

List of Small Island Developing States (Non-UN Members/Associate Members of the Regional Commissions)

1. American Samoa
2. Anguila
3. Aruba
4. British Virgin Islands
5. Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
6. Cook Islands
7. French Polynesia
8. Guam
9. Montserrat
10. Netherlands Antilles
11. New Caledonia
12. Niue
13. Puerto Rico
14. U.S. Virgin Islands



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