

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

27 to 30 May 2024

UN-Oceans side event

29 May 2024, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Room 5, American University of Antigua

Ocean action to support resilient prosperity in SIDS

The vital role of oceans and seas in achieving sustainable development is widely recognized, including through their contribution to poverty eradication, economic growth, food security, sustainable livelihoods and decent work. Small island developing States (SIDS) face unique challenges due to their vulnerability, in particular to climate change, but also stand to benefit from the opportunities of ocean-based economies. Inclusive responses to the triple planetary crisis are essential to build fairer, sustainable, and resilient societies, particularly in SIDS, the large ocean States, through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions and through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.

This side event aims to explore the role that UN-Oceans members play and could play in supporting SIDS to build resilient prosperity, including through climate-smart, ecosystem-focused, science-based and sustainable ocean management, as well as cooperation for planning and implementation of on-the-ground action.

Enhancing collective ocean action, working across UN-Oceans members' mandates, can help SIDS to meet capacity needs, capitalize on synergies, and present a clear opportunity, with necessary investments, towards achieving shared goals of building resilience, prosperity, and sustainable development.

Organized in alignment with the thematic interactive dialogue on "*Revitalizing SIDS Economies for accelerated and sustainable growth*", this side event will showcase how UN-Oceans members are working together to enhance the ability of SIDS to chart a course towards resilient prosperity.

Draft programme

15 mins	<p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <p>Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares (delivered by video or his representative) Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel; and UN-Oceans Focal Point</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Michael W. Lodge Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority</p> <p>Mr. Vidar Helgesen Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO</p> <p>Ms. Ligia Noronha UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP, New York Office</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tricia Lovell</p>
3 mins	<p><i>Framing discussion and introduction</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tricia Lovell</p>
30 min	<p>Panel I (5-minute presentations followed by Q&A)</p> <p>Theme 1: Enhancing collective ocean action to enhance prosperity in SIDS, working across UN-Oceans members' mandates</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tricia Lovell</p> <p>Ms. Angelica Jacome Daza, Director, Office of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</p> <p>Blue Transformation: Unlocking the potential of aquatic foods to generate employment, economic growth, social development, and environmental recovery in SIDS</p> <p><i>This intervention will highlight how FAO is cooperating with fellow UN-Oceans members towards unlocking the potential of aquatic foods for resilient prosperity in SIDS, such as collaboration with IOC-UNESCO to better predict and mitigate the impact of harmful algal blooms and collaboration with IMO through the GloLitter partnership.</i></p> <p>Mr. Rodney Martinez, Representative for North America, Central America and the Caribbean, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)</p> <p>The need for enhanced ocean observation network to enhance resilience in SIDS</p> <p><i>The intervention will highlight the deteriorating state of ocean observation networks in SIDS and impacts on SIDS' ability to predict extreme weather and climate events and take preventative actions; and showcase efforts to address these gaps, including the Early Warnings for All initiative.</i></p> <p>Ms. Leticia Carvalho, Head, Marine & Freshwater Branch at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <p>Tackling the Triple Planetary Threats to SIDS by Applying Nature-Based Solutions for More Resilient and Prosperous Societies</p> <p>Natural resources and ecosystems serve as indispensable pillars underpinning the economic growth aspirations of island nations. The sustainable management of these ecosystems and resources necessitates the adoption of innovative and effective policy measures, leveraging integrated approaches and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS). UNEP's robust approach to ecosystem-based adaptation exemplifies its capacity to showcase how nature can be seamlessly integrated into adaptation strategies, mitigating the impacts of climate change. Through its initiatives, UNEP has demonstrated remarkable success in utilizing nature to address various challenges, including water scarcity, urban flooding, landslides, extreme events, coastline</p>

		<p>protection, and enhancing adaptive capacity, among others. Moreover, with the incidence of climate-related disasters doubling since 2000, urgent and targeted climate action is imperative to address the unique vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and bolster the resilience of vulnerable and marginalized communities. As we navigate beyond CoP28, there is an urgent need to scale up climate action, ensuring that it aligns with the pressing needs and priorities of SIDS.</p>
		<p>Mr. Joseph Appiott, Coordinator for Marine, Coastal and Island Biodiversity, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</p> <p>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: A Key Mechanism to Scale up Action for SIDS Priorities</p> <p><i>The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in December 2022. This Framework contains the most ambitious set of global goals and targets that we have seen for the ocean, the achievement of which will require the robust implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. It represents a comprehensive and holistic approach for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to support the continued provisioning of ecosystem services to support sustainable development. The Framework is a key opportunity to catalyze action and support for achieving SIDS priorities.</i></p>
		<p>Ms. Alison Clausen, Programme Specialist/Deputy Coordinator, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO</p> <p>The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a Framework for Action in SIDS</p> <p><i>The Ocean Decade provides a global action framework to catalyze the co-design and co-delivery of knowledge for sustainable ocean management. The recent 2024 Ocean Decade Conference identified a series of recommendations and priorities for ocean science and knowledge and highlighted the importance of partnerships with and support to SIDS to facilitate the generation and use of relevant and timely ocean science and knowledge to underpin resilient economic development.</i></p>
		<p>Q&A</p>
30 min	<p>Panel II (5-minute presentations followed by Q&A)</p>	<p><u>Theme 2: The role that UN-Oceans members play and could play in supporting SIDS to build resilient prosperity</u></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tricia Lovell</p> <p>Mr. Marc Metian, Research Scientist, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Marine Environment Laboratories</p> <p>Importance of building and sustaining capacities in SIDS through cooperation and partnership to address local to global ocean challenges</p> <p><i>Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to ocean changes. Their sustainable development, to be based on resilient prosperity, requires specific support. The IAEA provides SIDS with knowledge for policy makers on impacts of threats to the marine environment resulting from human activities (ocean acidification, pollution), and tailored capacity-building support through cooperation and partnerships, to meet SIDS specificities.</i></p> <p>Ms. Frida Youssef, Chief, Transport Section, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p>

		<p>UNCTAD strategy to support of Small Island Developing States: key elements in support of ocean action for resilient prosperity in SIDS</p> <p><i>The intervention will present key elements of the UNCTAD SIDS strategy with a focus on ocean-related issues, including facilitating the ocean economy's sustainable development and trade; enhancing connectivity, reducing transport costs, and promoting sustainable and climate-resilient transport; and building productive capacities through support for economic sectors including tourism and blue economy.</i></p>
		<p>Ms. Valentina Germani, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)/Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations</p> <p>Fostering resilient prosperity in SIDS through support in ocean affairs and the law of the sea</p> <p><i>DOALOS offers a number of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes on various aspects of ocean affairs and the law of the sea, with a view to support SIDS in their quest for a resilient and sustainable future. This intervention will outline some of these needs-based programmes, including current activities to assist SIDS in the early identification of their capacity-building needs toward becoming party to, implementing and complying with the BBNJ Agreement.</i></p>
		<p>Mr. Adnan Awad, Head of Water & Oceans Program, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p>
		<p>Dr Marie Bourrel-McKinnon, Chief of Staff & Head of Strategic Planning Unit, International Seabed Authority (ISA)</p> <p>Building and developing capacities of SIDS to advance deep-sea research in support of the stewardship of the Area and its resources for humanity</p> <p><i>Since 2018, ISA provides SIDS with diverse sets of capacity development programmes and activities tailored to address the priority capacity needs identified by them in all aspects of the specific mandate and competence assigned to ISA under UNCLOS and the 2023 Agreement (BBNJ). Particular emphasis is placed on building expertise in law of the sea and ocean governance as well as facilitating access to scientific expertise and knowledge in high-skilled deep-sea research related disciplines and environmental management and monitoring in ABNJ.</i></p>
		<p>Q&A</p>
5mins	Closing session	<p>Moderator: Ms. Tricia Lovell</p> <p>Closing remarks from Ms. Valerie Hickey, Global Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, World Bank: “Financing ocean action”</p>