



4TH INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
**Small Island  
Developing States**  
**27-30 MAY, 2024**  
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

## **SIDS4 Conference Side Event**

### **Ocean action to support resilient prosperity in SIDS**

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

**Room 5, American University of Antigua**

### **Organized by UN-Oceans**

UN-Oceans, an inter-agency mechanism for cooperation and coordination on ocean and coastal matters, held a side event to showcase how UN-Oceans members are working together to enhance the ability of SIDS to chart a course towards resilience, prosperity and sustainable development.

Please refer to the [Concept Note and Programme](#) and the [Speaker Biographies](#).

#### **The side event commenced with high level opening remarks from the:**

- Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, as UN-Oceans Focal Point;
- Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority;
- Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO-IOC); and
- Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Environment Programme, New York Office.

#### **In Panel 1 on “*Enhancing collective ocean action to enhance prosperity in SIDS, working across UN-Oceans members’ mandates*”:**

- **FAO** highlighted the importance of the Blue Transformation Roadmap towards unlocking the potential of aquatic foods for resilient prosperity in SIDS through improved fisheries management; the intensification and expansion of aquaculture; and the upgrading of the fish value chain efficiency, viability and inclusiveness. Moreover, FAO shared how it is cooperating with UN-Oceans members, including

with UNESCO-IOC to better predict and mitigate impacts of harmful algal blooms and with IMO through the GloLitter partnership.

- **WMO** showcased efforts to enhance ocean observation networks to enhance resilience in SIDS, including the Early Warnings for All initiative, and called for more collaboration to increase ownership and engagement of regional organizations and SIDS.
- **UNEP** discussed how its initiatives, including integrated approaches and nature-based solutions, were being applied to tackle the triple planetary threats to SIDS and bolster their resilience.
- **CBD Secretariat** discussed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a key mechanism to catalyze and scale up action and support for achieving SIDS priorities.
- **UNESCO-IOC** discussed the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a global action framework to catalyze the co-design and co-delivery of knowledge for sustainable ocean management, and the importance of partnerships with and support to SIDS to underpin resilient economic development.

**In Panel 2 on “*The role that UN-Oceans members play and could play in supporting SIDS to build resilient prosperity*”:**

- **IAEA** recalled how it is providing SIDS with knowledge for policymakers on the impacts of threats to the marine environment resulting from human activities, such as ocean acidification, microplastic pollution and tailored capacity-building support through cooperation and partnerships, to meet SIDS specific needs.
- **UNCTAD** presented key elements of its SIDS strategy in support of ocean action for resilient prosperity, including facilitating the ocean economy's sustainable development and trade; enhancing connectivity, reducing transport costs, and promoting sustainable and climate-resilient transport; as well as building productive capacities through support for economic sectors. Reference was also made to the Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Transport and Logistics in SIDS, which was one of the outcomes of the UNCTAD Global Supply Chain Forum, held in Barbados from 21 to 24 May 2024.
- **UN/OLA/DOALOS** gave an overview of its technical assistance and capacity-building programmes towards supporting SIDS’ quest for a resilient and sustainable future, including to assist SIDS to become party to and implement the BBNJ Agreement and an Ocean Governance Fellowship for SIDS.
- **UNDP** highlighted how through its Nature Pledge and related strategies it was working with SIDS to scale and fast-track actions necessary to sustainably utilize ocean resources for inclusive and sustainable economic development, including the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Programme.

**Closing remarks were delivered by the World Bank on the topic “*Financing ocean action*”.**