



Concept Note: SIDS National Focal Points Meeting on the Margins of the Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 4th SIDS Conference

Date: 30 August 2023

Location: Praia, Cabo Verde

Background

Launched in 2018, the [SIDS National Focal Points \(NFP\) network](#) was established by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) to strengthen coherence and coordination of SIDS-related sustainable development issues at the national, regional and global levels.

The network fosters peer-learning and exchange of best practices on the implementation and follow up of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global frameworks.

The network convenes in-person annually.

Timeline of in-person NFP meetings

1. Inaugural NFP meeting: 29 October 2018, Apia, Samoa, on the margins of the inter-regional preparatory meeting for the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway
2. Second in-person NFP meeting: 25 - 26 July 2019, Praia, Cabo Verde - adopted Terms of Reference for SIDS NFPs
3. Third in-person NFP meeting 5-6 August 2022 in St. Johns, Antigua - shared country experiences on implementing the SAMOA Pathway in the context of COVID-19 recovery and initial discussions on preparations for the 4th SIDS Conference.
4. Fourth in-person NFP meeting: 30 August 2023, Praia, Cabo Verde on the margins of the inter-regional preparatory meeting for the 4th SIDS Conference.

NFP meetings were held virtually in 2020 and 2021

The Fourth International Conference on SIDS

SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development due to their unique geographic, social, and economic characteristics.

The impacts of the climate crisis, COVID-19, limited natural resources, economic vulnerability, environmental degradation, security crisis among others, represent the multitude of ongoing development challenges facing SIDS.

The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024, will play a critical role in catalyzing global action, fostering a new generation of partnerships, and mobilizing resources to tackle the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities of SIDS.

As a new programme of action for SIDS carries forth progress from the SAMOA Pathway into the next decade, NFPs are uniquely placed to support localizing a new set of development priorities for SIDS, in tandem with their TORs, including by:

- Supporting national policies and strategies to align the goals of the new programme of action for SIDS;
- Serving as national coordinators such as through inter-ministerial/departmental coordination mechanisms to ensure a coherent and integrated approach across government;
- Engaging stakeholders including civil society, private sector, academia and local communities to foster partnerships and promote broad-based involvement in the implementation process;
- Working together with UN Country Teams, NFPs can play a key role in monitoring and evaluation at the national level by localizing key performance indicators, supporting data collection and guiding evidence-based policy development;
- Aiding resource mobilization for national implementation including identifying innovative financing solutions and leveraging public-private partnerships.

Meeting Objectives

The NFP meeting in Cabo Verde will:

1. Synthesize national and regional priorities and lessons learned from across the three SIDS regions - based on outcomes of the three regional preparatory meetings. NFPs will in turn frame lessons learned from the regional preparations in the context of ensuring coherence between global, regional and national development priorities and feed this into the inter-regional preparatory meeting.
2. Address steps to strengthen the Network including identifying capacity building needs of NFPs; *[pre-meeting survey sent to NFPs for their inputs on this]*
3. Outline specific recommendations on NFP support for the implementation of the next programme of action for SIDS.

Discussions on 2. and 3. above will inform an NFP engagement strategy to be initiated by OHRLLS to guide NFP focus in supporting the next SIDS programme of action.
