



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

Preparatory Meeting for the SIDS Global Business Network Forum 2024

19 October 2023, 14.00-17.00PM

Conference Room 6, UNHQ

Background

The SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) convenes SIDS and international private sector actors to share best practices and lessons learned in forging private sector partnerships for SIDS. The network facilitates collaboration among SIDS regional private sector organizations and works towards strengthening inter-regional business alliances. Similarly, SIDS-GBN encourages international businesses to focus on SIDS as potential market opportunities and vice versa. Its core activity is the SIDS-GBN Forum held biennially to bring together SIDS, private sector actors and other stakeholders to share best practices, discuss ways forward, and form new collaborations.

Spearheaded by OHRLLS, the SIDS-GBN was established at a private sector forum held in 2014 on the sideline of the third UN Conference on SIDS in Samoa.

Since then, OHRLLS has successfully convened the second SIDS-GBN Forum in Aruba in 2016 focusing on public-private Partnerships, the third in Mauritius in 2018 focusing on sustainable tourism, and the fourth in Palau in 2022 focusing on ocean partnerships.

The next Forum will be held in 2024 prior to the fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States with a preparatory process starting in 2023. As the last Forum under the SAMOA Pathway, the 2024 Forum will provide a unique opportunity to take stock of the Network's first decade and hear from the private sector on the new Programme of Action for SIDS. In this context, the preparatory process of the 2024 Forum will include activities that can feed into discussions on the new SIDS agenda.

This preparatory process will be kicked off with an in-person meeting at the UN headquarters in New York on 19 October.

The purpose of the meeting is to connect private sector representatives with SIDS missions in New York, development partners and UN agencies to discuss shared priorities for a new SIDS agenda, under the following objectives:

- Inform the private sector on the SIDS4 process and the SIDS-GBN Forum 2024 process and learn how to better engage the private sector in these processes.
- Hear from the private sector on their priorities for the new SIDS agenda.
- Identify participants' priorities for focus areas of the SIDS-GBN.
- Discuss how to better build public-private partnerships that contribute to their sustainable development.

Programme

Moderator: Mr. Damien Sass, Programme Management Officer, UN-OHRLLS

14.00-14.05	Opening Remarks UN-OHRLLS
14.05-14.15	Update SIDS4 Process H.E. Walton Afonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the United Nations
14.15-14.25	Update SIDS-GBN Forum 2024 process Ms. Tishka Hope Francis, Team Leader of the SIDS sub-programme, UN-OHRLLS
14.25-14.35	Introduction on Public-Private collaboration in SIDS Mr. Darian Stibbe, Founder of the Partnering Initiative
14.35-15.35	<p>Private Sector Presentations</p> <p>Presentations from private sector representatives on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges, priorities and opportunities of SIDS private sector • Recommendations for governments and opportunities for collaboration • Reflections on SIDS4 and SIDS-GBN Forum 2024 processes <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Manuela Stravens, Owner Eco-tourism Villas, Seychelles • Ms. Dilma Vieira Moreira, CEO, Business Incubation Center, Cabo Verde • Ms. Lidia Diaz, Founder and CEO, Dominican Republic

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Petipha Lewis, Chair, Caribbean Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Grenada • Mr. Howard Politini, Pacific Island Private Sector Organization, Fiji • Mr. Deodat Maharaj, Executive Director, Caribbean Export Development Agency, Barbados • Moderator: H.E. Stan Oduma Smith, Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the United Nations
<p>15.35-16.50</p>	<p>Open Discussion</p> <p>Questions and comments as well as feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIDS-GBN thematic areas in the new agenda • SIDS-GBN principles • Themes of preparatory webinars • Themes of sessions for 2024 Forum
<p>15.50-17.00</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>H.E. Stan Oduma Smith, Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the United Nations</p>