



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

First Preparatory Webinar for the SIDS Global Business Network Forum 2024

'Building Back Better: Public-Private Resilience Strategies for Small Island Developing States'

22 November 2023, 2-3pm (New York time)

Background

Spearheaded by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) is a platform and resource-hub for the facilitation of private sector partnerships that contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS.

The SIDS-GBN arose from the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014 when OHRLLS organized a two-day private sector forum on the sidelines of the Conference.

The establishment of the SIDS-GBN was formally recognized by the General Assembly through its resolution A/RES/71/225 which stated "Noting with appreciation the establishment of the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network to share best practices and lessons learned among business sectors in small island developing States, and its contribution to the sustainable development of small island developing States, and encouraging its coherence with the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework."

The next SIDS-GBN Forum will take place in 2024, the same year as the fourth International Conference on SIDS. At the fourth Conference, a new Programme of Action for SIDS will be adopted to guide a new agenda for sustainable development in SIDS. Both the Conference and the Forum have preparatory processes that are running up until the events take place.

This provides a unique opportunity to review the first decade of the SIDS-GBN and set the direction for its next decade. It also allows for the GBN to feed into discussions on the new SIDS agenda. The parallel processes also make it possible for the GBN to hear from the private sector on the new SIDS agenda.

As part of the preparatory process of the SIDS-GBN Forum 2024, OHRLLS will organize a series of preparatory webinars and consultations to gather stakeholders to discuss priorities and thematic areas for the Forum.

The objectives of the meetings are to:

- Inform the private sector on the SIDS4 process and the SIDS-GBN Forum 2024 process.
- Hear from the private sector on their priorities for the new SIDS agenda.
- Identify stakeholders' priorities for thematic areas at the SIDS-GBN Forum 2024.
- Provide recommendations on how SIDS better can build public-private partnerships that contribute to their sustainable development.
- Exchange good case practises of public-private partnerships that contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS.

Webinar 1: '*Building Back Better: Public-Private Resilience Strategies for Small Island Developing States*'

In the midst of global challenges such as climate change, economic uncertainties, and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the imperative for resilience and sustainable development in SIDS has never been more pronounced.

These unique regions, characterized by their vulnerability to external shocks and their limited resources, face a set of complex challenges that require innovative solutions. The private sector, with its potential for investment, innovation, and job creation, plays a pivotal role in this journey towards resilience. However, in these vulnerable contexts, there is also a need to strengthen the resilience of the private sector.

The first webinar will focus on the critical issue of building resilience in SIDS, with a specific focus on the catalytic role of public-private partnerships with case studies from the following areas:

- **Tourism:** SIDS often rely heavily on tourism as a key economic driver. However, the sector is vulnerable to external shocks. This session will discuss strategies for making tourism more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive through public-private partnerships.
- **Infrastructure:** Robust infrastructure is the backbone of resilience. The session will examine how public-private partnerships can be harnessed to bolster infrastructure development and enhance disaster preparedness.
- **Food Security:** Achieving food security in the face of climate change and resource limitations is a pressing concern for SIDS. The session will explore innovative agricultural and food production solutions driven by public-private partnerships.

- Business continuity: Ensuring the continuity of business operations in the face of disruptions is fundamental. This session will shed light on best practices, strategies, and public-private partnerships for enhancing business continuity.

Programme

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| 14.00-14.10 | <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tishka Hope Francis, Team Leader, SIDS Sub-Programme, OHRLLS |
| 14.10-14.30 | <p>Private Sector Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Karolin Troubetzkoy, Executive Director, Marketing & Operations, Anse Chastanet & Jade Mountain Resort, Saint Lucia • Mr. Kyle Stice, Executive Director, Pacific Farmer Organizations, Hawaii • Ms. Melissa Pierre Senior Trade & Policy Specialist, American Chamber of Commerce, Trinidad & Tobago • Mr. Tarlochan Singh, CEO/Principal Officer, Sun Insurance, Fiji • Moderator: Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations in New York |
| 14.30-14.55 | <p>Open Discussion</p> |
| 14.55-15.00 | <p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations in New York</p> |