



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

Second Preparatory Webinar for the SIDS Global Business Network Forum 2024

'Blueprints for Success: Harnessing Blue-Green Economies in Small Island Developing States'

29 January 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 prior to 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. The outcomes of the SIDS-GBN Forum will also be brought into the SIDS4 Conference where it will guide discussions at the Private Sector Roundtable.

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.
- Explore with the private sector how their priorities could align with the sustainable development of SIDS in the coming decade.
- Identify stakeholders' priorities for thematic areas at the SIDS-GBN Forum 2024 and the private sector roundtable at SIDS4.
- Provide recommendations on how SIDS can better build public-private partnerships that contribute to their sustainable development and the new SIDS agenda.
- Share best practices of public-private partnerships that contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS and can be showcased at the SIDS4 Conference.

Webinar 2: 'Blueprints for Success: Harnessing Blue-Green Economies in Small Island Developing States'

For SIDS, the ocean is integral to both life and livelihoods. With SIDS being disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental challenges, ocean- and nature-based solutions are critical both for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, and to increase resilience. At the same time, ocean- and nature-based solutions present an opportunity for sustainable economic development.

The second webinar takes a deep dive into the development of the blue-green economy in SIDS and underscores the pivotal roles of capacity building and investment with case studies on the following areas:

- **Blue Economy:** The vast marine resources surrounding SIDS hold enormous potential, from sustainable fisheries to marine renewable energy. The webinar will explore how capacity building can harness these opportunities while attracting investment via public-private partnerships.
- **Green Economy:** SIDS offer diverse possibilities in agriculture, biodiversity conservation, green energy, circular economy and responsible resource management. The session will delve into strategies for sustainable land use, emphasizing the importance of nature-based solutions driven by public-private partnerships.
- **Maritime decarbonization:** Most SIDS economies are deeply dependent on the shipping sector, a sector which is responsible for 3 percent of global GHG emissions. The session will present how green shipping corridors through private-public partnerships can unlock benefits for countries, accelerating the development of alternative fuel

production, enabling knowledge and technology collaboration, building local capacity and creating green jobs.

Programme

14.00-14.10	Opening Remarks Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary General, UN-OHRLLS
14.10-14.30	Private Sector Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Olsen Vaafusuaga, Lalotalie Environmental and Adventure Tours, Samoa• Ms. Therese Turner-Jones, Director, Projects, Caribbean Development Bank• Mr. Rajiv Ramlugon, Group Chief Sustainability Officer, Omnicane, Mauritius• Ms. Mira Bergem, Maersk McKinney Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, Copenhagen• Moderator: Mr. Jorge Aranda, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations
14.30-14.55	Open Discussion Lead Discussant: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Ilana Seid, Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations
14.55-15.00	Closing Remarks