

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

Issue #5: 25 March 2024
63 days to go!



Delegates participate in the First Preparatory Committee meeting for the SIDS4 Conference in January. (UN photo)

Second Preparatory Committee meeting in April aims to make further progress on SIDS4 outcome document

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are on a collective journey toward sustainable development, seeking innovative solutions to address their unique challenges. The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) taking place in Antigua and Barbuda from 27-30 May is happening at a critical juncture. Many SIDS are still reeling from the double shocks of the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, while also dealing with the rapidly accelerating impacts of climate change. It can no longer be “business as usual” for SIDS.

The [draft Outcome Document](#), which is currently being negotiated, sets out the sustainable development objectives of SIDS and the support required from the international community to enable SIDS to meet them, including to:

- build resilient economies;
- foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies;

- achieve water, food and energy security;
- conserve biodiversity;
- protect and sustainably use the ocean and its resources;
- halt and urgently mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

To meet these ambitions, SIDS are calling for increased access to concessional finance, through expanding multilateral lending, enhancing the voice and representation of SIDS in international financial institutions and incorporating vulnerability into the allocation of concessional finance, accompanied by support to sustainably manage their debt levels. SIDS' efforts will be futile without urgent action to implement the Paris Agreement and scale-up climate finance, in line with existing obligations and commitments.

The Preparatory Committee, established to undertake preparations for the SIDS4, will hold its [second session](#) from 1 to 5 April, in New York, to consider the draft Outcome Document and decide on remaining procedural matters, building on the [first Preparatory Committee session](#) held in January.

A limited number of side events will be held on the margins of the session, during the lunch break from 13:15 to 14:30 p.m. EDT at UN Headquarters. Proposals for side events should closely align with the central theme of the [SIDS4 Conference](#). [Eligible candidates](#) can submit application [here](#).

Now open: SIDS4 registration for all categories of participants

Registration is now open for all categories of participants at the SIDS4 Conference. Deadlines of registration for all categories are listed below:

- Participating States and the European Union: Pre-registration in New York till **10 May**
- Intergovernmental Organizations, International Financial Institutions and Other International Bodies accredited: **10 May**
- Associated Members of the Regional Commissions: **10 May**
- UN Secretariat, Funds, Programmes, Regional Commissions and Other Entities: **10 May**
- NGOs, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders: **26 April**

For detailed information regarding registration portals and required documents for each category, please check the website: <https://sdqs.un.org/conferences/sids2024/participate>.

Special events at SIDS4

As proposed by Antigua and Barbuda, the host government of the SIDS4 Conference, the following high-level special events will be organized in connection with the Conference:

- SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit, **24-26 May**
- SIDS Gender Equality Forum, **25-26 May**

- 2024 SIDS Global Business Network Forum, **25-26 May**
- SIDS4 Private Sector Roundtable (onsite), **28 May**
- SIDS4 Civil Society Forum (onsite), **29 May**

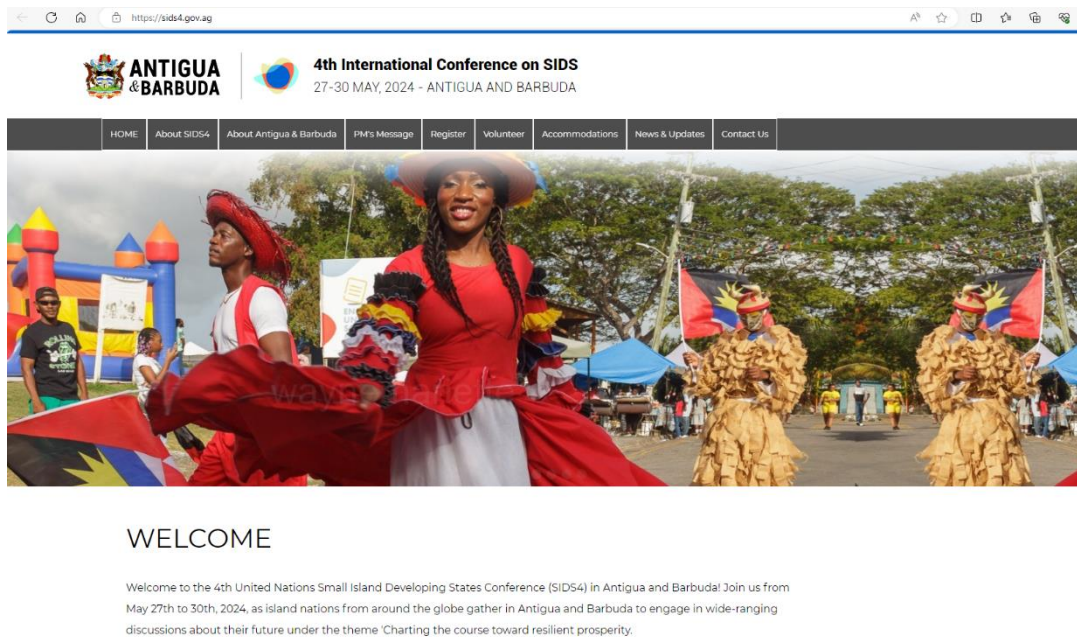
These special events aim to create additional platforms for in-depth and broader discussions among stakeholders on how to chart the course towards resilient prosperity in Small Island Development States. For more information including concept notes of each event, please visit: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/sids2024/programme/special-events>

Coming soon: Side event notifications

The open call for side events during SIDS4 has closed. The Secretariat is currently reviewing more than 300 submissions and aims to inform all approved side event organizers by 31 March.

Updated information will be posted on the website:

<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/sids2024/programme/side-events>



Now available: Host country website for SIDS4

Be sure to bookmark sids4.gov.ag for all the latest logistical information and updates provided by the host country, Antigua and Barbuda.



Now open: Special SIDS category in the annual UN World Oceans Day photo competition

As a special feature this year and to support SIDS4, the UN’s annual photo competition related to World Oceans Day (8 June), includes a category aimed at highlighting the beauty of SIDS and the vibrant lives of people living in SIDS. This competition is open to the public—amateurs and professionals alike—and the SIDS category offers entrants the chance to have their images featured in promotional materials for the Conference and in Antigua and Barbuda.

The competition is free and open for entries between 1 March and 7 April. Winners will be announced during the live broadcast of UN World Oceans Day 2024 on 7 June.

[The 2024 Photo Competition for UN World Oceans Day](https://unworldoceansday.org/photo-competition/) is coordinated in collaboration between the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), DivePhotoGuide (DPG), Oceanic Global, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN OHRLS), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and Nausicaa.

Please help us in spreading the word about this contest!

Find out more information and enter your submission here:

<https://unworldoceansday.org/photo-competition/>



Call for submissions: Voice the Future SIDS Journalism Campaign

Do you know any journalists in SIDS countries or from SIDS countries? UN-OHRLS and UN DESA invite journalists from the three SIDS regions to submit their work for a chance to participate in the SIDS4 Conference. Selected journalists will receive full funding to report on the conference from Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May.

The contest is open to journalists from the 37 SIDS member countries and applicants must have at least three years of journalistic experience. All applications must be submitted by 10 April, 11:59 PM (EDT).

For more information, including the terms and conditions, please visit the [Media tab](#) of the SIDS4 website. The application form is available at <https://bit.ly/sids4journalists>.



Delegates participate in the SIDS Partnership Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand, in February. (UN DESA photo)

Partner corner

Stakeholders gather in Bangkok for SIDS Partnership Symposium and develop new recommendations

The SIDS Partnership Symposium, held over two days on 19 and 23 February, in Bangkok, Thailand, was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD). This event was conducted in the margins of the 2024 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and aimed to advance partnerships in support of the new Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Symposium had several objectives, including gathering insights and perspectives from SIDS stakeholders on improving the SIDS Partnership Framework – a mechanism that emerged from the third International Conference on SIDS to promote, monitor, and stimulate the launch of new partnerships for SIDS – ahead of SIDS4, exploring ways to enhance coalitions and partnerships on key SIDS priorities, and fostering peer learning and knowledge exchange among stakeholders to build effective collaborations for SIDS.

Key priorities addressed during the Symposium included partnerships for science, technology, innovation, and digitalization; partnerships for climate finance; and the role of higher education in driving sustainable development in SIDS.

More information is available on [the SIDS Partnership Symposium website here](#). The second day of the Symposium was held live as part of the UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue Series and the video can be watched [on UN DESA's YouTube channel here](#).

For more information

- Visit the official UN SIDS4 website at un.org/smallislands.
- Click [here](#) to sign up to our newsletter and receive the latest updates about the Conference straight to your inbox.



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UN-OHRLS