



United Nations SIDS Partnerships Awards Rules and Guidelines 2025

Purpose

The United Nations (UN) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnerships Awards was established by the Member States of the United Nations in 2021 to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).¹ The Awards provide an opportunity to reward the most successful SIDS partnerships, highlight best practices, increase the visibility of the SIDS Partnership Framework, motivate the creation of new SIDS partnerships and incentivize the registrations of new partnerships for SIDS. Ten years later, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)², the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4) held in 2024, built on the SAMOA Pathway and recognized the importance of taking new, innovative and bold approaches to partnership based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability, transparency, including with relevant stakeholders, and cooperation that leverages a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. It also seeks to strengthen the SIDS Partnership Framework.

The Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS takes a lead in supporting the follow-up of existing partnerships and promotes and advocates the launching of new ones that advance the sustainable development in SIDS. The Co-chairs of the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS in 2025 are Permanent Representatives of Latvia and Maldives to the United Nations. The Awards are supported and managed collaboratively by the SIDS Unit of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and SIDS Sub-Programme of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) within their respective mandates.

The Awards ceremony

The Awards will be given at the Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, an event held in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly,³ which provides a global platform

¹ General Assembly resolution 76/203, "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", para 20(a), (5 January 2022), available from undocs.org/en/A/RES/203

² A/RES/78/317 The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity

³ Ibid.

to review progress of existing partnerships for SIDS, launch new partnerships, and exchange lessons learned, and identify good partnering practices.

The laureates of the Awards will:

- receive a certificate and authorization to use the SIDS Partnerships Awards logo in partnership related material in line with the logo guideline (Waiver form must be submitted);
- be featured on the website of the UN SIDS Partnerships Awards;
- be highlighted through OHRLLS and DESA communications channels;
- be invited to speak at SIDS partnership events and/or webinars as successful partnerships;
- have an opportunity to connect with potential partners and donors.

Categories

The SIDS Partnerships Awards are given in each of the three dimensions of sustainable development: 1) economic, 2) social and 3) environment.⁴ The priority areas outlined in the ABAS, under the sections “II. What do small island developing States want?” and “III. How do small island developing States get there?” have been categorized into the three dimensions of sustainable development. Some of these areas have been identified as ‘cross-cutting’, and applicants are required to choose one of the three categories that most closely aligns with the objectives of their partnerships.

Partnerships should demonstrate their relevance to the implementation of the ABAS and should be based on principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability. Recognizing that some partnerships may fit into more than one category, applicants are asked to select the category that best aligns with the focus of their partnership.

Category 1: Economic

II. What do small island developing States want?

- II. A. Build resilient economies

III. How do small island developing States get there?

- III.A. Build economic resilience
- III. B. Scale up climate action and support, including climate finance, in line with existing commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement
- III.E. Mainstream disaster risk reduction

⁴ General Assembly resolution 76/203, “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, para 20(a), (5 January 2022), available from undocs.org/en/A/RES/203

Category 2: Social

II. What do small island developing States want?

- II. B. Foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies

III. How do small island developing States get there?

- III.F. Safe and healthy societies
- III.I. Productive populations

Category 3: Environmental

II. What do small island developing States want?

- II.D. Environmental protection and planetary sustainability

III. How do small island developing States get there?

- III.C. Scale up biodiversity action
- III.D. Conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources

Cross-cutting areas:

II. What do small island developing States want?

- II.C. A secure future

III. How do small island developing States get there?

- III.G. Data collection, analysis and use
- III.H. Science, technology, innovation and digitalization
- III. J. Partnerships

Eligibility

- a) All small island developing States partnerships at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels (see list of SIDS from here: https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states#list_of_sids);
- b) Partnerships that are in line with the small island developing States partnerships criteria and norms - the SMART criteria, and driving innovation;
- c) Partnerships whose goals, objectives, outputs and outcomes are clearly linked to the achievement of the sustainable development priorities of the ABAS and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) Partnerships must have demonstrated and documented impact;
- e) Partnerships must provide information to verify their legitimacy.

- f) Ongoing and recently completed partnerships (within the last calendar year before the award-year).

Nomination

Self-nominations and nominations by third parties are both acceptable. Nominations can also be submitted by the following:

- (a) Governments of Member States;
- (b) Intergovernmental organizations;
- (c) United Nations system organizations;
- (d) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The Judge Panel

The judging panel members for 2025, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, are follows:

- Mr. Emīls Dombrovskis, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Latvia to United Nations, as the Chair
- Ms. Kereeta Whyte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations
- H.E. Ms. Shiruzimath Sameer, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Maldives
- Ms. Fiona Indu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands to the United Nations.
- Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
- Dr. Satesh Bidaisee, Professor and Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, St.George's University, Grenada.
- Mr. Sainivalati Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit, UN-DESA
- Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme, UN-OHRLLS

UN DESA and UN OHRLLS shall serve as the secretariat of the judging panel.

Evaluation

The Laureates will be selected by a judging panel. The evaluation process consists of the following steps.

1. Once the applications have been vetted for minimum requirements, the UN Secretariat (DESA and OHRLLS) will review nominations based on the criteria and recommend nine finalists (three partnerships per category) to the judging panel.
2. An interactive discussion between the judging panel members and the finalists will be held. One representative from each partnership will be invited. The discussion will include a 3 min presentation by each finalist, followed by an interactive discussion/Q&A with the judging panel members.

3. The judging panel will evaluate the nine finalists based on applications and the interactive discussion based on the criteria. The judges will then use a score sheet to evaluate the partnerships. The score sheets will be sent to the UN Secretariat team who will sum up scores. The ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd place) will be publicly announced at the Awards ceremony. The results will, however, be communicated to the finalists before the ceremony.

Partnerships will be evaluated by the judging panel based on the following criteria:

SIDS-Specific. Partnerships must advance the implementation of priority areas of the ABAS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for SIDS⁵, the Sendai Framework and other SIDS specific mandates, are aligned with national development priorities, brings positive impact and benefits to SIDS while being globally accepted, and recognize the vulnerabilities and opportunities that are unique to SIDS.

Measurable and Monitorable. Partnerships must have clear set of goals, objectives, outputs and outcomes, have a clearly built in and defined monitoring and evaluation framework with the purpose of assessing progress of implementation and its intended impact on beneficiaries, be knowledge and research-based, have clear baselines, targets and indicators of achievement linked to the ABAS priority areas and the SDGs, and generate appropriate data for monitoring and evaluation.

Achievable & Accountable. Partnerships must be realistically designed to fulfil their objectives, include a governance structure that is inclusive and participatory of all partners, relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries, has support, ownership and buy in of all partners, is based on mutual trust from all its stakeholders; and provides to partners and relevant stakeholders, on a regular basis, as appropriate, through the SIDS Action Platform, the SIDS Global Business Network platform, or other means, effective communication of plans, results from monitoring and evaluation of impact, lessons learned, and provide opportunities to enhance peer learning, sharing of experiences and lessons learned between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, and provide for evaluation to allow for the replication of successful partnerships

Resource-based & results focused. Partnerships that are based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, include the mobilization of new resources and, where relevant, result in the transfer of technology to, and capacity-building in, SIDS, have the appropriate and effective human resources capacity, have demonstrable and, if where relevant, tangible, results that are verified by relevant stakeholders, and identifies the beneficiaries of, and evaluate impact from, the partnership.

Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties. Partnerships must have clear start and end dates, sets timelines for its deliverables, clearly defined roles for its partners and stakeholders; and have publicly available, such as through a website, information on its governance structure, procedures, partner composition, and results. Partnerships should submit a progress report, using the established partnership reporting template, through the SIDS Action Platform once a year until completion of its activities,

⁵ 'List of SIDS' can be found here: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states>

to include information on overall status, achievements, challenges, best practices, impact for its beneficiaries.

Innovation. The UN Secretary-General defines innovation at the UN as doing different things and doing things differently. Innovation is not just about blockchain, AI, or robotics, but about bringing new ideas to solve internal, external, existing, and emerging challenges. Innovation can be adopting new approaches to problem-solving, exploring alternative methods, enhancing existing systems, and taking risks to create something original. It extends beyond technological advancements and the use of digital technologies.

How to apply

1. Submit application through the Online Application Form found at: <https://forms.office.com/e/5TSuFsZ1pY> **by the deadline of Friday 13 June 2025.**
 - Applications submitted in accordance with the nomination, organization and eligibility criteria explained in this Rules and Guidelines 2025 will be considered.
 - The Online Application Form must be fully completed. All required fields must contain the request information within the word limit. In the event that any required field is left blank, or if the answer does not directly correspond to the question asked, and/or exceed word limits, the partnership will not be evaluated.
2. In the Online Application Form, ensure to provide website links of news articles, featured stories, case studies or reports such as audit or evaluation report which confirms the validity of the partnership (limited to 2 documents).
3. Applications and supplemental documents must be in English.

Important Notice:

Applicants are required to provide accurate and truthful information. Any false information discovered will result in the immediate revocation of the Award entitlement and disqualification from further consideration. Please ensure that all information is verified and complete before submitting your application.

Contact

The SIDS Partnerships Awards secretariat
infounpartnershipsawards@un.org

Appendix I: Application questions

Basic information

1. Name of the partnership
2. Which SIDS are benefiting from your partnership?
3. List participating entities in the partnership
4. Contact information of person submitting the nomination (Name, email, job title, organization, email, telephone number)
5. Does the lead entity, or entities participating in your partnership have consultative status with ECOSOC? (Yes or No)
6. Please provide website links of news articles, featured stories, case studies or reports such as audit or evaluation report which confirms the validity of the partnership (limited to 2 documents).
7. Under which category should this partnership be considered? (Economic, Social, Environmental)
8. Please briefly describe the partnership, issue it aims to address and objectives (1800 characters max)

SIDS specific (1300 characters max each)

9. Specify sections and paragraphs of the ABAS the partnership advances;
10. Please explain how your partnership has addressed gaps/challenges specific to SIDS.
11. Please explain who the target group(s) are and briefly explain how the partnership benefits them.

Measurable and monitorable (1300 characters max each)

12. Please explain objectives, outputs and outcomes of the partnership;
13. How does your partnership keep track of progress?
14. Please explain how your partnership had an impact on the beneficiaries in SIDS.

Achievable and Accountable (1300 characters max each)

15. Please describe how your partnership:

- a. Ensures inclusivity and active participation of all partners, relevant stakeholders, and beneficiaries.
 - b. Secures support, ownership, and commitment from all involved parties.
 - c. Is built on mutual trust among all stakeholders.
16. Does your partnership have governance structure? Please explain.

Resource-based & results focused

17. Please provide details on the resources your partnership has mobilized, including (1500 characters max):
- a. Financial resources (in USD) and human resources.
 - b. The sustainability of these resources, including efforts to secure new funding.
 - c. Any technology transfers and capacity-building initiatives benefiting SIDS.
 - d. The adequacy and effectiveness of your human resource capacity.
18. How does your partnership ensure tangible results that are verified by stakeholders and beneficiaries (1300 characters max)?

Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties (1300 characters max each)

19. Please tell us the timeline with the deliverables of your partnership, including start and end dates (date/month/year).
20. How does your partnership ensure transparency to all stakeholders (including through websites, briefings, communication materials)?

Innovation (1300 characters max)

21. Did the partnership introduce a new idea, concept, or approach that had not been tried before, and does it potentially lead to transformative change or be replicated to other SIDS? Please explain.