



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY 2024

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Issue #7: 20 May 2024

7 days to go!



Photo of Antigua by Rick Jamison on Unsplash.

Host country, UN system finalize preparations one week before opening ceremony

One week before the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States ([SIDS4](#)) kicks off in Antigua and Barbuda on 27 May, colleagues from the host country and

the UN system are working together to ensure that the venue is ready to greet the hundreds of high-level officials and other delegates expected to join the events at the American University in Antigua in St. John's.

Over the course of four days, the Conference will seek to deliver specific initiatives and concrete deliverables to address critical SIDS-specific challenges including the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and spiraling debt. World leaders will be joined by the private sector, civil society and young people to advance new ideas, raise new pledges of support and cover critical issues for the future of SIDS.

The Conference will culminate in the adoption of an agreed programme of action that will focus on practical and impactful solutions to support SIDS in building resilience and attaining their sustainable development objectives. This programme, [The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS \(ABAS\) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity](#), will set out the sustainable development aspirations of small islands over the next 10 years.

A cultural opening planned by Antigua and Barbuda is expected to feature music, dance, drama and fashion by the host country's creative community. All participants attending the cultural opening should be seated in the Plenary Hall by 8:45 a.m. on Monday, 27 May, ahead of the 9:00 a.m. start. Please note that secondary access passes are required to enter the Plenary Hall. Information regarding access is available in the [Information Note](#), and also will be communicated to all participants registered through Indico.

Now available: Background notes for interactive dialogues

In addition to eight plenary meetings, the SIDS4 Conference will feature five multi-stakeholder interactive dialogues featuring speakers from Governments, the UN system and other organizations, as well as representatives of civil society and other stakeholders. The outcome of the dialogues will be a set of key messages to be presented to the closing plenary session on 30 May and included in the final report of the Conference.

High-level [speakers](#) participating in the discussions include distinguished leaders and policymakers from across the globe, ensuring a balanced representation from both developed and developing nations, and from gender perspectives.

Each interactive dialogue will consist of a facilitated fireside chat followed by interventions from two expert speakers and a pre-established list of speakers from the floor. These discussions are intended to be informal, focused, and frank, addressing key issues on the themes of the various dialogues. The background notes informing the discussions have been prepared by the UN system and are available on our website [via the Programme tab](#).

Now available: Programme of more than 170 side events

The SIDS4 Conference will feature a wide array of side events, offering numerous opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing. More than 170 side events will take place within the Conference venue, alongside 40 off-site events across Antigua and virtually.

The latest [programme of side events is available here](#).

SIDS4 to feature 5 special events

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 SIDS. For more information including concept notes of each event, [please visit our website](#).

Update on High-level Meeting on Mobilization of Resources for SIDS

Financing for SIDS remains below the levels needed to achieve their sustainable development objectives. On 28 May, in the margins of SIDS4, the UN Secretary-General will convene a high-level meeting with invited representatives from international financial institutions, development banks, UN entities and major donors to identify decisive actions to facilitate the mobilization of resources for SIDS to support implementation of The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), with a focus on devising solutions for SIDS to achieve long term debt sustainability and considering how multidimensional vulnerability could be used as a criterion to access concessional finance.

The meeting will be webcast at webtv.un.org and we encourage you to follow along.

Registration closed for most categories

Pre-registration is now closed for all categories of participants at the SIDS4 Conference. Onsite registration will be available for the following categories ONLY:

- Participating States and the European Union
- Intergovernmental Organizations, International Financial Institutions and Other International Bodies accredited
- Associated Members of the Regional Commissions

Onsite registration via e-Registration platform: 24 May to 29 May (until 1:00 p.m. local time)

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no onsite registration for UN system, media or non-governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders. For more information, please visit the website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/sids2024/participate>.

Logistical information for SIDS4 participants

The SIDS4 secretariat has released an revised version of the **Information Note** which contains detailed information for participants about logistical arrangements inside the Conference venue, the American University of Antigua, and can be accessed [here](#).

Local transportation

IMPORTANT! In order to be included in the transport service provided by the host country, participants must fill [this form](#) at their earliest convenience: bit.ly/transportarrangements

Detailed information regarding local transportation during the Conference will be available in due time on the website set up by the host country: sids4.gov.ag/.

Conference badges

Conference badges will be issued and distributed from 24 to 30 May 2024 at the United Nations Registration Centre located at the AICASA building of the Conference venue during these opening hours:

24-25 May	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
26-27 May	8 a.m.-6 p.m.
28-29 May	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
30 May	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Persons seeking to access the Registration Centre to obtain a conference badge must present at the entry gate **a printed confirmation letter of registration or a copy on a tablet or smartphone, as well as a valid government-issued photo identification** before being directed to the Registration Centre.

Other issues

For other logistical details regarding travel to, and stay in Antigua and Barbuda, such as accommodation and visas, participants are invited to visit the website of the host government: sids4.gov.ag.



Plastic waste is shredded before being turned into lumber at a factory in Arima, Trinidad. UN News/ Brianna Rowe

Partner corner

Polluting rivers, beaches and the ocean: How can Trinidad solve its plastics problem?

Plastic pollution blocks rivers, chokes oceans and makes its way into the food chain as microplastics. It's a global environmental crisis, and small island developing States are especially vulnerable, having to cope with detritus washing up on their beaches, as well as the waste they generate themselves.

The Maraval river winds its way through Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, reaching the sea at Invaders Bay, the evocative name of the site where British troops landed in the late Eighteenth Century.

Today, the area is heavily built up, and construction has begun on a large-scale project that is expected to see hotels, housing and shops spring up on the oceanfront. Another by-product of development is plastic pollution; on the day that UN News went to the Maraval River, a steady stream of waste could be seen floating downstream, including water bottles, detergent containers and even a discarded yoga ball aimlessly bobbing around.

Dealing with the problem might appear to be an overwhelming task, but in Trinidad, the UN is working with local organizations to not only collect the waste, but also find ways to reuse it in ways that benefit local communities.

[Read the story at UN News.](#)

For more information

- Visit the official UN SIDS4 website at un.org/smallislands.
- Visit the host country website at sids4.gov.ag.

- Click [here](#) to sign up to our newsletter and receive the latest updates about the Conference straight to your inbox.



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