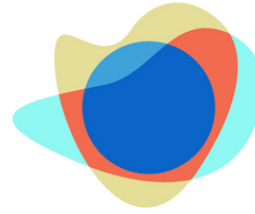




United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
2024

4th International Conference on
Small Island Developing States
(SIDS4)

Stakeholder Engagement Impact Report

June 2024

This report features information about stakeholders participation in the preparatory process and the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), which was held in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 27 - 30 May 2024.

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Overall guidance: Lotta Tahtinen



The present report provides information about stakeholders participation in the preparatory process and at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4). Linked sites are not under the control of the United Nations, and the United Nations is not responsible for the content of any linked site or any link contained in a linked site. The inclusion of a link or reference does not imply the endorsement of the linked site by the United Nations. For more information about the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, please visit: sdgs.un.org/smallislands.

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Background

The [4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS4\)](#) was held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 - 30 May 2024, under the theme “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”. It aimed to assess the ability of small island developing States (SIDS) to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The SIDS4 Conference brought together world leaders who agreed on a new programme of action for SIDS “[The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity](#)” (ABAS). ABAS not only sets out SIDS ambitions, it also shows the global community how to support SIDS to achieve resilient prosperity, including practical and impactful solutions and new partnerships and cooperation at all levels.

SIDS4 Stakeholder Engagement Mandate

Through [A/RES/77/245](#), Member States called for the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations of the SIDS4 to be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner. Member States also invited relevant stakeholders, including major groups identified in Agenda 21, to participate as observers in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee.

Additionally, Member States stressed the need for the effective participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and other major groups, particularly from small island developing States, in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself.



SIDS4 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

To meet the mandates for stakeholder engagement as outlined in resolutions [A/RES/77/245](#) and [A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.1](#), DESA developed a stakeholder engagement strategy with two key and mutually reinforcing tracks:

- **Awareness-raising and information sharing** to all stakeholders about the Conference and its preparatory process through multiple channels
- **Creating and providing opportunities** for stakeholders to engage in and contribute to the Conference, including participating in the intergovernmental discussions on the Conference's outcome document.

This report presents the outcomes of the efforts by the SIDS4 Secretariat to mobilize stakeholders from different sectors around the Conference and its preparations.

The Secretariat expresses its gratitude to all stakeholders for their active engagement and constructive participation throughout the SIDS4 process.

Photo by UN Photo



Preparatory Process

To ensure the meaningful and substantive engagement of stakeholders in preparation for the SIDS4 Conference and in accordance with resolutions [A/RES/77/245](#) and [A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.1](#), major groups, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders were invited to contribute their substantive inputs as part of the preparations for the Conference.

Online Consultations

DESA led global online consultations to gather substantive inputs from stakeholders to the intergovernmental process for the SIDS4 Conference.

[13 June – 7 July 2023] Global Online Stakeholder Consultation

- To facilitate the participation of stakeholders in the SIDS4 and its preparatory processes, DESA, in partnership with OHRLLS, convened a [global online stakeholder consultation](#) from 13 June to 7 July 2023 to seek stakeholders views on key challenges and policy recommendations for SIDS. Stakeholders were invited to identify the key challenges SIDS face, outline policy recommendations that can assist SIDS in achieving their sustainable development priorities and highlight innovative opportunities for stakeholder engagement at SIDS4.
- The consultation generated 170 responses from around the world. DESA prepared regional snapshots highlighting key challenges, policy recommendations, and opportunities for stakeholder engagement which were released ahead of the regional preparatory meetings.
 - **Pacific Regional Snapshot:** The Pacific Region Snapshot, launched in preparation for the [preparatory meeting](#) held in Tonga from 16 to 18 August 2023, is available [here](#).
 - **Caribbean Regional Snapshot:** A regional snapshot featuring contributions focusing on the Caribbean region was prepared as an informal input to the [preparatory meeting](#). The Caribbean Regional Snapshot is now available [here](#).
 - **AIS Regional Snapshot** - A regional snapshot featuring contributions focusing on the AIS region was prepared as an informal input to the [preparatory meeting held in Mauritius from 24 to 26 July 2023](#). The AIS Regional Snapshot is available [here](#).

Additionally, DESA also prepared a global report, summarizing key findings from the online consultation, which was launched in the lead up to the [interregional preparatory meeting](#) for all Small Island Developing States held in Cabo Verde from 30 August to 1 September 2023. The global report is now available [here](#).

[15 December 2023 – 19 January 2024] 2nd Global Online Stakeholder Consultation - Inputs for Interactive Dialogues

- From 15 December 2023 to 19 January 2024, DESA convened a second [global online stakeholder consultation](#) to solicit informal inputs from stakeholders related to the themes of the five interactive dialogues of the SIDS4. The consultation generated 64 responses from stakeholders from different sectors and regions of the world. DESA prepared a [summary report](#) highlighting key messages and takeaways from the consultation.

Preparatory Process



Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS)
Regional Map. Source: UN DESA



Caribbean Regional Map. Source: UN DESA



Pacific Regional Map. Source: UN DESA

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Small Island Developing States 2024

Regional Snapshot: Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) Region

Global Online Stakeholder Consultation

The 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) will be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27-30 May 2024. It will aim to assess the ability of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. The SIDS4 Conference will bring together leaders to agree on a new programme of action for SIDS with a focus on practical and impactful solutions and to forge new partnerships and cooperation at all levels.

To create a space for stakeholders, especially those in SIDS countries, to contribute to the substantive preparations for the SIDS4 Conference, UN DESA, in collaboration with UN DESA, convened a **global online stakeholder consultation** between 13 June and 7 July 2023. Respondents were asked to identify key challenges, game-changing actions and policy recommendations as informal inputs to the preparatory process. Information about the consultation was broadly disseminated through mailing lists, UN official websites and social media.

This regional snapshot presents the main outcomes of the inputs received by organizations working in the **Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS)** region.

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This regional snapshot presents the main outcomes of the inputs received by organizations working in the **Pacific** region.

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This regional snapshot presents the main outcomes of the inputs received by organizations working in the **Caribbean** region.

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Regional Snapshot: Caribbean Region

Global Online Stakeholder Consultation

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This regional snapshot presents the main outcomes of the inputs received by organizations working in the **Caribbean** region.

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Regional Snapshot: Pacific Region

Global Online Stakeholder Consultation

The 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) will be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27-30 May 2024. It will aim to assess the ability of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. The SIDS4 Conference will bring together leaders to agree on a new programme of action for SIDS with a focus on practical and impactful solutions and to forge new partnerships and cooperation at all levels.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Small Island Developing States 2024

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

Global Online Stakeholder Consultation

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

2nd Global Online Stakeholder Consultation: Inputs for Interactive Dialogues

SUMMARY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024

Preparatory Committee Meetings

In its [resolution 77/245](#), the General Assembly had established a Preparatory Committee to make the organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference. The Maldives and New Zealand Co-Chaired the Preparatory Committee.

Representatives from accredited stakeholder organizations were able to attend and contribute to the discussions held during the meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

- **1st Preparatory Committee Meeting** – The [First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee](#) for the SIDS4 Conference was held from 22 – 26 January at the UNHQ in New York. 90 representatives from accredited NGOs and other stakeholders registered. DESA conducted an open call for accredited stakeholders to indicate their interest in delivering short remarks on the theme of the Conference. Fifteen (15) nominations were received, and eight (8) interventions were delivered (in person and via video message), including by representatives from the NGO Major Group, the Women’s Major Group, the Children and Youth Major Group, the Scientific & Technological Major Group, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and from a representative from private sector organizations. Video messages were sent from Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius and Denmark. Statements are available [here](#).
- **2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting** - The [Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the SIDS4 Conference](#) was held from 1 – 5 April at the UNHQ in New York. Around 29 representatives from accredited NGOs and other stakeholders registered. Three (3) stakeholders delivered short remarks during the meeting. Statements can be accessed [here](#).

Photos by UN Photo



Briefings and Webinars

To ensure the timely dissemination of information regarding the SIDS4 Conference, a series of webinars were organized by DESA. These webinars served to update stakeholders on the conference proceedings, share opportunities for stakeholder engagement, and provide a platform for direct interactions with stakeholders.



[26 October 2023] 1st Multi-stakeholder Informative Webinar on the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

On 26 October 2023, DESA hosted the first informative webinar for stakeholders to share information about the SIDS4 Conference, including the process for seeking special accreditation. 678 registrations were received and around 370 participants attended the event. The Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Amb. Walton Webson, and of New Zealand, Amb. Carolyn Schwalger, as well as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives, Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, delivered remarks. Details including a recording of the webinar are available [here](#).

[15 February 2024] 2nd Multi-Stakeholder Webinar on the SIDS4: Updates and views on the Zero Draft Outcome Document

The 2nd multi-stakeholder informative webinar on the SIDS4 Conference was organized by DESA on 15 February 2024. The objective of the webinar was to share updated information about the preparations for the SIDS4 Conference and to create an opportunity for stakeholders to share their views and proposals on the [zero draft outcome document](#). The Co-Chairs of the SIDS4 Preparatory Committee, Amb. Carolyn Schwalger, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, and Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, delivered opening remarks. Eight (8) stakeholders shared inputs to the zero draft outcome document. DESA shared a presentation about the SIDS4 Conference and opportunities for stakeholder participation. 595 registrations were received, and 389 participants joined the virtual meeting. For more information about the webinar, please check [here](#).

[8 May 2024] 3rd Stakeholder Webinar on the SIDS4: Updates and Engagement Opportunities

The 3rd Stakeholder webinar on the SIDS4 Conference was held on 8 May 2024. The objective of the webinar was to share updated information about the preparations for the SIDS4 Conference with registered representatives from accredited non-governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders, including on opportunities for direct engagement during the Conference. 230 stakeholders joined the call. For more information about this webinar, please check [here](#).

Special Accreditation Process

As guided by resolution [A/CONF.223/2024.PC.L1](#) (Annex II, Section III), other relevant stakeholders, including the non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, were able to participate as observers in the International Conference, as well as in the preparatory meetings, subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee or the General Assembly.

UN NGLS/DGC led the open call for special accreditation between 26 September and 10 November 2023, in collaboration with DESA. The call resulted in 155 applications. On 22 January 2024, the Preparatory Committee for the SIDS4 Conference decided to **accredit 105 non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders as observers** to the SIDS4 Conference as well as to its preparatory meetings. The list is available [here](#).

Photos by DESA/DSDG



Participation at the Conference

A Practical Guide

To facilitate and support the participation of representatives of NGOs, Major Groups and other stakeholders, DESA published a practical guide for stakeholder participation prior to the Conference. The practical guide provided all relevant information for stakeholder participation and was well received by all registered participants. The guide can be accessed [here](#).

Registration

- Stakeholder registration was open from 12 February to 26 April 2024. Each accredited organization was able to request registration for **up to 10 representatives**.
- **1040 stakeholder registrations** were approved for the SIDS4 Conference through the three channels for stakeholder registration: (1) Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC (476), (2) Specially Accredited Organizations (318), and (3) Umbrella Organizations (246).
- **50% of all registered stakeholders self-identified as female** (513). Around **25% (257) of all registered stakeholders were under 30 years old**.
- **537** stakeholders (over 50% of those registered) retrieved their badges and attended the Conference in Antigua and Barbuda.



Specially Accredited Organizations

318 registrations were approved for this category of organizations. This process was coordinated by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS-DGC). Specially accredited registrants were distributed by sector as follows: NGO (79%); Private Sector (8%); Academia (9%); and others (4%).



Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

476 registrations were approved for representatives of organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC. This process was coordinated by DESA.



Umbrella

The Secretariat called on a limited number of accredited organizations to support the registration and participation of additional stakeholder representatives from a few strategic sectors. 246 participants registered through this channel. This process was coordinated by DESA.

Stakeholder Interventions - SIDS4 Conference Official Sessions

Stakeholder Interventions – SIDS4 Conference Official Sessions

Prior to the Conference, DESA circulated an open call for registered stakeholders to indicate their interest to deliver remarks during the official sessions of the SIDS4 (Plenary and Interactive Dialogues). **55 stakeholders registered** their interest to speak at the plenary or interactive dialogue sessions of the Conference. **23 stakeholders** intervened during the official sessions of the SIDS4:

Plenary

10 stakeholders intervened during the plenary session held in the afternoon of 29 May 2024 representing different sectors, regions and thematic priorities. The statements are available [here](#).

Interactive Dialogues

13 stakeholders intervened during the five Interactive Dialogue sessions. Written versions of these interventions can be found by navigating the Conference programme and selecting the dedicated webpages for each interactive dialogue session.

Written Inputs

An open call for written inputs from accredited stakeholders was held between 1 and 30 May 2024. **14 submissions** from accredited non-governmental organizations and stakeholders are published [here](#).

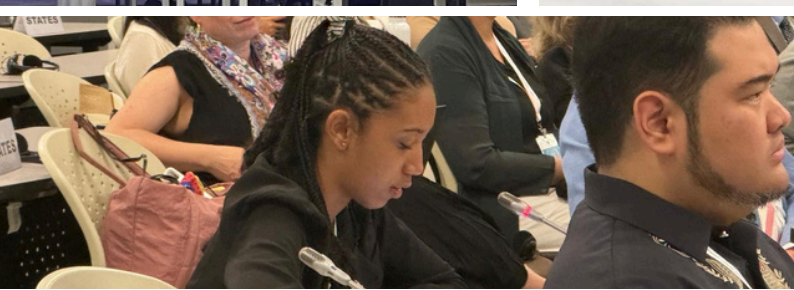
55

Stakeholders
Registered

23

Stakeholders
Intervened

14

Written Inputs
Submitted*Photos by IISD*

Special Events

As proposed by the host government (Antigua and Barbuda) of the SIDS4 Conference, several informal high-level special events were organized in connection with the Conference, to create a platform for in depth and broader discussion on how to chart the course toward resilient prosperity in Small Island Developing States.

Details about these events can be found [here](#):

SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit, 24-26 May 2024

Organizers: UNICEF, The Government of Antigua & Barbuda, Ashley Lashley Foundation

Convened under the theme “Small Islands, Big Dreams: Youth for SIDS Resilience”, the SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit brought together child and youth delegates from SIDS and representatives from other countries, along with UN agencies, civil society organizations, and various stakeholders, to address the unique and complex challenges faced by SIDS, such as climate change, poverty and digital transformation, along with other contemporary political and social issues. It provided an essential opportunity for SIDS youth to share their perspectives on an intersection of social and environmental issues and their impacts, as well as to present new ideas, solutions and recommendations for and commit to a course of action. The programme of the Summit consisted of practical and engaging master classes, discussions, project-formulation, and fundraising. For more information, please check [here](#).

Photos by UNICEFECA/2024/Nelson



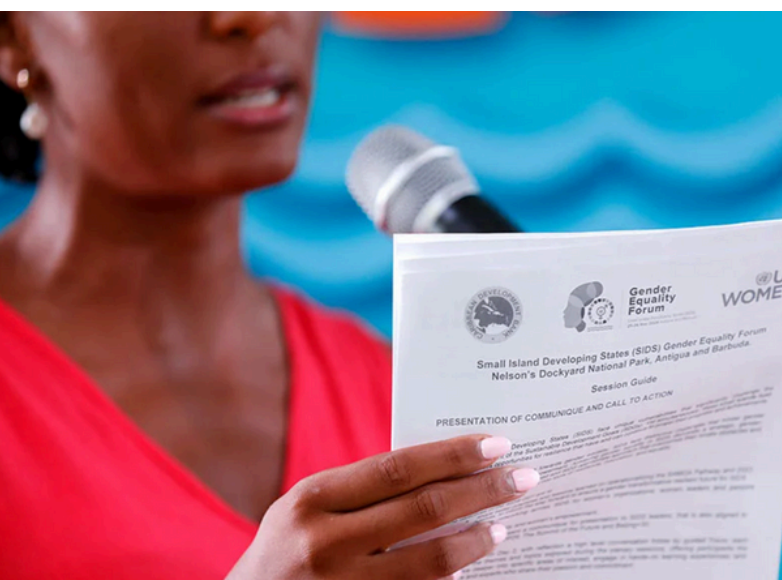
Special Events

SIDS Gender Equality Forum, 25 & 26 May 2024

Organizer: UN WOMEN and Caribbean Development Bank

The SIDS Gender Equality Forum was held prior to the SIDS4 Conference to provide a dedicated space for persons from across all SIDS regions, from various stakeholder groups, from multiple sectors to look at gender equality and SIDS through: MOVING the SIDS story forward from SIDS3 in Samoa to SIDS4 in Antigua and Barbuda by putting gender equality in the center of the next ten-year action plan and the many processes taking place in that time. EXPLORING key gender equality and SIDS themes, aligned with the SIDS4 priority areas, with thought leaders and participants via a series of structured 'Tours'. ENGAGING participants to better get to know SIDS stakeholders and their roles in driving gender equality through an innovative 'Island Hopping' experience. EXPOSING participants to important channels for gender equality and empowerment of women in SIDS through a 'marketplace' of products and processes. JOINING dedicated spaces for networking, sharing and planning collaboration with others throughout the journey of the Forum. CLOSING the Forum with a high-level convening for commitment and a call to action. For more information, please consult the event webpage: [SIDS Gender Equality Forum \(GEF\)](#) | [UN Women](#) and [UN Women Caribbean](#) | [UN Women](#).

Photos by UN Women/Ryan Brown



Special Events

2024 SIDS Global Business Network Forum, 25-26 May 2024

Organizer: OHRLLS

The 2024 SIDS Global Business Network Forum was the premier event that bridged the international private sector and Small Island Developing States to forge partnerships for the next decade of action for SIDS. The Forum explored key themes such as community empowerment, blue-green growth, the enabling business environment, and investment opportunities. Outcomes of the Forum featured in discussions at a dedicated private sector roundtable during SIDS4. Participants had the chance to network with leaders and experts from various sectors, showcase partnerships achievements and insights and learn from best practices and success stories from around the world.

Learn more about the Forum and its preparatory process [here](#).

Photos by ITC



SIDS4 Private Sector Roundtable, 28 May 2024

Organizer: OHRLLS

The SIDS4 Private Sector Roundtable gathered leaders from the private sector, island governments and development partners for a focused discussion on partnerships for resilient island economies, and the means to ensure an active private sector engagement in the implementation of the next programme of action for SIDS. The Roundtable also showcased outcomes from the SIDS Global Business Network Forum held on 25-26 May.

Photos by OHRLLS



Special Events

SIDS4 Civil Society Forum, 29 May 2024

Organizers: The event was organized by the following CSO Networks and organizations: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Pacific Island Association of NGOs (PIANGO), the NGO Major Group, the SIDS4 CSO Coalition in Antigua and Barbuda, co-led by the Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) and the Marine Ecosystems Partnership Trust (MEPA Trust). The event was facilitated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in consultation with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda (host country) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

The SIDS4 Civil Society Forum was held as an informal special event in connection with the SIDS4 Conference. It was an opportunity to rally and mobilize civil society, including indigenous peoples, women’s organizations and stakeholder groups to highlight their contributions to the sustainable development of SIDS and to share reflections, priorities and announce commitments towards the implementation of the SIDS4 outcome document.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Photos by IISD, UNDESA and Sherrel Charles, Environmental Awareness Group



A Moment of Declaration - Reporting back from Special Events

On 30 May, the main outcomes of the SIDS4 Special Events were shared in an informal plenary for a “[Moment of Declaration](#)”. The session was moderated by H. E. Mr. Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade & Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda.



Ms. Horisha Savy
SIDS Youth and Children Action Summit Steering Committee

Reporting on the [SIDS Global Children & Youth Action Summit \(CYAS\)](#). Please read her full intervention [here](#).



Ms. Meghan Theobalds
Equality Funds

Reporting on the [SIDS Gender Equality Forum](#). Please read her full intervention [here](#).



Ms. Auli'i Cravalho
SDG News

Reporting on the [2024 SIDS Global Business Network](#) and the [SIDS4 Private Sector Roundtable](#). Please read her full intervention [here](#).



Ms. Nicola Bird
Integrated Health Outreach

Reporting on the [SIDS4 Civil Society Forum](#). Please read her full intervention [here](#).

Photos by IISD

Side Events

Side events offered an additional significant opportunity for stakeholders to participate in the SIDS4 Conference. Side events could be organized either in-person inside the Conference Venue, in-person across Antigua or virtually by **Member States, the UN system, Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited non-governmental stakeholders.**

The open call for side events in connection to the SIDS4 Conference received **over 300 applications.** Priority was given to side events organized by Member States and those organized in partnership by several networks/organizations.

In total, **over 200 side events** took place in connection with the SIDS4 Conference. This included **170** side events held inside the Conference Venue, more than **12** side events across Antigua and **24** virtual side events. Over 72 summaries of side events have been uploaded to the [Conference website](#).

Side Event Briefing for Organizers

On 23 April 2024, a virtual briefing was held to inform all organizers preparing a side event inside the Conference Venue on the logistics of side events and to reiterate the information shared in the Guidance Note for Side Event organizers. Over **284** participants attended the briefing via Zoom.

Photos by DESA/DSDG



Stakeholder Caucus Room

- A meeting room inside the Conference venue has been allocated for the organization of internal meetings of groups / major groups / networks from civil society and other stakeholders during the SIDS4 Conference. **At least 16 meetings** were held at the Stakeholder Caucus room led by different groups and constituencies.

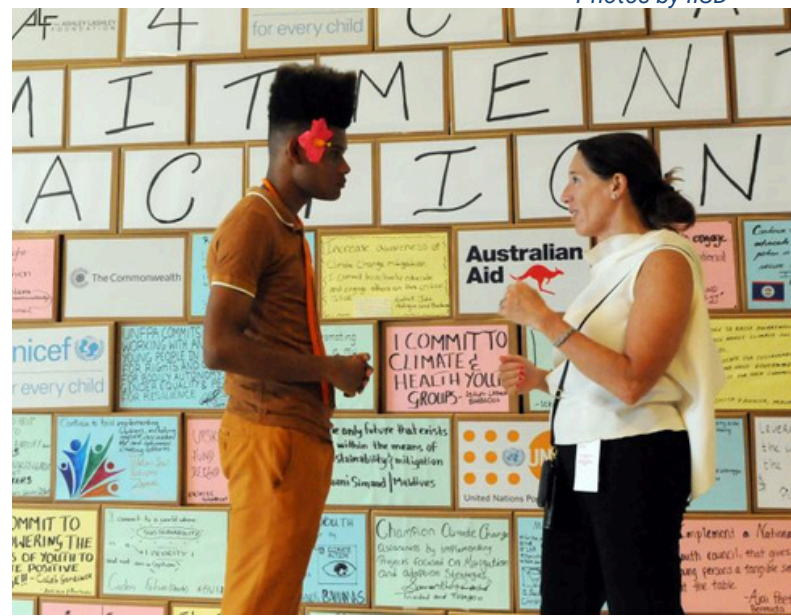
Travel Support

- A total of **18 stakeholders** representing youth networks (6), Women's networks (3), Indigenous Peoples (2); Academia (1) and civil society organizations (6) received travel support to attend the SIDS4 Conference. The EU supported this initiative through a grant implemented by DESA. 15 of those who received travel support identify as females.
- Nominees were identified in consultation with regional networks, major groups and recommendations from Resident Coordinator offices in SIDS countries.

Youth Delegates

- Several SIDS countries included youth delegates as part of their national delegations to the SIDS4 Conference. A youth delegate is normally a **young person selected by a Member State to participate in one or more intergovernmental meetings as their representative, normally as part of a delegation**. The selection processes, mandates and responsibilities of youth delegates are determined by each Member State.
- The following **19 countries** have informed the Secretariat about registering youth representatives as part of their national delegations: Anguilla, Belize, Cabo Verde, Cuba, Curaçao, Grenada, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Palau, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Tonga, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- DESA prepared an informal guidance paper to support the preparation of youth delegates attending the SIDS4 Conference, which was shared with relevant Member States. The guide is available [here](#).

Photos by IISD





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Photo by IISD SIDS4 Conference

