Strengthening policy coherence towards planning, coordination and partnership in the Pacific

Side Event: 4th International Conference on SIDS
Wednesday, 29 May 2024: 08:00-09:30 (Antigua and Barbuda time)
Room 4, American University of Antigua, University Park, Coolidge, Antigua St John’s, Antigua and Barbuda

Organizer(s)
Government of Tonga and UNESCAP

Co-organizer(s)

Registration
To attend the side event, all registrants must also register through https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings.

For further details of the event and related information, please visit: https://www.unescap.org/events/2024/

Background
The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) will be held from 27 to 30 May 2024 in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, under the theme “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”. It provides an opportunity to strengthen Pacific SIDS-wide cooperative action to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. It will further inform the intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document.

In the Pacific, policymakers and stakeholders remain steadfast in their efforts to localise the SDGs and other global and regional frameworks. Sharing of best practices and lessons learned provide important opportunities for policymakers
to advance their strategies and ensure policy coherence. At the national level, there are various models and approaches being used when countries engage in the preparation of their national development plans and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). By reviewing these frameworks and strategies, Governments can identify their suitability with respect to their national context in accordance with the availability of resources and expertise, and the robustness of their processes, institutions and systems.

At the regional level, with the endorsement of the implementation plan of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Governments are considering their level of readiness to apply the existing principles and practices to this new Pacific vision based on previous experience with mainstreaming and localization. With the changing nature of climate change and geopolitical uncertainties, policymakers are considering realistic options and seeking peer-learning opportunities, which was highlighted in the Pacific Preparatory Regional meeting for SIDS4 in Tonga in August 2023. It's timely to link between different levels of indicators and targets to advance national planning, strategic coordination and effective partnership for the people and planet.

The event will also hear perspectives from SIDS and development partners and call on the international community to scale up support on policy coherence and effective institutions through partnerships and effective institutions.

**Key Questions and Outcomes**

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. Provide a forum for Economic planners, practitioners, policymakers, statisticians, and other stakeholders to share best practices and lessons learned in their efforts to localize the SDGs and apply the same principle to the 2050 Pacific Strategy
2. Improve practical knowledge and skills for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the 2050 Pacific Strategy;
3. Facilitate networking and the sharing of best practices and case studies among public policymakers and
4. Foster peer-to-peer collaboration and strengthen capacity for partnership formation across sectors and government entities to advance policy coherence through partnerships and institutional improvement in view of the SIDS4 outcomes.

Bringing together a *diverse panel*, this side event aims to draw attention to the emerging opportunity among multi-stakeholders to review and refine the Pacific
agenda through the regional collective actions to advance the new implementation plan of the 2050 Strategy.

**Draft Programme [Wednesday, 29 May 2024: 08:00-09:30] Room 4**

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<th>Time (90 min)</th>
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| 10 min | Welcome remarks  
- H.E. Mr. Viliami Uasike Latu, Minister for Trade and Economic Development, Tonga  
- Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP |
| 35 min | Panel discussions  
- H.E. Mr. Panapasi Nelesone, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Tuvalu  
- Ms. Charlene Mersai, National Environment Coordinator, Bureau of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Finance, Palau  
- Mr. Jope Davetanivalu, Director, Environmental Monitoring and Governance, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme  
- Ms. Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association of NonGovernmental Organisations (PIANGO)  
**Moderator: Mr. Mesuilame Vea, Chief Economist, Prime Minister’s Office, Tonga** |
| 40 min | Open discussion  
- Interventions from audience  
**Facilitator: Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific** |
| 5 min | Wrap up and closing remarks  
- H.E. Mr. Viliami Uasike Latu, Minister for Trade and Economic Development, Tonga |

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