



For those interested in acquiring substantive knowledge and real-world insight on the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), SIDS-related developmental agendas and associated Caribbean multilateral diplomacy, join

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean-hosted

Hybrid Symposium

titled

SIDS4 and the Caribbean's Diplomatic Agenda: Quo Vadis?

Held in partnership with Australian High Commission and Embassy of the French Republic to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago & featuring a panel of experts and officials

on

17th May, 2024
9:30am to 12:00pm (AST)

This event will be live-streamed online. *Location for in-person venue:* The UWI [Institute of International Relations](#) Lecture Room 1 (Upstairs)

Concept Note and Programme

The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), convened under the theme 'Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity', will be hosted by Antigua and Barbuda on 27-30 May 2024. ([United Nations \(UN\) DESA](#) together with [UN-OHRLLS](#) are coordinating inter-agency [preparations](#) and contribution of the UN system to the Conference.) SIDS4 is an [opportunity](#) for "the international community [to] gather to review SIDS' sustainable development progress and propose a new decade of partnerships and solutions to supercharge their path to resilient prosperity."

In this regard, in reference to SIDS ([comprising](#) 37 UN member nations and 20 associate members of regional commissions), an imperative [call](#) has been made for all concerned to "craft an ambitious programme of action that is robust and achievable. Not a wish list, but an action list."

Accordingly, having regard to their sustainable development and *the* prevailing [multilateral framework](#) to back stop same, SIDS4 is geared towards striking an agreement on a new programme of action for SIDS. As the preliminary outcome for SIDS4 has [come into view](#)—drawing as it does on [preparatory steps](#) and *inter alia* the [SAMOA Pathway](#), [Mauritius Strategy](#) and [Barbados Programme of Action](#)—a large multilateral diplomatic [spotlight](#) is now on SIDS. Moreover, SIDS-related [challenges](#) loom large.

SIDS [are](#) "uniquely and unfortunately positioned at the forefront of multiple global crises, notably climate change." At a time when global leadership on climate has come under [scrutiny](#), and all the while climate change impact assessments [point](#) to the dire implications for SIDS, it is [widely accepted](#) that "for ... the Caribbean, as it is in other [SIDS], addressing climate change is of utmost importance and priority." In fact, in scholarly and practitioner communities, climate change is [recognized](#) as "the defining feature of the Caribbean developmental landscape." Contending that regional states remain on the "[frontlines](#)" of the global climate crisis, [Caribbean Community \(CARICOM\)](#) leaders continue to focus on that crisis and climate impacts, positioning the regional grouping to [exercise](#) leadership on the issue.

CARICOM Heads of Government [recognize](#) that SIDS4 will be an "inflection point" for these sorts of issues to be articulated. This landmark high-level meeting, then, is the object of considerable diplomatic

focus on the part of the bloc. With the foregoing in mind, on **17 May 2024 from 9:30am to 12:00pm Atlantic Standard Time (AST)**, The UWI Institute of International Relations' [Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean \(DAOC\)](#) will host a hybrid symposium. This symposium is one of a series of DAOC events, carded for May 2024, to mark a decade of delivery of an innovative, modern regional programme on diplomatic training and analysis. It seeks to elicit reflection on Caribbean multilateral diplomacy *vis-à-vis* a multifaceted SIDS agenda, relating to themes of the *SIDS4 Zero Draft Outcome Document*, while focusing on the actors involved, roll-out of attendant processes and expected outcomes. It provides a platform for open, in-depth debate among a cross-section of stakeholders in the Caribbean and beyond.

A panel will address Zero Draft's thematic elements and [Roadmap](#), with an eye to diplomatic efforts, as follows:

Opening Remarks

H. E. Didier Chabert

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T)

French Perspective (20 minutes)

H. E. Sonya Koppe

High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia to T&T

Australian Perspective (10 minutes)

Panelist#1

H.E. Walton Webson, UN Permanent Representative - Antigua and Barbuda
SIDS4: Actors Involved and Roll-out of Attendant Processes in Retrospect & Prospect

(12 minutes; Q&A: 5 minutes)

Panelist#2

H.E. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, Chair of AOSIS
What Do SIDS Want?; How Do SIDS Get There?

(12 minutes; Q&A: 5 minutes)

Panelist#3

Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit, UN-DESA
A More Effective UN In Support of SIDS; Monitoring and Evaluation

(10 minutes; Q&A: 5 minutes)

Panelist#4

Ms. Tishka Hope Francis, Team Lead and Senior Programme Management Officer, SIDS Sub-programme, UN-OHRLLS

Perspective on SIDS4 Setting New Roadmap to Accelerate SIDS' Sustainable Dev.

(10 minutes; Q&A: 5 minutes)

Panelist#5

Ms. Amrikha Singh, Programme Manager, Sustainable Development, CARICOM Secretariat

SIDS4 Zero Draft & New Roadmap: CARICOM Diplomacy, Interests, Advocacy

(12 minutes; Q&A: 5 minutes)

Taking Stock and Laying the Groundwork for a Panel-wide Q&A session

Dr. Matthew L. Bishop

Senior Lecturer, Politics and International Relations Dept., Univ. of Sheffield

Discussant

(10 minutes)

Panel-wide Q&A session: 30 minutes

Immediately following the symposium, in-person attendees will have an opportunity to informally exchange views—off camera—on SIDS4-related themes. (Refreshments provided)

One of a series of events, taking place in May 2024, to Mark the 10-Year Anniversary of the Establishment of The DAOC on 6th May, 2014

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