

SIDS Guidance Note for the preparatory regional meetings (July 2013)

The modalities resolution mandates a concise, forward-looking, action oriented, political outcome document for the third SIOS International Conference to be held in Apia in 2014. The three SIOS regions will be conducting their Sub-Regional Preparatory Meetings for the Conference (next month) to feed into the interregional meeting that will formulate the basis of the SIOS zero-draft.

The 67th GA session decided the objectives for the Apia SIOS sustainable development Conference ¹. For the purpose of a more coherent approach across the three SIOS regions (Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS) preparatory work, a set of guiding questions have thus been prepared to assist this process. Questions are provided under the following objectives:

1. Progress to date and the remaining gaps in implementation of the BPOA, MSI and other relevant processes

What were the main issues raised? What are the key issues that are still lagging? Why? What are the gaps in implementation? Why do the gaps still exist?

2. Practical and Pragmatic Actions for further implementation of the BPOA and MSI and other relevant processes

How to address the remaining gaps at the national, regional and international levels? How to reinvigorate and concretize political commitment and delivery for SIOS? How can resources and support for SIDS be mobilized to ensure optimal quality, effectiveness and efficiency? What can partnerships do to advance implementation?

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1. ¹ The modality resolution (A/Res/67/207) adopted during the 61st session of the General Assembly in paragraph 5 decided that the Conference should: a) assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes;
b) seek a renewed political commitment by the international community to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further Implementation of the BPOA and MSI, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;
c) identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and ways and means to address them including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;
d) identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda;
2. In paragraph 9 of the modality resolution, "Decides to convene in 2013, a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of SIDS as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all SIDS, to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work. "

3. New and Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in the Region, and Ways and Means to address them

What new and emerging challenges is the region facing? What new and emerging opportunities have been identified in the region? What are the key priorities? What opportunities could be utilized to address cross-cutting issues and linkages between emerging and existing challenges and priorities?

4. Regional Priorities for Sustainable Development of SIDS, including in the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

What are the regional priorities to be elaborated in the Post-2015 development agenda? How can SIDS priorities be effectively mainstreamed in the post-2015 development agenda?

5. Interactive dialogue with Major Groups and all relevant stakeholders of the Region on their contribution to the Implementation process

How can major groups and civil society support and promote the advancement of SIDS' priorities?

6. Strengthening Partnerships amongst and between SIDS and the International Community, International and Regional Organizations

How could meaningful partnerships improve delivery of means of implementation to SIDS? Why do existing gaps persist in the institutional support for SIDS strategy to achieve their sustainable development? How can those issues be effectively resolved? What are the key opportunities for S/DS in the current climate? How can delivery and quality of meaningful services to SIDS be improved?