

Sustainable energy

3 September, 10:00 – 13:00

- Available, affordable and reliable sustainable energy for all SIDS represents a major key enabler to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.
- Even though SIDS face a number of challenges and circumstances including climate change and dependence on fossil fuel, they are rich in renewable energy resources and now have the opportunity to lead a major global transformation towards greener economies through the deployment of low carbon energy technologies and the development of sustainable energy systems.
- In order to ensure sustainable energy in SIDS, it is necessary to develop enabling environments with the appropriate national policies and international support in relation to technology transfer, capacity development and investment. The private sector will need to play a critical role and work in partnership with the public sector and other stakeholders.
- Comprehensive and integrated assessments of energy sectors are necessary and will need to be developed on a country by country basis. Examples of successful partnerships helping to accelerate the energy transformation already exist. Technologies specifically design to respond to the needs and conditions of SIDS are also becoming available.
- International support for SIDS will be enhanced by the dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Energy being proposed for the post 2015 development agenda. Furthermore, the objectives of the SE4ALL initiative represent important targets to be accomplished by SIDS with respect to sustainable energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- SIDS could become the success stories for the world on how to reach sustainable development and how to ensure sustainable energy for all. Declining technology costs, the need to decarbonise energy to address climate change, clear examples of success, better business models and investment opportunities are creating a momentum of opportunities that must be seized by SIDS.
- Partnerships with political leadership, technical expertise, financing, and community involvement are critical to the acceleration of the transformation of the energy sectors in SIDS.
- Numerous partnerships were recognized including the Lighthouse renewable energy partnership of IRENA, the EU-New Zealand Energy Access partnership, Partnership programme on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in the Pacific SIDS as well as Strengthening Energy Grid Stability to promote energy efficiency in the Caribbean.