

Oceans, Seas, and Biodiversity
3 September 15:00 – 18:00

- SIDS have an intrinsic economic, social, cultural and environmental connection with oceans and seas. As such, they are well-placed to develop sustainable ocean-related economic activities.
- Oceans are part of daily life in SIDS and contribute greatly to SIDS economic activity particularly through fisheries and tourism. However, unsustainable use of marine resources – including over fishing for commercial purposes and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing - has led to rapid decline in fish stocks.
- Promoting sustainable use of marine resources is essential for ensuring long term food security and protecting marine biodiversity. Integrated, holistic and global approaches should be adopted for effective management of coastal and marine areas.
- SIDS serve as the conscience of humanity on climate change, oceans and seas and biodiversity. SIDS continue to champion these issues in international negotiations.
- In the area of Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity, significant sectors for developing partnerships include food security, energy, tourism, minerals, protecting biological diversity, financing, technology and climate change impacts on oceans and seas.
- Integrated and ecosystem approaches to the management and governance of ocean spaces and activities must be adopted for the development of ocean economies, with cooperation and coordination at all levels as the key to success.
- Effective partnerships for sustainable capacity building of SIDS require clear and achievable goals and objectives responding to the needs and priorities identified by SIDS, as well as the necessary financial resources.
- Partnerships at community level require access to relevant and accurate data through innovative information and communication technologies (ICT), such as matching platforms that connect seekers and providers of funding. Such platforms and supporting databases could act as “ocean without borders”, connecting local communities in SIDS with partners around the world.
- Partnerships are needed for developing the ocean economy of SIDS as it contributes to generation of income and employment; poverty eradication; and social inclusion. Given the vital role of oceans to the economy of SIDS, reduction of water pollution, and protection of marine ecosystem services and biodiversity are a must.
- Minerals and hydrocarbon should be one of the key sectors for new partnerships, including SIDS-

SIDS partnerships , covering such issues as legal and policy frameworks relating to licensing and regulatory issues, exploration contracts, further assessment of environmental impacts and managing income sustainably for the benefit of future generations.

- Partnerships would also be required for Further development of frameworks for formulating effective sustainable ocean policy, managing exclusive economic zones, and coastal management and building capacities in these areas.
- Partnerships were recognized, relating to conservation of fisheries, combatting IUU fishing, multi-use marine parks, protecting biodiversity in EEZ, protecting the marine environment from ship discharge, ocean acidification, a global ocean carbon observatory network, conservation in the Caribbean, prospecting and exploiting deep sea minerals, developing the blue green economy, strategic cooperation with SIDS on biodiversity and forestry, marine scientific cooperation, marine capacity building, and effective management of marine areas, protection for refugees at sea, and a global framework for climate services for SIDS.