



Distribution: General
22 August 2025

Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDSDOCK)

Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly
Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations
675 Third Avenue, Suite 1911
New York, NY 10017 and
Via Telephone and Videoconferencing
Thursday, 26th September 2024
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time)

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES DOCK [SIDSDOCK] ASSEMBLY

NO.	DOCUMENT NO.	TITLE
1	A/7/SR/1	Draft Report of the Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly, 26 September 2024
2	A/8/1/Rev.1	Draft Provisional Agenda Eighth Session of the Assembly of SIDSDOCK
3	A/8/2/Rev.1	List of Observers Eighth session of the Assembly of SIDSDOCK
4	A8/3	Report on the Activities of the SIDSDOCK Executive Council Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
5	A8/4	Report on the Activities of the SIDSDOCK Secretariat Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
6	A8/5	Depository Report Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
7	A/8/6	Report of Credentials Committee Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
8	A/8/7/Rev.1	Arrangements for the Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
9	A/8/8/Rev.1	General Guidance On Joining The Zoom Meeting Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
10	A/8/9	General guidance on audiovisual file submission Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
11	A/8/10	Guide to Online Registration Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
12	A/8/11	Nominations to the Executive Council of SIDSDOCK Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
13	A/8/12	Status of the SIDSDOCK Statute Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
14	A/8/13	Terms of Reference SIDSDOCK Executive Council Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024
15	A/8/14	Executive Council Membership as at 1 January 2024 Eighth Session of the SIDSDOCK Assembly September 2024

16	A/8/15	UNIDO Contract Provision of Services for Hosting of the GLOEA
17	A/8/16	Note Verbale Note No. 64 2024 from Government of Belize Nomination for President of the Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
18	A/8/17	Note Verbale Note No. SMUN 161 2024 from Government of Seychelles Nomination for Member of the SIDS DOCK Executive Council Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
19	A/8/18	Note Verbale Note No. 171- SMUN (NV) from Government of Seychelles Nomination as Vice President (AIS Region) Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
20	A/8/19	Note Verbale Note No. 168 24 from Government of Mauritius Nomination for Member of the SIDS DOCK Executive Council Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
21	A/8/20	Note Verbale from Government of Tonga Nomination as Vice President (Pacific Region) Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
22	A/8/21	Note Verbale Note No. SM 2024 095 from Government of Samoa Nomination for Member of the SIDS DOCK Executive Council Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
23	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/001	SIDS DOCK Assembly – Notice Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
24	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/002	Bureau Elections Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
25	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/003	Correspondence to the Seventh President re Agenda Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
26	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/004	Invitation Opening Session Remarks Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024 (Hon. Fiamē Naomi Mata‘afa)
27	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/005	Note to Depositary Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
28	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/006	Caribbean Executive Council Election Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
29	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/007	SIDS DOCK Assembly Notice Bureau Nominations Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
30	Note No: SIDS DOCK/Assembly8/0011	SIDS DOCK Assembly Notice Executive Council Nominations Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024
31	Note No: Executive Council 021/2024	Executive Council Vacancies Eighth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly September 2024

Report of the eighth session of the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) Assembly

1. The convening of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly was conducted in person at the Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations and remotely, by means of conference using Zoom, a web-based hosting service, pursuant to Article VI (1), on 26th September 2024.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the session

2. His Excellency Mr. Ian Madeleine, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations, serving as acting President of the seventh SIDS DOCK Assembly, called to order the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.
3. The Acting President invited the Assembly to observe a minute of silence in solidarity with the Governments and People of the Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on the devastation caused and the lives lost as a result of Hurricane Beryl, in July 2024.
4. The Acting President delivered a statement on behalf of the President of the seventh SIDS DOCK Assembly, Honourable Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles. The Acting President apologized on behalf of the President who was unfortunately unable to attend this year's Assembly.
5. Through his statement, President Ramkalawan Noted that over the past year, the organization made remarkable strides in promoting ocean energy and building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and through the joint commitment of the SIDS DOCK Bureau, the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA) launched in 2022, has gained traction and is increasing awareness in the international community. Significantly, he said he was proud to sign the renewed agreement between SIDS DOCK, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Austria, that solidified our genuine and durable partnership, forged in Samoa in 2014, at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the signing of a Joint Declaration in the margins of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), on 28th May 2024, in Antigua & Barbuda.
6. The Joint Declaration is in line with the SIDS4 Conference Outcome Document, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), and will continue to see UNIDO and Austria over the next ten years, actively supporting countries and territories in their economic diversification aspirations towards higher added value manufacturing and servicing in traditional sectors and emerging areas of the green, blue and digital economy.
7. The President said that the leaders have consistently called for action from climate financing agencies who need to embrace the potential of ocean energy and recognise the critical role of innovative financing in securing a sustainable future for SIDS and Coastal

Developing Countries. This vision is not just about energy; it is about transforming our economies and improving the quality of life for our people. By investing in ocean energy, we are tapping into the vast renewable resource that surrounds us, in fact, ours and the planet's largest source of renewable energy. Ocean energy technologies, including wave, tidal, and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) among others, offer us a sustainable path to energy security.

8. He said the goal is to replace the ten thousand Megawatts (10,000 MW) of diesel generators that currently power islands with clean, renewable energy sources within the next decade. This transition is not only environmentally responsible but also economically prudent. By reducing our reliance on imported fuels, we can avoid spending more than twenty billion dollars annually on energy imports. These savings can be redirected towards investing in critical areas such as climate resilience, education and healthcare, fostering small and medium scale entrepreneurship to help provide a more resilient and prosperous future for our communities.
9. In closing, President Ramkalawan said that in moving forward and forge new partnerships that can help finance and support ocean energy projects and solutions for energy security. He said it is essential to continue building partnerships and securing the necessary investments to support the energy transition and stay focused on capacity building, ensuring that local communities have the skills and knowledge to manage and maintain these new energy systems. He commended the incoming President, Honourable John Briceño for his commitment to sustainable development, his passion for the Children of SIDS about the possibility and what the future holds for them, and commended Belize's unwavering support for the SIDS DOCK organization, noting that is the reason SIDS DOCK and its members are here today.
10. The Acting President introduced the Hon. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and invited her to deliver brief opening remarks to the Assembly. In his introduction, the Acting President lauded the Prime Minister as a true champion of SIDS, and congratulated Samoa, the first SIDS from the Blue Pacific, that will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from the 21st October 2024.
11. The Prime Minister said the CHOGM was not just a meeting but a unique opportunity for SIDS to amplify our voices and showcase the resilience and innovation of our island nations through the meeting theme, "One Resilient Common Future: *Transforming our Common Wealth*." She encouraged her fellow leaders to attend, as their presence at the CHOGM is crucial as it provides a platform to integrate SIDS DOCK's mission of sustainable energy and climate resilience into the broader Commonwealth agenda. By attending, SIDS can ensure that our priorities are heard and acted upon at the highest levels.
12. She said SIDS DOCK has been a beacon of hope, connecting our energy sectors with global markets for finance and sustainable energy technologies. At CHOGM, she said we can further this mission by promoting renewable energy solutions; by sharing our experiences and strategies, we can influence Commonwealth policies to support climate adaptation and

- resilience initiatives, and we can highlight the economic benefits of sustainable energy projects, such as job creation and improved livelihoods.
13. The Prime Minister said there is also the opportunity to promote the most significant initiative since AOSIS established the SIDS DOCK, and that is the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA). Integrating the GLOEA into the Commonwealth's work programme can significantly benefit SIDS by leveraging ocean energy for sustainable development. Integration could be achieved through policy advocacy and support, capacity building and knowledge sharing, funding and resource mobilization, research and development, and public-private partnerships.
 14. The Prime Minister said Samoa's role as the first SIDS from the Blue Pacific to host the CHOGM is a testament to Samoa's resilience and leadership. It symbolizes commitment to addressing global challenges and the ability to host such a significant event. This is a moment for Samoa to showcase its culture, values, and vision for a sustainable future. She concluded her remarks by urging all members of SIDS DOCK to attend the CHOGM 2024. Together, she said, we can ensure that our voices are heard, our challenges are addressed, and our future is secured.
 15. The Acting President thanked the Prime Minister for her remarks and kind words for the organization and reiterated what the Prime Minister said about how crucial the presence of our leaders at the CHOGM is and how it provides a platform to integrate SIDS DOCK's mission of sustainable energy and climate resilience into the broader Commonwealth agenda. The Acting President said SIDS DOCK looks forward to strengthening ties with AOSIS and he extended best wishes to the Government of Samoa in staging a successful CHOGM.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of work

16. Noting the agenda for the meeting, the acting President of the eighth session of the Assembly informed the Assembly that the agenda items were updates, as the Assembly, aided by the Bureau and the Executive Council, were able to conduct its work in a very efficient manner, enabling the Assembly to adopt key decisions and perform necessary functions, by taking decisions under silence procedure of at least 72 hours, and that if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the SIDS DOCK Assembly shall take note of the decision at its first plenary meeting. The Acting President informed the Assembly that the documents pertaining to the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly are available on the SIDS DOCK website at: <https://sidsdock.org/assembly/>.
17. The acting President proposed that Belize act as Rapporteur for the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly. Noting no objections, the Assembly agreed by acclamation, Belize, as Rapporteur of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.

a. Election of Officers of the Assembly – President and Vice-Presidents

18. In accordance with Article VI (4) of the Statute of the SIDS DOCK, the Assembly is to elect a President and two Vice-Presidents. The President of the eighth session of the Assembly should be elected from the Caribbean Region, and the Vice-Presidents from the AIS and Pacific Regions, respectively.
19. In this regard, the Secretariat informed that they are in receipt of the nomination of the Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize, as President of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly representing the Caribbean Region. Noting that there are no other nominations, the Assembly was invited to consider the election of Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize for the post of President of the eighth session of the Assembly.
20. **Noting no objections, the Assembly elected by acclamation, Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize, as the President of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, whose term expires in December 2025.**
21. The Acting President introduced the President-elect Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize, representing the Caribbean Region, and invited him to deliver his statement as President of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.
22. Prime Minister Briceño expressed his profound gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility in accepting the position of President of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly and extended his heartfelt thanks to all for their vote of confidence. He said he was committed to continuing the advocacy for promoting the development and deployment of ocean energy technologies that promote economic growth and build climate resilience of our members. This role he said is an honour that provides a crucial platform to amplify our collective voice and address the unique challenges faced by SIDS and many low-lying coastal states.
23. During his term, he said the organization will focus on the commercialization of small- and medium-scale ocean energy and waste-to-energy technologies. He said everyone must play a significant role proving the value of energy from the ocean to enhance our resilience to climate change and accelerate the energy transition to sustainable energy, and to foster our post-pandemic economic growth. Additionally, supporting the institutional of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA) is a priority, and noted that with the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Austria, the GLOEA Secretariat was established in Belize, and coordinated by the SIDS DOCK Secretariat.
24. The next goal is for the GLOEA partners to develop a funding proposal for the development of the GLOEA Centre, and support for its first phase of operation starting in Belmopan, Belize, in 2026. The Centre will expand our partnerships between the governments (SIDS and Non-SIDS), commercial interests, and interested organizations and institutions to grow our ocean energy project portfolio and advance our shared goal of a sustainable and resilient future.

25. Prime Minister Briceño recalled that during my acceptance remarks on his election as Vice President of the seventh session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly representing the Caribbean Region, he announced a project to mitigate against the Sargassum seaweed invasion damaging Caribbean economies. He said he was pleased to report that along with private sector partners, significant progress has been made in identifying and designing the project. The appropriate processing equipment and systems have also been identified, as well as the design of specialized equipment to collect the seaweed on the ocean, in order to undertake this first-of-a-kind project.
26. This represents significant progress to address the Sargassum seaweed invasion problem which has been negatively impacting two critical industries, tourism and fisheries, major earners of foreign exchange and provision of employment. Prime Minister Briceño said Belize and its partners will continue working hard to complete the project so that it can share the technology with other SIDS DOCK members who are suffering from the Sargassum invasion. He said the Caribbean must solve this problem, as the region risks reversing the significant rebound in the tourism sector in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, which would have catastrophic social and economic consequences. In 2023 revenue from the tourism sector were estimated in the region of \$37.5 billion, and employment for over 2.5 million people. Tourism's role in job creation is crucial for the economic stability and growth of the Caribbean region.
27. Prime Minister Briceño also updated the Assembly on a pilot project in San Pedro, the capital of Belize's biggest island, Ambergris Caye, and the major tourism destination, designated to play a key role in the Belize energy transition. San Pedro is the only island in Central America where golf carts are the primary source of transportation, where the population is about twenty thousand (20,000) people with more than five thousand (5,000) fossil fuelled golf carts on the island. Along with the SIDS DOCK partners, the Climate Institute, UNIDO and the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC), the partners are planning the process of transitioning golf carts to electric powered. This project will make a significant contribution to Belize's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and greenhouse gas reduction and deliver significant social and environmental benefits such as improved air quality, reduced noise and chemical pollution. The plan is to share this experience with other interested countries, demonstrating SIDS' leadership in sustainable transportation.
28. Prime Minister Briceño closed his remarks by highlighting two important issues we must constantly and collectively address and advocate for, issues that are the foundation and the most important reason for SIDS DOCK existence, firstly, access to financing to implement policies for strengthening our ability to withstand and recover from climate-related impacts. Investments in reducing vulnerability of the tourism sector is paramount for reducing socio-economic vulnerability of most small islands and low lying coastal developing states to changing climate. In this regard he proposed that the GLOEA begin as soon as possible to expand its ocean energy technology assessment to include the potential of using cold ocean water as an alternate building cooling option for hotels and resorts. The elevated ambient air temperature driven by changing climate is causing significant increase for air conditioning to remove heat from buildings, increasing the demand for electricity.

29. Secondly, intensifying advocacy efforts to attract capital for the adoption of renewable energy technologies is critical to the goal of significant reduction in dependence on fossil fuels. He said SIDS DOCK must continue advocating for climate financing to provide resources for pre-project development work and co-financing for implementing commercial scale projects.

Election of Officers of the Assembly – Vice-Presidents

30. The President invited the Assembly to proceed with the election of two Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. In this regard, the Secretariat informed that it is in receipt of the nomination of Honourable Siaosi 'Ofakivahafolau Sovaleni (Hon. Hu'akavameiliku), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, representing the Pacific Region, and Honourable Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles, representing the AIS Region, respectively, for the posts of Vice Presidents.
31. Noting that there were no other nominations, the Assembly was invited to consider the election of Honourable Hu'akavameiliku and Honourable Ramkalawan, for the posts of Vice-Presidents of the eighth session of the Assembly.
32. **Noting no objections, the Assembly elected by acclamation, Honourable Hu akavameiliku and Honourable Ramkalawan, as the Vice-Presidents of the eighth Assembly of SIDS DOCK, for the term, 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025.**
33. The President invited His Excellency Mr. Ian Madeleine, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations to make brief remarks on behalf of the Honourable Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles, and the newly-elected Vice-President, representing the AIS region, who led the Assembly during the last session , and who unfortunately was not able to join us today.
34. Through his statement President Ramkalawan expressed gratitude to the members of the Assembly for their support of his election as Vice President of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly and said it has been an honour to serve, and looks forward to working with the President, the Honourable John Briceño and fellow Vice President the Honourable Siaosi 'Ofakivahafolau Sovaleni (Hon. Hu'akavameiliku), in advancing the interest of the SIDS DOCK.
35. The President thanked Ambassador Madeleine and through him, expressed thanks to President Ramkalawan for his remarks. Prime Minister Briceño thanked the Government of Seychelles for the outstanding support provided to the SIDS DOCK organisation. He said as one of the Founding Members of the SIDS DOCK Organization, we have always relied on the sterling leadership of Seychelles in standing up the governance structure of the organization and we celebrate the fine example of what it means to be deeply committed to an organization. He expressed gratitude to President Ramkalawan for his leadership and support in overseeing the signing of the Joint Declaration between UNIDO and Austria, held in the margins of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024, renewing our partnership for another ten years.

36. The President invited Prime Minister Hu‘akavameiliku, to bring remarks as the newly-elected Vice-President representing the Pacific region.
37. Prime Minister Hu‘akavameiliku said he was deeply honoured to accept the position of Vice President of the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly and extended heartfelt gratitude to the Members for entrusting him with this significant responsibility. He said the role comes at a crucial time when our collective efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development are more important than ever. Without a doubt, development of ocean energy, our largest natural resource endowment, is essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for building resilience to the changing global climate.
38. He said clean energy from the ocean will play a pivotal role in SIDS DOCK’s programme development and funding strategies, with ocean energy offering a renewable and abundant resource that can drive our transition to low-carbon economies, and this will be done through the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA). He underscored the critical importance of SIDS DOCK Members supporting the GLOEA. He said our very survival hinges on our ability to transition to low-carbon economies by harnessing the vast potential of our oceans for renewable energy. The GLOEA represents a collaborative effort to accelerate the development and deployment of ocean energy technologies, which are vital for decarbonizing our economies and ensuring energy security.
39. Prime Minister Hu‘akavameiliku other collaborative efforts include the development of an Ocean Readiness Programme in cooperation with the SPC, the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE), SIDS DOCK, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), including cooperation with the GLOEA and other centers of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC). This programme aims to mitigate barriers and bring the latest innovations to the Pacific, attracting investment from donors, the private sector, and other financing instruments.
40. He said Tonga is already taking bold steps towards this vision. The Seabased Tongatapu Wave Energy Park Project, that will begin with a two megawatt (2 MW) commercial demonstration facility and expanding to 20 megawatts (20 MW), is located on the near shore seafloor, converting the energy in wave to electricity which is transmitted to shore by submarine cable. This is a prime example of Tonga’s commitment to building the Ocean Energy Project Pipeline, which is a major part of the President’s Personal Initiative for the Commercialization of Ocean Energy Technologies, which Prime Minister Hu‘akavameiliku launched in January 2022. Additionally, SIDS DOCK will be working to define what the next phase of the cooperation with the PSIDS for the development and deployment of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) in the Pacific would look like. This is in follow up to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supported Pacific SIDS High-Level Learning Tour of the Okinawa Prefecture Deep Ocean Water Research Center in Kumejima, Japan, in 2023, that provided real world insights into the potential of OTEC technologies, which use the temperature difference between the surface

and deep ocean to generate electricity, desalinate water and support seafood farming and other entrepreneurial activities, including cosmetics.

41. Prime Minister Hu‘akavameiliku closed his remarks by urging all members of the SIDS DOCK organization to rally behind the Global Ocean Energy Alliance, as this was their organization, created by SIDS for SIDS. As he said before, climate change is not some temporary inconvenience. These are extensional threats. It’s about our survival. He encouraged the members to come together so that we can accelerate decarbonization, harness the power of our oceans, and build a sustainable and resilient future for our islands.
42. The President thanked Honourable Hu‘akavameiliku for his outstanding leadership. He said he foresees success with him at the helm of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA), where along with himself and President Ramkalawan, they presented regional solidarity with its launch in Lisbon, Portugal, on the margins of the June 2022 Ocean Conference. Through Honourable Hu‘akavameiliku efforts, the GLOEA is now referred to as the most significant mechanism established by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) since the establishment of the SIDS DOCK organisation in 2015.

(b) Adoption of the Agenda

43. The President introduced the Provisional Agenda contained in document A/8/1/Rev.1. There were no objections to, or matters for inclusion in the current revised draft Agenda.
44. **The Assembly adopted the Agenda of the Assembly as contained in document A/8/1/Rev.1.**

(c) Appointment of a Credentials Committee

45. The President informed the Assembly that the Secretariat has advised that Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Mauritius, Samoa, Seychelles and Tonga are desirous of serving on the Credentials Committee.
46. The Assembly was then invited to approve the appointment of Mr. Claxton Duberry (Antigua & Barbuda), Ms. Cindy Novelo (Belize), Ms. Vreeshini Raojee (Mauritius), Mrs. Matilda Bartley (Samoa), Mr. Jeremy Raidgonde (Seychelles) and Ms. Darlene Vaea (Tonga) to the Credentials Committee.
47. **The Assembly approved by acclamation the appointment of the three aforementioned Members to the Credentials Committee.**

(d) Participation of observers

48. In accordance with Article VI (8) of the Statute, in which the Assembly can provide observer status to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of adaptation to climate change and renewable energy, and Signatories that have not ratified the Statute, with the understanding that Observers may participate, without the right to vote, in the public sessions of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs. Consideration is

also being granted to Members of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) who are not signatories or members of SIDS DOCK.

49. In accordance with Rule 13 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Assembly approved the requests of countries and organizations as contained in document A/8/2 to participate as Observers in the seventh session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.
50. **Noting no objection, please note that document A/8/2 will be amended to reflect today's participation. The countries and organizations contained in document A/8/2, as amended, have been approved to participate as Observers in the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.**

(e) Adoption of the report of the seventh session of the Assembly

51. The President introduced the report of the seventh session of the Assembly and invited the Assembly to consider and approve the report as contained in document A/7/SR/1.
52. **The Assembly adopted the Report of the seventh session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, as contained in document A/7/SR/1.**

Agenda Item 3 – Report of the Chair of the Executive Council

53. The President invited the Chair of the SIDS DOCK Executive Council, Mr. Va'inga Tōnē, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations to present the report.
54. Ambassador Tōnē thanked the President and informed the Assembly that the Council convened two meetings during the reporting period of September 2023 to August 2024.
55. **During the twelfth meeting of the Council held in June 2023, key decisions were taken, notably:**
 - a. Revision of the Work Programme for the period 2023 to 2025, focusing on the two pipelines of Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience.
 - b. Approved the Secretariat to develop two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Seabased Company, and Ireland-based wave energy technology company, and Resilient Energi, a U.S.-based waste-to-energy technology company.
 - c. The Council also approved the Secretariat's request to temporarily pause discussions with the World Bank for the next two months, as our legal counsel was not well. Members will recall that at the sixth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly in September 2021, the Assembly decided to authorize the Secretariat of SIDS DOCK, guided by the SIDS DOCK pro bono attorney, Squire Patton Boggs (SPB), to request The World Bank ESMAP to disburse USD 1.1 million in Japanese funding allocated for the SIDS DOCK Institutional Development in 2012.

- d. The Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to coordinate discussions between SIDS DOCK and The World Bank.
 - e. The Assembly further decided that the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations, in its capacity as President of the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK, be designated as the point of contact and follow-up, working closely with the SIDS DOCK Foundation, the SIDS DOCK Bureau, the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK and the Secretariat of SIDS DOCK, to maintain effective communication, and further recognizing the leadership activities of the SIDS DOCK organization's centre of gravity is at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA, and that due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19, the Secretary-General's access and availability is limited.
 - f. The Council also approved the drafting of a Cease-and-Desist Letter to be drafted by SIDS DOCK attorneys, requesting the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) Management to comply with the requests for multiple documents and financial reports, and due to the situation, to temporarily remove the SIDS DOCK Logo from its website and elsewhere within the CCREEE.
56. **During the thirteenth meeting of the Council, held in June 2024, key decisions were taken, notably:**
- a. Institutional Matters at the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE): Whilst the PCREEE has functioned, as expected, and this is reported in several external evaluations, the CCREEE has not. Based on the intervention of the SIDS DOCK Secretariat and the institutional members of the CCREEE Executive Board, there was cause to terminate the services of the Executive Director, and the Board began a recruiting process in March 2024, to identify a new Executive Director. The selection process was nearing completion and the Executive Board was to make a recommendation to the CARICOM Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED), with the new Executive Director expected to assume office by August 2024.
 - b. Contract from UNIDO for Hosting of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA) and the Expansion of its Partnerships and Project Portfolio: In November 2023, SIDS DOCK and UNIDO signed a small contract for thirty-nine thousand (39,000) euros, for Provision of Services for the Hosting of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA) and the Expansion of its Partnerships and Project Portfolio. The primary purpose of the contract is to help facilitate the establishment of the GLOEA Secretariat in Belize, participation at the SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda, and work on promotion and development of the GLOEA's indicative project pipeline.
57. Ambassador Tōnē informed the President that there are several overlaps in the Council's Report and the Report from the Secretariat on the Programme of Work. Therefore, in the interest of time and with the President's permission, the Chair requested to use this

opportunity to deliver one presentation covering Agenda Item 3, Report of the Chair of the Executive Council; and Agenda Item 4, Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Modified programme of work and budget for the period January 2023 to December 2023. In this regard, Ambassador Tōnē requested the Secretariat to deliver the reports.

58. The President thanked the Chair and the Members of the Executive Council for their hard work and dedication. He said they continue to work diligently with establishing a solid foundation for the Organization to build on, and their work is evident in the heavy agenda before the Assembly, and encouraged the Council to keep up the good work.
59. **Noting no objections, the Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Chair of the Executive Council, as contained in document A/8/3.**

Agenda Item 4 - Report of the Secretariat on the Implementation of the Modified Programme of Work and Budget for the period January 2023 to December 2023

60. The President invited Dr. Albert Binger, Secretary-General, to make an oral presentation to the Assembly regarding the Implementation of the Modified Programme of Work and budget for the Period January 2023 to December 2023.
61. The Secretary-General thanked the President and said the revised Programme of Work remained focused on the mandates from the Assembly for priority to ocean energy, waste to energy, nature-based solutions, and women and the youth.
62. The Secretary-General invited the Chief of Staff & Project Director, Ms. Christine Neves Duncan, to update the Assembly on behalf of the Secretariat.
63. SIDS DOCK-UNIDO COP28 Side Event, Dubai: SIDS DOCK and UNIDO staged a successful Side Event in the margins of COP28, at the AOSIS Pavilion. The Secretariat noted with thanks the support received from AOSIS in assisting with securing the venue for the side event. An important outcome was that one of our private sector partners was able to secure funding for their operations while engaged in project development with SIDS DOCK.
64. High-Level Learning Tour to Okinawa Prefecture Deep Ocean Water Research Center in Japan: During the COP28 Side Event in Dubai, the meeting was updated on the High-Level Learning Tour. The Government of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) were commended for their outstanding support in sponsoring the learning tour that included His Excellency Dr. Tapugao Falefou, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tuvalu to the United Nations and the SIDS DOCK Executive Council Member from Tuvalu, and Mrs. Matilda Bartley, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations, representing His Excellency Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations and the SIDS DOCK Executive Council Member from Samoa, who was unable to make the tour due to his commitments as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

65. A pictorial of the visit showed ocean energy generated from the OTEC facility that contributes to the production of seafood and cosmetics, and how this small unit powers the Industrial Park. The delegation's understanding of how the OTEC technology works was made clearer during their visit with Dr. Yasuyuki Ikegami, Professor and Director at the Institute of Ocean Energy, Saga University, who is a long-time friend of SIDS DOCK. During his contribution to the presentation at the COP28 Side Event, Ambassador Falefou said that Tuvalu was ready to be the first country to pilot an OTEC facility. The Chair closed the presentation by noting that the journey back to New York was that of changed and highly informed individuals – changed by the evidence, and overwhelmed by the true and validated prospects that OTEC technology holds for SIDS
66. “Consortium for the Caribbean German-funded International Climate Initiative (IKI) Project for Supporting the implementation of NDCs in the Caribbean: Members will recall that in 2019, the Assembly approved SIDS DOCK participating in the IKI Project – aimed at transforming the transport and energy sectors towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future. The project referred to as the “NDC-TEC Project,” is coordinated by the GIZ Caribbean Office in St. Lucia. The project has been a frustrating exercise and has wasted significant Secretariat time, and in a brief to the Council, the Secretariat laid out a compelling case for recommending the termination of the GIZ agreement, and to have SIDS DOCK withdrawn from the project. The Council therefore agreed that if there were significant management changes and a new acceptable proposal, the Council will review participating in the project once more.
67. Island Women Open Network (IWON) Project Activities: The IWON convened two events in the margin of the SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda, and expressed gratitude to Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson, LPD, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy, Commonwealth of Dominica and the SIDS DOCK IWON Patron, who graciously hosted the third meeting of the IWON Committee, and a High-level Reception and Awards and Signing Ceremony for the Joint Declaration. Both events were held on the 28th May 2024 and reports are that they were successful. The IWON Committee meeting provided an update on the IWON Botanical and Herbal project, and noted the next steps are to continue building Tonga's capacity to manage the emerging industry and to design, construct and commission a zero-carbon food processing facility in Tonga, the designated pilot country. During the meeting, UNIDO and Austria delivered presentations on how they can support the IWON, which stands to benefit under the Joint Declaration.
68. The IWON Awards Ceremony, held during the High-level reception, saw UNIDO and Austria receiving the 2024 Excellency in Leadership Awards for their outstanding contribution to the establishment of SIDS DOCK, recognising them for jointly supporting the establishment of the CCREEE and PCREEE and the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA), and of course, the IWON.
69. The IWON is responsible for the SIDS DOCK Children's Programme, and on 10th April 2024, during a meeting with Hon. John Briceno, Prime Minister of Belize and Vice President of the seventh session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, the Concept Project Proposal titled, “Johnnie's Kids Can Swim, Ocean Energy Education Programme”, was

approved by the Prime Minister. The next step is to work with the San Pedro Town Council to develop a full project proposal, with a meeting to be scheduled for the end of July 2024.

70. Waste-To-Energy Programme: In 2017, the SIDS DOCK Assembly decided that waste-to-energy had to be a priority area. In response to a request from the Government of Belize, following the launch of the GLOEA, the Secretariat began working on a management plan to combat the invasion of Sargassum seaweed to protect the all-important tourism and fisheries industries which are critical components of the national economy. With support from the SIDS DOCK institutional partner UNIDO and the SIDS DOCK Foundation, a project that is a prototype is under development that will intercept the Sargassum at sea, off the Belize coast, dewater it and transport it to a processing facility where it will be used as raw material for the generation of electricity at a waste-to-energy facility. The project has the capacity to supply twenty-two megawatts (22 MW) of baseload power to the Belize grid and minimizing their diesel imports and dependence on exported power from Mexico. The results of this project are applicable to many other Caribbean SIDS who are being negatively impacted by the annual Sargassum invasion.
71. Pilot Project for Fleet Electric Mobility Vehicles in SIDS: Development and Deployment of New Electric Vehicle (EV) Transport and Renewable Energy Charging Solutions to Reduce Carbon Emissions, Promote Technology Development and Expand Regional Employment Opportunities, in San Pedro, Belize: San Pedro Island is probably the only island among the islands across the SIDS that is predominantly dependent on golf carts for domestic transport. Golf carts have very old types of engine designs, they are essentially oversized lawn mowers and they emit lots of emissions, and this makes San Pedro the ideal place to convert to electric propulsion. This project is being executed in partnership with SIDS DOCK, UNIDO, Climate Institute, the San Pedro Town Council and the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Transport, Department of Transport, Department of Transport.
72. On 11th April 2024, a public consultation was held on the island of San Pedro, organised by the partners. The consultation was to engage and receive feedback from stakeholders who use petroleum fuelled golf carts for transportation, including government agencies, taxis, rental agencies, other entrepreneurs, community groups and private businesses. The aim was to listen and learn what kind of cart vehicles are being used on the island, the type of uses, the problems experienced (air quality, noise, congestion), safety concerns, the cost of fuel and availability, the current approaches to mitigate these problems, including the use of electric carts and the related issues such as charging network and the price of electricity, and public education. The consultation sought to identify potential solutions through information exchange and consultation with stakeholders (government, private sector, and the citizens), during the meeting. There are over 5,000 thousand golf carts on the island of San Pedro.
73. Climate Institute which has a MoU with SIDS DOCK and which has expertise in this area, is currently engaged in preparing, to specification, two electric powered golf carts and one charging station, as a grant from the Climate Institute to the San Pedro Town Council, to begin to sensitize the public about the ease in transition away from fossil fuelled golf carts and to demonstrate the benefits of electric golf carts. This project is intended to be scaled

up across San Pedro, and once that is achieved to other Caribbean islands, interested SIDS and countries within the UNIDO GN-SEC.

74. SIDS DOCK Provisional Admittance to COP29: On 21st June 2024, the UNFCCC Secretariat informed the SIDS DOCK Secretariat that SIDS DOCK received provisional admittance to COP29, scheduled for Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11th to 22nd November 2024. Due to lack of resources to participate, the Secretariat requested that a member of the Executive Council represent the organisation, as it is anticipated that the COP will formally admit SIDS DOCK to the UNFCCC process during the twenty-ninth session. Members were asked to inform the Chair if they will be attending the COP29, and if so, if they are willing to represent SIDS DOCK, if as anticipated the COP will formally admit SIDS DOCK to the UNFCCC process during the twenty-ninth session. In this regard, the Member from said he could possibly informally represent SIDS DOCK but as a member of the Belize delegation and in the capacity as Vice President of the SIDS DOCK. The SIDS DOCK Secretariat will work with the Government of Belize on the arrangements.
75. The President thanked the Secretary-General for his report and said that from the report, Members would have noticed that the Secretariat and the Secretary-General have engaged in a variety of activities and have made tremendous strides in building the Organization and establishing the SIDS DOCK Foundation which is now operating independently of the SIDS DOCK Organization, having established its presence and bank account in New York City. The Secretariat continues to provide support to build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate to our islands that have been ravaged by natural disasters; there is now growing evidence of more intense hydro-meteorological events making development of our countries more difficult.
76. During the past days, members have been actively participating in the various High-Level Meetings, trying to keep on the forefront of the international community and those best positioned to do something about the continued increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) atmospheric concentrations which threaten the survival of present and future generations. It is therefore very important for each of us to be responsible for promoting our Organization; we must encourage our other SIDS brothers and sisters to join us, for we know that in numbers lie the potential to bring about change, and, equally important, we must also encourage our partners in the developed world, to join us.
77. On behalf of the Membership, the President placed on record profound gratitude to the Secretary-General and his small team for their dedication and excellent leadership in advancing the work and vision of the Organization. He said Belize looks forward to continuing to support the SIDS DOCK Secretariat and to working closely with the Secretary-General and his team to advance the work of the Organization in the coming year.

Agenda Item 5 - Election of the members of the Executive Council

- (a) *Election of two (2) members to the Executive Council for the term 2025-2026 and four (4) members for the term 2025-2027*

78. The President informed the Assembly that the Secretariat informed that the Governments of Mauritius, St. Lucia, Samoa, Seychelles and Tonga have all nominated their respective representatives to the election under reference. Noting that there are no other nominations and that in accordance with Article VII, Section 1 of the Statute, the nominees duly qualify for election to the Executive Council.
79. It is therefore proposed that the Assembly by acclamation elect the following to the Executive Council for the term 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2026:
- a. Honourable Shawn Andrey Edward of St. Lucia, representing the Caribbean Region;
 - b. His Excellency Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul of Mauritius representing the AIS Region.
80. It is further proposed that the Assembly by acclamation elect the following to the Executive Council for the term 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2027:
- a. His Excellency Fatumanava III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru of Samoa, representing the Pacific Region;
 - b. Mr. Tony Imaduwa of Seychelles, representing the AIS Region;
 - c. His Excellency Mr. Va'inga Tōnē of the Kingdom of Tonga, representing the Pacific Region.
81. Before closing this Agenda Item, the President placed on record the Assembly's congratulations to the elected Members of the Executive Council, and to thank the Executive Council for its hard work. He also took the opportunity to remind the Members of the Executive Council that they have been elected to serve in their personal capacities, and therefore their active participation and commitment to the Council is highly appreciated and expected.
82. **Noting no objections, the Assembly duly elected Honourable Shawn Andrey Edward of St. Lucia and His Excellency Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul of Mauritius, to the membership of the Executive Council for the period beginning 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2026; and His Excellency Fatumanava III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru of Samoa, Mr. Tony Imaduwa of Seychelles, and His Excellency Mr. Va'inga Tōnē of the Kingdom of Tonga, to the membership of the Executive Council for the period beginning 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2027.**

Agenda Item 6 - Institutional and Administrative Matters

(a) Report of the Depositary

83. The President introduced the Report of the Depositary, as contained in document A/8/5, and on behalf of the Assembly, expressed heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Permanent Mission of Belize for overseeing the Depositary, and assured the Assembly that

84. they can continue to count on his Government's continued support and cooperation as we move forth to strengthen the membership and the Organization as a whole.
85. As a reminder, thirty-two (32) countries signed the Memorandum of Agreement Establishing the SIDS DOCK between 2009 and 2014. In September 2014, 20 countries signed the Statute Establishing the SIDS DOCK in Samoa, at the Third UN International Conference on SIDS, and since September 2015, when the Treaty came into force, 17 countries have either ratified or acceded to the Statute, with one country – Tuvalu, through signature effectuated ratification, being the first country to ratify the SIDS DOCK Treaty, in Samoa, in 2014, at the SIDS Conference. He said he was looking forward to more SIDS acceding to the Statute as we look to update the SIDS4 meeting on the progress the organization is making in serving our countries.
86. **The Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Depositary, as contained in document number A/8/5.**

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

87. Prior to inviting the Distinguished Chair of the Credentials Committee to report to the Assembly, the President informed that the Credentials Committee met on Thursday, 26 September 2024, to examine and verify the Letters of Credentials submitted in accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
88. During its meeting, the Committee elected Ms. Cindy Novelo of Belize, to serve as Chair of the Committee. The President invited Ms. Novelo to address the Assembly in her capacity as Chair of the Credentials Committee.
89. The Credentials Committee consisted of six members:
- a. Belize – Ms. Cindy Novelo
 - b. Antigua & Barbuda – Claxton Duberry
 - c. Ms. Vreeshini Raojee - Mauritius
 - d. Mrs. Matilda Bartley - Samoa
 - e. Seychelles – Mr. Jeremy Radegonde
 - f. Tonga – Ms. Darlene Vaea
90. Ms. Novelo introduced the “Report of the Credentials Committee” as contained in document A/8/6. On its examination of the credentials received, the Committee determined that 9 Members, namely Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Samoa, Seychelles, Tonga, and Tuvalu, had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
91. The Committee therefore recommended that the 9 aforementioned Members be permitted to participate in the eighth session. In addition to those delegations that did not submit credentials but submitted Note Verbale by the competent authority were deemed to conform to the requirement, and under Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure will be granted provisional admission to the session.

92. **The report of the Credentials Committee was approved by the Assembly as contained in document A/8/6.**
93. On behalf of the Assembly, the President thanked Ms. Cindy Novelo, Chair of the Credentials Committee for the report, and through her, thanked the other members of the Committee for their service.

Agenda Item 7 - SIDS DOCK and UNIDO at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), Antigua, 27-30 May 2024

a. SIDS DOCK-UNIDO Side Event on the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA) and the Call for Climate Financing

94. The President invited Secretary-General Binger to present the Assembly with an oral report on this agenda item, and sub-items, a. Third Meeting of the IWON Committee; b. Signing of Joint Declaration between SIDS DOCK, UNIDO and Austria; and c. Island Women Open Network (IWON) 2024 Excellency in Leadership Awards.
95. The Secretary-General noted that these items were previously covered in the Executive Council and Secretariat Reports, therefore, the President can proceed to the next agenda item.

Agenda Item 8 - SIDS DOCK Foundation Update, Sub-items a. Appointment of New Board Member; and b. Establishment of SIDS DOCK Foundation presence in New York

96. The President invited His Excellency Mr. Va'inga Tōnē, President of the SIDS DOCK Foundation Board of Directors, to present the Assembly with an oral report on this agenda item.
97. Ambassador Tōnē asked Mr. Peter McCall, Vice President of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee to deliver the report.
98. Mr. McCall thanked the President and said he was excited to be able to address the Assembly for first time as Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee. He said the issues in front of the foundation is to be able to operate independently with its own finances and to be able to begin projects and to complete projects. The idea of a foundation to be able to have funds and to apply to do specific projects began some year ago, but was affected by the COVID pandemic but now has reemerged and timing is good to go out and meet groups in the financial world. He said the Foundation was looking at the concept of a blended fund where funds would come from philanthropy and mixed with funds from private sources. Mr. McCall said that the Finance and Investment Committee has made many inroads into finding people interested in working on ocean projects and find it exciting to generate baseload for the island nations.
99. Mr. McCall said that in March 2024, the Foundation opened its bank account and is now able to do transactions and accept donations.

100. The President opened the floor to delegations wishing to make comments on this matter.
101. The President thanked Mr. McCall for the update. He said he was delighted to extend heartfelt congratulations on the successful establishment of the Foundation's bank account. This significant milestone not only enhances their financial infrastructure but also strengthens the Foundation's capacity to manage and grow its resources effectively. The leadership and dedication of the Board Members have been instrumental in achieving this critical step, and it is a testament to the Board's unwavering commitment to our mission.
102. He said he was thrilled to welcome Mr. Peter McCall, the newly-elected Vice President of the Board. His impressive connections within the investment and philanthropic communities in New York City and beyond will undoubtedly bring invaluable insights and opportunities to our organization. This strategic appointment reflects the Board's visionary approach to building a robust and dynamic team, poised to drive our initiatives forward. He thanked the Board for their continued efforts and exemplary leadership.
103. **The Assembly took note with appreciation of the status update by the Mr. McCall.**

Agenda Item 9 – Remarks by Member States and Observers

104. The President invited delegates to indicate their interest to speak and the Secretariat will compile a list. As the meeting is virtual, the Secretary-General has requested that delegations email the names of their speakers to the Secretariat at: secretariat@sidsdock.org, if you have not done so.
105. As there are no delegations requesting the floor, the President requested the Members to turn their attention to the next agenda item.

Agenda Item 9 - Organization and arrangements for the Eighth Session of the Assembly

(a) Designation of the date

106. The President proposed that the ninth session of the Assembly be convened in September 2025, on the margins of the General Debate of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly.
107. **The Assembly took note of the discussion and agreed that the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly will be scheduled in New York, in September 2025, on the margins of the General Debate of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and that the Secretariat in collaboration with the President of the Assembly would determine the exact date.**
108. ***Designation of the members of the Bureau***
109. The President invited States Parties to indicate their desire to serve on the Bureau of the ninth session of the Assembly to the SIDS DOCK Secretariat, as soon as possible and no later than 1 June 2025, in order to facilitate a smooth transition in September 2025.

110. In keeping with the principle of equitable regional rotation of the post of the Presidency among the three sub-regions, the President of the ninth session should come from the Pacific sub-region, and the Vice-Presidents from the AIS and Caribbean sub-regions, respectively.
111. **The Assembly hereby agreed that interested States Parties would communicate to the SIDS DOCK Secretariat no later than 1 June 2025, their desire to serve on the Bureau of the ninth session of the Assembly, and that the President of the ninth session be from the Pacific sub-region, and the Vice Presidents from the AIS and Caribbean sub-regions, respectively.**

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

112. The President recognized the Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy from Dominica.
113. Minister Henderson thanked Prime Minister Briceno for assuming the role of President and for continuing to play an important in the development of SIDS DOCK. He also congratulated the President for his efficiency this afternoon and also thanked the outgoing president for his service.
114. He said Dominica remains committed to SIDS DOCK and to the Secretariat, and especially to Dr. Binger and Ms. Neves Duncan, for their continued commitment to this cause and I hope that we will continue to support them, as all around the table remain committed. He also extended a warm welcome to Mr. McCall as the Vice President of the Foundation and he looked forward to working with him. He said he hoped we can soon highlight a few projects that we can actually mobilize resources to finance. As everyone knows, there is a lot of talk in the international community but little action.
115. Minister Henderson said that this is one of the reasons why SIDS DOCK was created to ensure we can provide support to member states and ensure we could also advocate for new systems of financing and new approaches to transitioning to sustainable energy, and Dominica will always be in the debt to Dr. Binger and SIDS DOCK, for assisting at a critical time in the pursuit of its geothermal energy. He said Dominica was pleased to report that construction of the first 10 Megawatts (MWs) of geothermal power plant was on the way, so too contracts for upgrade to the transmission system making them more resilient and they expect by end of 2025 will be able to commission first geothermal power plant and new transmission system connecting geothermal and hydro power to the centre control of the utility company.
116. Minister Henderson announced that in recognition of Dr. Binger's contribution, Dominica has decided to appoint Dr. Albert Binger as Ambassador and Advisor to the Government of Dominica, on matters to do with sustainable energy. He congratulated Dr. Binger and he hoped he would get his title as Ambassador Binger.

117. The President thanked Minister Henderson for recognizing Ambassador Binger, and said the appointment was accepted by SIDS DOCK and jokingly said on the condition that Dominica does not steal him away. The President commended Dominica for moving to more renewable sources of energy and congrats for leading in that area and follow Dominica's example.

Agenda Item 11: Closure of the session

118. The President delivered a closing statement.
119. The President thanked everyone for participating in the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, and for making the session another success. He extended congratulations to the outgoing President of the seventy-seventh (78th) General Assembly, His Excellency Dennis Francis, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, one of our own, on the outstanding execution of the work leading up to the seventy-eighth (79th) Assembly. During his tenure as President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, His Excellency Dennis Francis achieved several significant milestones including spearheading a milestone declaration to accelerate investment in the SDGS emphasizing the importance of global solidarity and actions towards achieving these goals. This and other achievements highlight his dedication to promoting peace, prosperity, and sustainability on a global scale.
120. He said our situation is alarming, unpredictable and always faces the threat of natural disasters ahead. Members share a burning commitment to continuing to dedicate personal time and their countries' time and resources to lead the SIDS DOCK Organisation. This is how we can help to execute and solidify the mandates received from the members to, in the shortest time possible, commercialise ocean energy technologies, waste-to-energy technologies and nature-based technologies that are SIDS-Appropriate, to catalyse the transition of the current fossil-fuelled SIDS economies to low carbon and zero carbon economies, thus improving energy security with water and food security along with environmental enhancement as major co-benefits.
121. The President said the most recent devastating events in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines caused by the onslaught of Hurricane Beryl, is becoming the norm. At some point, the resistance to escalating from Category 5 to Category 6 on the hurricane scale is going to be broken as the ferocity of the hurricanes and cyclones are exceeding Category 5. While we hold our breaths for the long and agonizing realization of an impactful Loss and Damage Facility, we as leaders need to invest our time in our organization that was created to help finance adaptation. Collectively and individually, the leaders of SIDS have all called for more climate financing for SIDS, but the response has been slow in coming, but we have no choice but to continue and increase the intensity of our advocacy. Over the next year, the Bureau will continue to turn up and speak up to advocate for climate financing for SIDS and support for the Global Ocean Energy Alliance.
122. We see exciting times ahead for our members, especially those countries that have agreed to pilot and deploy game-changing SIDS-Appropriate technologies that have the potential to displace diesel fuel and provide baseload power, lower energy prices, reduce greenhouse

- gas (GHG) emissions, regenerate reefs and restore shorelines, and reduce the volume of hard currency out flows, which will improve our balance of trade. With the help of UNIDO, we have taken the GLOEA to the next level which is the establishment of the GLOEA Secretariat in Belmopan, Belize, and we are jointly engaged in its development that will have the GLOEA built on the model and lessons learned, and the best practices of a SIDS Regional Centre within the Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC).
123. The President thanks all the partners participated in the meeting and said he was looking forward to strengthening relations, and asked them to also champion SIDS' cause in every aspect of their work, because their support and solidarity is what helps SIDS to advance their sustainable development agenda. He said the Members were gratified by this show of strong support for SIDS and the SIDS DOCK.
 124. He also took the opportunity to urge the members of AOSIS who have not acceded to the SIDS DOCK Statute to do so. He invited them to join forces to position ourselves to work as one, to secure a better and brighter future for our Peoples. He reminded them, that at all times, this is our organization, we determine what it becomes and how well it performs. This is our organization, created by SIDS for SIDS, whose destiny is in the hands of SIDS.
 125. The President implored the Members to include the Children of SIDS and their Call for Climate Action in all our planning, as we continue our efforts of building a resilient future for them.
 126. Before closing, the President informed the Assembly that Austria was invited to deliver remarks under Agenda Item 9, but due to technical difficulties, the connection has now been resolved. In this regard, he invited Ms. Olivia Olimpia Caetani, Attaché at the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations to deliver brief remarks.
 127. Ms. Caetani thanked the President and expressed gratitude for inviting Austria as an Observer to attend the meeting and wished to make a statement. She said although Austria is a landlocked country, Austria has many challenges like the SIDS, first and foremost, climate change is a challenge and danger for both SIDS and Austria. For SIDS, this means rapidly rising sea levels, ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity of ocean life. For Austria it means melting glaciers, lakes drying up due to drought and riverbanks eroding. Furthermore, in Austria, water and hydropower are substantial pillars of energy supply – 60% of Austria's total energy production is generated from hydropower by direct river flows through generators.
 128. For these reasons, in 2014, Austria signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SIDS DOCK and UNIDO, and with this MoU the partners have set themselves the following clear goals. Firstly, the creation of a Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC) in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean, but also the establishment of the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). Today, Austria can proudly state that the commitments contained in the MoU between the three partners have been duly fulfilled. Express appreciation for UNIDO for attaining these common goals for a better world.

129. She said Austria is honoured that on the margins of SIDS4 Conference in Antigua, as mentioned earlier, the Austrian Deputy Minister signed a follow up Joint Declaration to prolong this long-standing partnership for another decade. This renewed Joint Declaration sets out Austria's future cooperation with SIDS DOCK under the aegis of UNIDO.
130. In conclusion, Ms. Caetani said that Austria is convinced that in troubled times we need more multilateralism and more dialogue and international cooperation, and this is one of the reasons Austria is a proud candidate for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term of 2027-2028, with elections in 2026. As SIDS DOCK's partner, she said Austria would be grateful for the organization's support. Multilateralism is part of Austria's national identity, and over past 65 years, Austria has proven to contribute effectively to the work of the UN. If elected in 2026, Austria will continue to be a reliable and consistent partner and dedicated to promoting the interests of small states. Ms. Caetani said in Austria, the SIDS have a staunch supporter on all of these issues and Austria is committed to taking the work forward together.
131. The President thanked Ms. Caetani for her statement and for the support and partnership being developed with Austria and SIDS and wished Austria all the best.
132. The President once again thanked all the delegates and participants for joining the meeting and concluded the eighth session of the Assembly.
133. **The President adjourned the eighth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.**