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Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK)

**Ninth Session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly
Via Telephone and Videoconferencing
Thursday, 25th September 2025
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time)**

**Meeting Between SIDS DOCK and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York
Office of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York
666 Third Avenue, 31st Floor, New York
12 March 2025**

Meeting Summary Report

SIDS DOCK Introductory Proposal to the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York

Partnership Supporting the Development of the SIDS DOCK Project Pipeline

ATTENDEES:

SIDS DOCK

- H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN and Chair of the SIDS DOCK Executive Council
- H.E. Mr. Ian Dereck Joseph Madeleine, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the UN and SIDS DOCK Executive Council Member
- H.E. Dr. Albert Binger, Secretary-General, SIDS DOCK Secretariat
- Ms. Marguerite St. John-Sebastian, Technical Advisor & Consultant, SIDS DOCK Secretariat

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York

- H.E. Mr. Ignacio Ybáñez, EU Special Envoy on SIDS
- Mrs. Dijana Delaye, Counsellor, SIDS Focal Representative

1. PURPOSE

The goal of the meeting was to introduce SIDS DOCK to the European Union and to highlight some of the innovative projects in the SIDS DOCK Indicative Project Pipeline as possible proposals for partnership.

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW OF BRIEF

The Permanent Representatives of Tonga and Seychelles, respectively, thanked the Special Envoy for the opportunity to meet with him and highlighted the need to strengthen partnerships to finding common and durable solutions to deliver tangible impacts on the ground for SIDS. They indicated that they greatly appreciate the EU's efforts to work closely with SIDS, and mentioned the relations being developed between the EU and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

The Secretary-General began his briefing by providing a background into the establishment of SIDS DOCK and the status of the Organization *vis-à-vis* the United Nations and its governance and structure.

The Secretary-General highlighted that SIDS DOCK was established as a “*Docking Station*,” to facilitate SIDS’ respond to some of their major challenges with fuel-based energy, noting its tremendous impact on the islands’ resources and it’s negative impact on the environment, and looking to alternative sources such as tapping into the ocean and sun, which are in abundance in SIDS.

The Secretary-General presented the following pipeline projects to the EU, and illustrated how these projects would provide durable and sustainable impacts not only on the energy sector of the countries but also will contribute to the advancement of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental spheres:

- a. Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)
- b. Wave Energy Technologies
- c. Blue Regeneration: Biorock nature-based solution for Coastlines and Reefs
- d. Sargassum (Seaweed) Bioenergy Solution
- e. E-Mobility

The Secretary-General also spoke about the work SIDS DOCK is doing with women and youth through its Island Women Open Network (IWON), which is empowering women and youth in various areas including through technology advancements and trading abilities.

The Secretary-General indicated that as island states, drowning among young people is very prevalent and is one of the leading reasons for death among young people, so SIDS DOCK is partnering with Seychelles to replicate a swim programme for young people that have worked well there to address this issue.

The Secretary-General indicated that for SIDS DOCK, it is crucially important to advance home grown technologies and solutions and to advance peer-to-peer best practices. He also indicated that SIDS DOCK is open to partnerships with the private sector but that these must include the utilization, incorporation and advancement of local talents and solutions.

CLOSING OF MEETING

The EU SIDS Envoy thanked the Secretary-General for the briefing and indicated that he would definitely bring these projects to the attention of its constituents as he believes a number of them meet some of the objectives and goals set out by the EU. He also indicated that like other key donors the EU is also in the process of reevaluating and reorganizing its aid packages but informed that as far as he knows SIDS still remains one of its priority.

The meeting concluded with exchanges of commitments to make sure this materializes into something tangible.

Mrs. Delaye and Mrs. St John-Sebastian will continue to engage and provide status updates and other relevant follow-up required. The third UN Ocean Conference was identified as a possible venue for follow-up.