SIDS DOCK SECRETARIAT MISSION TO AUSTRIA 8-16 APRIL 2026

INTERNATIONAL VIENNA ENERGY AND CLIMATE FORUM (IVECF)
HOFBURG PALACE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA
9-10 APRIL 2026

EIGHTH GN-SEC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
GRAZ, AUSTRIA
13 APRIL 2026

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE
GRAZ, AUSTRIA
14-16 APRIL 2026





PREPARED BY:

SIDS DOCK SECRETARIAT
1 JUNE 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SIDS DOCK Secretariat undertook a mission to Austria from 8-16 April 2026 to participate in a series of high-level global energy and climate events, advance SIDS priorities, and strengthen partnerships essential for accelerating resilient renewable energy transitions across island states. The mission aligned with SIDS DOCK's mandate to support SIDS energy resilience, promote ocean energy innovation and nature-based solutions through the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA), and deepen cooperation under the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC) framework.

The mission objectives were to:

- Elevate SIDS priorities in global energy and climate discussions.
- Strengthen partnerships with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Austria, GN-SEC centres, and development partners.
- Support the launch and early implementation of the Global Programme on Climate-Resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES).
- Advance gender-inclusive and youth-inclusive approaches to the energy transition.
- Identify technical, financial, and institutional opportunities for SIDS.
- Engage in knowledge exchange on climate resilient technologies and innovation ecosystems.

Strategically, the mission reinforced the central role of SIDS DOCK, GLOEA, and GN-SEC in shaping global implementation pathways for just and resilient energy transitions. It strengthened long-standing partnerships with Austria and UNIDO, expanded collaboration opportunities, and enhanced the visibility of SIDS priorities, particularly ocean energy, blue economy innovation, and resilience financing.

The delegation participated in three major international events across Vienna and Graz:

- Fourth International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), where SIDS DOCK contributed to high-level discussions on climate resilient renewable energy systems and supported the launch of the Global Programme on Climate-Resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES).
- Eighth GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, which reviewed proG-RESs, strengthened regional cooperation, and aligned GN-SEC priorities with global climate finance and energy transition processes.
- International Sustainable Energy Conference (ISEC 2026), where SIDS DOCK participated in technical sessions, including the panel on "Accelerating Just Energy Transition Investments in the Global South," highlighting ocean energy, waste-to-energy, and the importance of long-term institutional partnerships.

The mission also included technical tours to voestalpine Tubulars, Siemens' Wind Power Transformer Factory, and the Green Tech Valley Cluster, providing exposure to advanced industrial processes, renewable energy integration technologies, and innovation cluster models relevant to SIDS. These visits offered insights into resilient infrastructure, decentralized systems, and technology-transfer opportunities.

Key mission outcomes included strengthened partnerships, increased visibility for SIDS priorities, expanded collaboration opportunities, and deeper understanding of climate-resilient technologies. The mission also reinforced the importance of harmonized standards, regional aggregation, and blended finance mechanisms to unlock investment for SIDS.

The mission identified several strategic observations:

- SIDS require stronger access to concessional finance and operationalization of the MVI.
- Ocean energy and blue economy solutions are gaining global traction.
- Regional cooperation through GN-SEC remains essential for scaling implementation.
- Innovation ecosystems and public-private-academic partnerships offer replicable models for SIDS.
- Gender-responsive and youth-inclusive approaches must be embedded in all energy-transition efforts.

Key recommendations include strengthening SIDS participation in global forums, advancing MVI implementation, expanding SIDS-SIDS cooperation, promoting ocean energy technologies, enhancing grid modernization, developing technical cooperation programmes with Austrian institutions, and pursuing blended finance and project aggregation platforms.

Proposed follow-up actions include deepening engagement with Austria and UNIDO, identifying pilot and demonstration projects, developing capacity building programmes, exploring technology transfer partnerships, and maintaining active participation in GN-SEC and IVECF processes.

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

1.1 Purpose of the Mission

The SIDS DOCK Secretariat undertook the mission to Austria with the overarching goal of strengthening the organization's strategic partnerships and advancing its mandate to support Small Island Developing States in building resilient, sustainable energy systems. Central to this effort was deepening collaboration with long-standing institutional partners – the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Government of Austria, and the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) - all of whom play critical roles in enabling SIDS to access technology, finance, and capacity building opportunities. The mission provided a platform to reinforce these relationships and explore new avenues for cooperation under emerging global initiatives.

A key purpose of the mission was to advance the development and deployment of climate resilient renewable energy systems across SIDS, recognizing that energy insecurity, climate vulnerability, and economic fragility are deeply interconnected challenges for island nations. Through participation in high-level dialogues and technical exchanges, the Secretariat sought to promote solutions that support decentralized energy systems, strengthen resilience to climate shocks, and accelerate the transition away from imported fossil fuels. This aligns directly with SIDS DOCK's mandate to help member states "leapfrog" toward low-carbon, climate resilient development pathways.

The mission also contributed to the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), the global blueprint adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in May 2024, to guide sustainable development efforts through 2030 and beyond. By engaging in policy discussions, participating in programme launches, and supporting regional cooperation mechanisms, the Secretariat ensured that SIDS DOCK priorities, particularly energy security, resilience financing, and ocean energy innovation were reflected in the broader international agenda.

Finally, the mission enabled SIDS DOCK to participate actively in global and regional dialogues on energy security, green industrialization, and climate resilience. Through contributions at the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), the GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, and the International Sustainable Energy Conference (ISEC), the Secretariat elevated the voice of SIDS in discussions that shape global policy, financing frameworks, and technology cooperation. These engagements ensured that the unique vulnerabilities and opportunities of SIDS remain central to international decision-making at a time when implementation, not aspiration, is the global priority.

1.2 Composition of the Delegation

The SIDS DOCK delegation to Austria was composed of senior representatives from the Secretariat and the Government of Belize, reflecting the organization's commitment to high-level engagement and strategic diplomacy. The delegation was led by the Hon. Andre Perez, Minister for the Blue Economy and Marine Conservation of Belize, representing the Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize and Vice President of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, and representing the host country for the SIDS DOCK Secretariat and serving as a political champion for advancing

resilient, sustainable energy systems across Small Island Developing States. Alongside the Minister, the SIDS DOCK Secretary-General, Dr. Albert Binger, provided institutional leadership and continuity, ensuring that the mission's objectives aligned with the organization's long-term strategic direction. Ms. Christine Neves Duncan, Chief of Staff and Project Director, representing the Secretariat's technical and programmatic arm, contributed expertise on renewable energy, resilience financing, and regional cooperation, and played a central role in delivering technical presentations and participating in panel discussions.

In addition to the core Secretariat team, the mission benefited from the participation of representatives from Barbados, Belize, Maldives, St. Kitts and Neves, Seychelles and Suriname, reflecting the diversity and geographic breadth of the SIDS DOCK membership. These countries brought perspectives from the Caribbean, Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS), and Pacific regions, reinforcing the mission's emphasis on SIDS-SIDS cooperation and shared learning. Their presence ensured that discussions at the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), the GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, and the International Sustainable Energy Conference (ISEC) were grounded in the lived realities of island states facing climate vulnerability, energy insecurity, and economic fragility.

The mission also involved close collaboration with UNIDO and the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), both of which serve as critical institutional partners for SIDS DOCK. UNIDO's leadership in launching the Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES) and its long-standing partnership with SIDS DOCK and Austria provided a strong foundation for the mission's engagements. GN-SEC partners, including the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) and the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) played an essential role in advancing regional cooperation, harmonizing standards, and supporting project aggregation, all of which are central to scaling renewable energy solutions in SIDS.

Roles within the delegation were clearly defined to maximize impact across the mission's high-level and technical components. The Minister and Secretary-General delivered opening remarks at key events, including the IVECF High-Level Roundtable and the during the Seabased–Belize–SIDS DOCK Dinner, ensuring strong political visibility for SIDS priorities. The Chief of Staff and Project Director delivered technical presentations, most notably during the Gender Compact Dialogue, representing the Island Women Open Network (IWON), and the ISEC session on accelerating just energy transition investments, highlighting SIDS DOCK's leadership in ocean energy, resilience financing, and regional cooperation. This combination of political leadership and technical expertise positioned the delegation to effectively represent SIDS interests, strengthen partnerships, and advance the organization's strategic agenda.

1.3 Mission Objectives

The mission to Austria was undertaken with a clear set of strategic objectives designed to advance SIDS DOCK's mandate and strengthen the organization's role within the global sustainable energy and climate resilience architecture. A primary objective was to represent SIDS DOCK in high-level dialogues on just energy transitions, ensuring that the unique vulnerabilities and priorities of Small Island Developing States were fully reflected in global discussions on energy security, resilience, and economic transformation. Through participation in the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), the GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, and the

International Sustainable Energy Conference (ISEC), the Secretariat positioned SIDS DOCK as a leading voice in shaping the global shift from commitments to implementation across the energy-industry-climate nexus.

Another core objective was to participate actively in global policy and technical discussions on sustainable energy, contributing SIDS perspectives to debates on renewable energy deployment, resilience standards, blended finance, and regional cooperation. These engagements supported the organization's efforts to strengthen the enabling environment for just energy transitions and to promote solutions that address the structural challenges faced by island nations, including dependence on imported fossil fuels and exposure to climate shocks.

The mission also sought to advance SIDS-SIDS cooperation and deepen emerging ocean energy partnerships, recognizing the transformative potential of wave, tidal, and ocean thermal technologies for island energy security. Through engagements with Seabased Company, CCREEE, PCREEE, and other partners, the Secretariat promoted the work of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA) and reinforced the importance of ocean energy as a strategic pillar of SIDS' long-term resilience and blue economy development.

Promoting SIDS priorities within international climate and energy platforms was another key mission objective. The Secretariat worked to ensure that issues such as resilience financing, the operationalization of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), and the need for concessional finance were elevated in discussions with global partners. This included strengthening relationships with UNIDO, the Government of Austria, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and regional centers such as the CCREEE and PCREEE, all of which are essential to scaling renewable energy solutions and mobilizing investment for SIDS.

A further objective was to explore Austrian clean energy technologies and industrial innovation, particularly in areas relevant to SIDS such as grid resilience, renewable energy integration, and advanced manufacturing. Technical tours to voestalpine Tubulars, Siemens' wind transformer facility, and the Green Tech Valley Cluster provided valuable insights into technologies and industrial processes that could inform future SIDS DOCK programmes and partnerships.

Finally, the mission aimed to support the launch of the Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES), a flagship UNIDO-GEF initiative with support from Austria, that aligns directly with SIDS DOCK's mandate. The Secretariat's participation helped ensure that SIDS priorities were embedded in the programme's design and implementation framework, and that member states are well positioned to benefit from its global, regional, and national components. The G-RES supports emerging solutions including wave, tidal, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), and Sea Water Air Conditioning (SWAC). Supported through the GLOEA, these technologies offer a unique, resilient baseload for coastal micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) clusters and the wider blue economy. This includes pioneering the use of renewables for blue productive uses - such as solar and ocean-powered cooling for fisheries, marine energy storage, and the electrification of small-scale shipping vessels - to decouple the maritime sector from fossil fuel dependency. This will be particularly addressed by the GLOEA, coordinated by SIDS DOCK and UNIDO. SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation activities will also be implemented in partnership with SIDS DOCK. The programme builds on the Joint Declaration signed between UNIDO, Austria, and SIDS DOCK on the margins of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4) in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024.

2.0 PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL VIENNA ENERGY AND CLIMATE FORUM (IVECF), HOFBURG PALACE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 8-10 APRIL 2026

The SIDS DOCK Secretariat participated actively in the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), held at the historic Hofburg Palace from 8-10 April 2026. The Forum brought together global leaders, ministers, development partners, private sector innovators, and technical experts to accelerate the transition from high-level commitments to concrete implementation across the energy-industry-climate nexus. For SIDS DOCK, the Forum provided a high visibility platform to elevate the priorities of Small Island Developing States, strengthen partnerships with UNIDO and Austria, and support the launch of the Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES). The Secretariat's participation ensured that the unique vulnerabilities and opportunities of SIDS were reflected in global discussions on energy security, resilience, and sustainable development.

2.1 Overview of IVECF 2026

IVECF 2026 was convened under the theme "Powering Prosperity, Security and Stability," signaling the urgent need for integrated solutions that address rising geopolitical tensions, climate impacts, and global energy market volatility. The Forum focused on four interconnected pillars - sustainable energy, green industrialization, climate action, and energy security and resilience - all of which are central to the development trajectories of SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These themes aligned closely with SIDS DOCK's mandate to support member states in building resilient, low-carbon economies capable of withstanding external shocks.

For SIDS, the Forum's emphasis on resilience and implementation was particularly significant. IVECF recognized that SIDS face disproportionate exposure to climate-related disasters, dependence on imported fossil fuels, and structural economic vulnerabilities that undermine stability and development. By placing SIDS at the center of its programme, especially through the Spotlight on Islands Roundtable, the Forum provided a critical platform for advancing SIDS-specific solutions, including ocean energy technologies, decentralized renewable energy systems, blended finance mechanisms, and regional cooperation frameworks.

IVECF also served as a bridge between the political commitments made at COP30, including the Belém Declaration on Global Green Industrialization, and the practical steps required to deliver results on the ground. The Forum's outcomes contribute directly to global implementation efforts and support the transition from ambition to action, an approach that mirrors SIDS DOCK's own focus on operationalizing resilience, scaling ocean energy solutions, and strengthening regional delivery mechanisms through the GN-SEC network.

Through its participation, the SIDS DOCK Secretariat ensured that island priorities were fully represented in these global processes, reinforcing the organization's leadership role in shaping the future of sustainable energy and climate resilience for vulnerable states.

2.2 Relevance to SIDS

For Small Island Developing States, the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF) provided a critical platform to highlight the deep interconnection between climate vulnerability and energy insecurity. Island states continue to face escalating climate impacts such as cyclones, heatwaves, droughts, and sea level rise that directly threaten national stability, economic development, and the continuity of essential services. These vulnerabilities are compounded by structural dependence on imported fossil fuels, which exposes SIDS to volatile global markets and high energy costs. IVECF's focus on resilience and implementation therefore aligned directly with the urgent needs of SIDS, reinforcing the importance of accelerating the transition toward sustainable, secure, and affordable energy systems.

The Forum underscored the growing need for resilient renewable energy systems that can withstand climate shocks and support long-term development. For SIDS, resilience is not an optional enhancement, it is a foundational requirement for survival. Decentralized systems, hardened infrastructure, mini-grids, and battery storage solutions are essential to ensuring that hospitals, water systems, communication networks, and critical services remain operational during extreme weather events. IVECF's emphasis on integrating resilience into energy planning validated the work SIDS DOCK has been advancing through initiatives such as the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA).

A major theme of the Forum was the persistent financing gap that prevents SIDS from accessing the scale of investment required for resilient infrastructure. Traditional income-based metrics fail to capture the structural vulnerabilities of island states, resulting in limited access to concessional finance. IVECF highlighted the importance of operationalizing the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) as a tool to reshape global financing frameworks and ensure that SIDS receive fair and appropriate financial support. The MVI is particularly relevant for unlocking blended finance instruments, reducing the cost of capital, and enabling private sector participation in SIDS energy transitions.

Finally, the Forum showcased significant opportunities for green industrialization and economic diversification, areas where SIDS can leverage renewable energy, blue economy assets, and innovation ecosystems to build more resilient and competitive economies. By aligning energy transitions with industrial development, SIDS can create new value chains, support MSMEs, expand local manufacturing, and generate high-quality jobs. IVECF's focus on prosperity, security, and stability reinforced the message that sustainable energy is not only an environmental imperative but also a pathway to economic transformation for island nations.

2.3 Gender & Energy Compact (co-convened by ENERGIA, GWNET, SEforALL & UNIDO), 8 April 2026

The delegation participated in the Gender & Energy Compact Dialogue, a major pre-event to the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF) and a significant milestone marking the five-year anniversary of the Gender & Energy Compact. Established in 2021 during the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy, the Compact is hosted by UNIDO and co-convened with ENERGIA, the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET), and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL). Its creation responded to persistent gender inequalities in the global energy sector and the need for coordinated, evidence-based action to ensure that women and girls are not left behind in the global energy transition.

The Dialogue highlighted the ongoing gender gaps that continue to shape the energy landscape, including the low representation of women in decision-making roles, the scarcity of gender-responsive financing, and the widespread lack of sex-disaggregated data needed to inform policy and investment decisions. These structural barriers limit women's participation in the energy workforce, constrain entrepreneurship, and reduce the effectiveness of national and regional energy programmes. The Compact therefore focuses on two core goals: ensuring equal opportunities for women to lead, participate in, and benefit from the energy transition, and guaranteeing equal access to and control over sustainable energy products and services. These goals align closely with SIDS DOCK's commitment to inclusive, resilient development across island states.

As a major pre-forum event, the Dialogue convened governments, development partners, private sector actors, financial institutions, youth representatives, and civil society organizations to reflect on five years of progress under the Compact and to consolidate insights into a renewed Call to Action for a gender-just energy transition. Participants examined how gender equality can be embedded more deeply into global energy governance, including the emerging post-2030 global energy framework. The Dialogue emphasized the need to strengthen women's leadership across policy, finance, technology, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and intergovernmental processes - areas where women remain significantly underrepresented.

The event also served as a platform to identify opportunities for resource mobilization, partnership development, and political commitment to support the next phase of the Compact. Discussions underscored the importance of integrating gender and youth perspectives into broader policy, finance, innovation, and technology dialogues taking place across IVECF and related global platforms. By linking gender equality with parallel discussions on energy security, green industrialization, and climate resilience, the Dialogue positioned itself as a catalyst for collaboration and a driver of systemic change.

During discussions, SIDS DOCK, through the Island Women Open Network (IWON) made the point that it was the SIDS male leadership that strongly advocated for the IWON to include women's participation in the SIDS energy transition noting that approximately 50% of the SIDS population are women. The IWON was jointly launched by SIDS DOCK, UNIDO and Austria at the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa, in September 2014. Ultimately, the Dialogue reinforced the message that a gender-just energy transition is essential for achieving sustainable development, resilience, and shared prosperity. For SIDS, where women play central roles in community resilience, MSME development, and climate adaptation, the Compact provides a critical framework for ensuring that the energy transition is inclusive, equitable, and transformative.

2.4 SIDS High-Level Roundtable Participation: "Spotlight on Islands: Resilient Renewable Energy Systems for Climate Security in SIDS", 9 April 2026

The SIDS DOCK delegation played a central role in the High-Level Roundtable on "Spotlight on Islands: Resilient Renewable Energy Systems for Climate Security in SIDS," held on 9 April 2026 at the Hofburg Palace during the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF). The session focused on the urgent need for climate resilient renewable energy systems across island states, recognizing that SIDS face a convergence of climate impacts, energy insecurity, and economic vulnerability. The Roundtable provided a platform for ministers, development partners, and regional organizations to discuss practical pathways for strengthening resilience, reducing fossil fuel dependence, and accelerating the transition to sustainable energy systems.

The objectives of the Roundtable were to:

- Highlight the structural vulnerabilities of SIDS and the need for resilient energy infrastructure.
- Examine financing challenges and the role of concessional funding.
- Discuss the operationalization of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).
- Promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation and project aggregation.
- Identify opportunities for scaling renewable energy solutions through regional and global partnerships.

During the session, the Honourable Andre Perez, Minister of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation of Belize, delivered a powerful intervention emphasizing that SIDS are at a crossroads in their energy transition. As he stated, "This is the moment we must choose innovation over reservation and move quickly toward deployment that will help increase our energy and climate security." His remarks underscored Belize's leadership in championing ocean energy solutions and addressing the Sargassum crisis through integrated bioenergy and nature-based approaches.

Belize's leadership was prominently recognized, particularly its role as host country to the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA), the SIDS DOCK Secretariat, and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), a "powerful triad" of climate and energy institutions. Minister Perez highlighted that Belize is not merely hosting institutions, but "hosting hope, innovation, and a shared future," reinforcing the country's structural leadership in advancing ocean energy technologies for SIDS.

A major highlight of the Roundtable was the official launch of the Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES), implemented by UNIDO with support from Austria and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). For the first time, renewable ocean energy, including wave, tidal, OTEC, and SWAC, was formally recognized as a cornerstone of a global SIDS-focused energy programme. G-RES also prioritizes integrated bioenergy solutions using non-food feedstocks and invasive species such as Sargassum, positioning these resources as strategic assets for energy security.

The Roundtable brought together ministers and senior officials from across the Caribbean, Pacific, and AIS regions, including representatives from Barbados, Seychelles, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, Maldives, Austria, UNIDO, UN-OHRLLS, and the GEF. The diversity of participation underscored the global relevance of SIDS energy challenges and the shared commitment to accelerating resilient, low-carbon development pathways.

2.4.1 Key Messages and Outcomes

The Roundtable produced several key messages and outcomes that will shape SIDS DOCK's strategic direction and engagement with global partners.

First, participants emphasized that renewable energy resilience is both a security and economic issue. For SIDS, energy systems must be designed to withstand climate shocks while supporting economic diversification, blue economy development, and MSME productivity. Ocean energy technologies were highlighted as offering unique baseload potential for coastal communities and maritime sectors.

Second, the discussions reinforced the importance of blended finance and risk mitigation instruments to unlock private sector investment. The G-RES Programme's focus on regional risk mitigation facilities and project bundling was widely welcomed as a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs and increase investor confidence.

Third, the Roundtable underscored the need to strengthen regional collaboration and harmonize technical standards, particularly through the GN-SEC network and its regional centers – the CCREEE and the PCREEE. Harmonization is essential for achieving economies of scale and enabling SIDS to participate in global clean energy value chains.

Fourth, participants stressed the urgency of developing practical implementation mechanisms, moving beyond policy commitments to concrete actions that deliver measurable resilience benefits. This includes scaling demonstration projects, expanding SIDS-SIDS cooperation, and accelerating technology transfer.

Finally, the Roundtable reaffirmed the need for the global financial architecture to recognize SIDS' structural vulnerabilities, particularly through the operationalization of the MVI. This recognition is critical for improving access to concessional finance, reducing the cost of capital, and enabling long-term investment in resilient infrastructure.

Together, these outcomes position SIDS DOCK to play a central role in advancing resilient renewable energy systems across island states and ensuring that SIDS priorities remain at the forefront of global climate and energy discussions.

3.0 HIGH-LEVEL LUNCH WITH AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC ALOIS MOCK-HALL, FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, VIENNA, 9 APRIL 2026,

The SIDS DOCK delegation participated in a high-level luncheon hosted by H.E. Ms. Beate Meinl-Reisinger, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria. This engagement carried significant strategic relevance, reaffirming Austria's long-standing role as one of the most consistent and influential supporters of SIDS DOCK and its mission. Austria has been a central partner since the early development of the UNIDO-SIDS DOCK partnership, and the luncheon provided an opportunity to reinforce the 10-year cooperation framework established between Austria and UNIDO, an agreement that continues to underpin major SIDS-focused energy and climate initiatives. Discussions highlighted Austria's commitment to expanding collaboration under the newly launched Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES), particularly in areas such as ocean energy, blended finance, and regional capacity building.

The luncheon also served as a platform for a series of bilateral and networking engagements with key partners. Members of the delegation held productive exchanges with UNIDO officials and senior representatives of the Austrian Government. These discussions explored opportunities to deepen cooperation on resilience financing, technology transfer, and the scaling of renewable energy solutions across SIDS. Additional engagements with development agencies and private sector stakeholders opened avenues for collaboration on innovation, investment mobilization, and the commercialization of emerging technologies, particularly ocean energy systems and integrated bioenergy solutions.

Several areas of cooperation were explored during the luncheon, including expanding SIDS participation in Austrian-supported technical assistance programmes, strengthening the role of GN-SEC regional centers in delivering G-RES activities, and advancing joint efforts to

operationalize the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) as a tool for unlocking concessional finance. The discussions also emphasized the importance of leveraging Austria's leadership in clean energy innovation to support SIDS in adopting resilient technologies, enhancing energy security, and building climate resilient economies. Overall, the luncheon reinforced Austria's position as a critical strategic partner and highlighted the strong alignment between Austrian development priorities and the long-term objectives of SIDS DOCK.

(DR. BINGER TO INCLUDE PARA ON DISCUSSION WITH AUSTRIANS AT LUCH RE AREAS OF COOPERATION EXPLORED)

4.0 SEABASED–BELIZE–SIDS DOCK HIGH-LEVEL DINNER, RETRO RESTAURANT, 2ND DISTRICT, VIENNA, 9 APRIL 2026

The Seabased-Belize-SIDS DOCK High-Level Dinner, held on 9 April 2026 at the Retro Restaurant in Vienna, served as a strategic diplomatic and technical engagement designed to elevate the growing partnership between Seabased, SIDS Governments and SIDS DOCK. The event provided a high-visibility platform to recognize the emerging Seabased-SIDS wave power partnership and to highlight Belize's leadership in advancing ocean energy solutions for Small Island Developing States. As emphasized in an official press release, Belize's leadership is "not symbolic, it's structural," reflecting its role as host country to the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA), the SIDS DOCK Secretariat, and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), a powerful triad of institutions shaping the future of climate and energy innovation in the Caribbean and beyond.

In March 2023, in New York, the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, SIDS DOCK, and Seabased Company, an Ireland-based wave technology company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development and deployment of a pilot two-megawatt (2 MW) Wave Power Park, north of the Main Island of Tongatapu. The Wave Power Park can be commissioned within twenty-four (24) months after the signing of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The partners will develop a financing plan for a bankable 10MW wave energy project, starting with a 2MW pilot as a public-private partnership with an identifiable and agreeable site, and competitive price point with solar, wind and diesel, for power supplied to the national utility, the Tonga Power Limited.

Since Tonga signed the first MoU in 2023, three countries (Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), while MoUs are under review in four countries (Seychelles, St. Lucia, Samoa and Sao Tome and Principe). In April 2026, Seabased issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) to these seven countries inviting them to express interest in the development and deployment of a 2-Megawatt Grid-Connected Wave Park Electricity Commercial Demonstration Project and Growth Pathway. Governments are not required to make any capital investment in implementing the project or take out any loans to finance capital expenditure. The Government's contribution includes in-kind support to be determined, issuing of permits, and to work with the partners to execute a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between Seabased Company and the national electric utility.

The dinner also served as a platform to promote the commercialization of ocean energy technologies, specifically wave. Supported through the GLOEA and with the integration of ocean energy into the newly launched Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES), this offers transformative potential for SIDS by providing resilient baseload power for coastal communities, MSME clusters, and blue economy sectors. The event highlighted the strategic importance of wave energy not only as a climate resilient power source but also as a tool for addressing cross-cutting challenges such as the Sargassum seaweed invasion, coastal erosion, and maritime decarbonization.

A key purpose of the dinner was to deepen engagement with SIDS DOCK Member States, many of whom were represented at ministerial and senior official levels during the IVECF High-Level Roundtable earlier that day. The gathering created an informal yet influential space for ministers, development partners, and technical experts to discuss opportunities for SIDS-SIDS cooperation, project aggregation, and the scaling of ocean energy demonstration projects across the Caribbean, Pacific, and AIS regions. The presence of high-level representatives, including ministers from Belize, Seychelles, and St. Kitts and Nevis, and UNIDO representatives, reinforced the shared commitment to accelerating resilient renewable energy transitions across island states.

The dinner also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the significance of the G-RES launch, which, for the first time, formally integrates renewable ocean energy as a cornerstone of a global SIDS-focused energy programme. This recognition marks a major milestone for SIDS DOCK and its partners, validating years of advocacy and technical work to position ocean energy as a viable, scalable, and commercially relevant solution for island nations.

Overall, the High-Level Dinner strengthened political momentum, deepened partnerships, and reinforced Belize's role as a global leader in ocean energy innovation. It also advanced SIDS DOCK's mission to mobilize investment, accelerate technology deployment, and support the development of climate resilient energy systems across all SIDS regions.

5.0 PARTICIPATION IN THE EIGHTH GN-SEC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, GRAZ, 13 APRIL 2026

The SIDS DOCK Secretariat participated in the Eighth Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), held on 13 April 2026 in Graz, Austria, on the margins of the International Sustainable Energy Conference (ISEC). The meeting took place at a pivotal moment for global sustainable energy and climate resilience efforts, as developing countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs, face mounting pressures from climate impacts, geopolitical instability, and constrained fiscal space. The Steering Committee meeting provided an essential platform for reviewing progress, strengthening regional cooperation, and aligning GN-SEC priorities with evolving global energy and climate finance discussions.

5.1 Overview of GN-SEC

The Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) is a UNIDO-supported platform established to strengthen regional cooperation, harmonize policies, and accelerate the deployment of sustainable energy solutions across developing countries. Since 2010, UNIDO has supported regional economic communities in establishing specialized energy centres such as CCREEE, PCREEE, ECREEE, SACREEE, and CEREEAC, which now collectively cover approximately 120 countries, including the majority of SIDS. These centres serve as intergovernmental institutions with mandates to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, capacity building, and market development.

For SIDS, the GN-SEC is particularly valuable because it provides a structured mechanism for regional cooperation, SIDS-SIDS knowledge exchange, and triangular industrial partnerships. SIDS DOCK maintains a strong and strategic relationship with the GN-SEC network, working closely with the CCREEE and PCREEE to advance island-specific priorities such as ocean energy, resilient infrastructure, and blue economy development. The GN-SEC's principle of "from the regions, for the regions" aligns directly with SIDS DOCK's mission to strengthen local capacity and accelerate implementation across island states.

5.2 Objectives of the Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee meeting was convened to provide strategic guidance to the GN-SEC platform and review progress across its regional centres. Key objectives included:

- Reviewing the implementation of GN-SEC activities and assessing proG-RESs against the previous work plan.
- Discussing governance matters and refining strategic priorities for the next implementation cycle.
- Strengthening coordination among regional centres to enhance coherence and avoid duplication.
- Identifying opportunities for joint programming, resource mobilization, and South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Aligning GN-SEC priorities with global processes such as the IVECF, ISEC, and the emerging post-2030 development agenda.

These objectives reflect the network's evolution from a centre-creation initiative into a consolidated global platform supporting SDGs 7, 9, 12, 13, and 17.

5.3 Main Discussions

Discussions during the meeting focused on several priority areas essential to advancing sustainable-energy transitions in developing regions:

- Sustainable energy access and resilience: Centres reported on progress in expanding access to clean energy and strengthening resilience to climate impacts, particularly in vulnerable regions such as SIDS.
- Capacity building and technical cooperation: The Steering Committee emphasized the need for enhanced training, knowledge exchange, and technical assistance programmes to support national implementation.
- Climate finance and project preparation: Participants highlighted persistent financing gaps and the need for improved project preparation pipelines to attract investment.
- Scaling blended finance instruments: The network explored opportunities to expand risk mitigation facilities and blended finance mechanisms to mobilize private capital.
- Strengthening regional cooperation for just energy transitions: Centres shared regional energy transition strategies and discussed how coordinated approaches can accelerate progress.
- Partnerships with international organizations and development agencies: The meeting underscored the importance of collaboration with UNIDO, GEF, ADA, and other partners.
- Harmonization of standards and regulatory frameworks: Centres discussed the need for aligned standards to reduce transaction costs and create economies of scale.

- Role of GN-SEC in supporting G-RES implementation: The network reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the rollout of the G-RES Programme through regional capacity building, project aggregation, and technical support.

These discussions reflected the GN-SEC's growing strategic relevance as a delivery mechanism for just and inclusive energy transitions.

5.4 Key Outcomes and Decisions

During the Steering Committee Meeting, UNIDO announced that SIDS DOCK has been admitted to the GN-SEC as an Associated Partner.

Being an Associated Partner in the UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) means holding a formal but non-member collaboration status within the GN-SEC platform. It is a recognized partnership category used for institutions that contribute to the network's mission but are not themselves regional sustainable energy centres. Associated Partners support the network's work programme, participate in initiatives, and benefit from GN-SEC's south-south and triangular cooperation platform. As an Associated Partner, SIDS DOCK will benefit from access to GN-SEC's regional networks and technical expertise, alignment with UNIDO's energy transition and industrial development initiatives, participation in multi-country or multi-regional programmes, strengthening visibility and influence in SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs, and developing regions, and contribution to SDG-7, SDG-9, SDG-12, and SDG-13 implementation efforts.

The Steering Committee reached several important decisions that will shape the network's future direction:

- Agreement on strategic priorities for the next GN-SEC work plan, including enhanced focus on resilience, climate finance, and regional harmonization.
- Identification of new areas for cooperation, including ocean energy, circular-economy solutions, and regional risk mitigation facilities.
- Endorsement of opportunities for future programme development, particularly in support of G-RES and other UNIDO-led initiatives.
- Recognition of the GN-SEC's critical role in supporting SIDS energy transitions through regional centres such as the CCREEE and PCREEE.

These outcomes reaffirmed the GN-SEC's position as a global best-practice model for regional sustainable energy cooperation.

5.5 SIDS DOCK Contributions

The SIDS DOCK Secretariat made several substantive contributions to the Steering Committee discussions. The delegation highlighted the importance of ocean energy, blue economy innovation, and nature-based solutions as strategic priorities for SIDS. The Secretariat emphasized the need for project bundling, regional aggregation, and risk mitigation facilities to unlock investment and scale resilient renewable energy solutions across island states.

SIDS DOCK also reinforced the critical role of the CCREEE and PCREEE in supporting SIDS resilience, particularly through capacity building, harmonized standards, and regional project pipelines. The Secretariat underscored that the GN-SEC network is uniquely positioned to support the implementation of G-RES and to accelerate the deployment of climate resilient renewable energy systems across all SIDS regions.

6.0 PARTICIPATION IN THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE (ISEC 2026), GRAZ, AUSTRIA, 14-16 APRIL 2026

The SIDS DOCK Secretariat participated in the Fourth International Sustainable Energy Conference (ISEC 2026), held from 14-16 April 2026 in Graz, Austria. The conference brought together global leaders from government, industry, academia, and development institutions to explore cutting-edge solutions for accelerating the global energy transition. For SIDS DOCK, ISEC provided a valuable platform to engage with technical experts, strengthen partnerships, and identify emerging technologies relevant to island energy resilience and sustainable development.

6.1 Conference Overview

ISEC 2026 was convened under the overarching theme of advancing energy sovereignty within a rapidly changing global climate and political landscape. The conference aimed to accelerate the transition toward sustainable energy systems by showcasing innovations in renewable energy technologies, industrial decarbonization, and climate resilient infrastructure. Participants included senior government officials, private sector leaders, researchers, and representatives from international organizations and development agencies, reflecting the conference's broad global reach.

The conference focused on several key areas of relevance to SIDS, including energy transition pathways, the deployment of renewable energy technologies, strategies for industrial decarbonization, and the development of climate resilient infrastructure and sustainable cooling systems. These themes aligned closely with SIDS DOCK's priorities, particularly in the context of strengthening resilience, reducing fossil fuel dependence, and supporting blue economy development.

6.2 Participation by the SIDS DOCK Secretariat

The SIDS DOCK Secretariat actively participated in multiple sessions throughout the conference, engaging in technical discussions, attending thematic panels, and contributing to high-level dialogues. The Secretariat delivered interventions highlighting the unique challenges and opportunities facing SIDS in the global energy transition, with a particular emphasis on ocean energy, resilience financing, and regional cooperation.

In addition to formal presentations, the delegation held numerous networking meetings with development partners, technology providers, and research institutions. These engagements helped identify potential areas for collaboration, including demonstration projects, capacity building initiatives, and financing mechanisms tailored to the needs of SIDS. The conference also provided opportunities to strengthen partnerships with UNIDO, GN-SEC regional centres, and private sector innovators working on emerging clean energy technologies.

6.3 Key Technical Themes Relevant to SIDS

Several technical themes discussed at ISEC 2026 hold direct relevance for SIDS. These included renewable energy integration into small and isolated grids, advancements in battery energy storage systems, and the deployment of smart grids and decentralized energy systems capable of withstanding climate shocks. The conference also explored opportunities in green hydrogen, which may offer long-term potential for industrial applications and energy storage in SIDS.

Other themes of importance included climate resilient infrastructure, industrial energy efficiency, and sustainable cooling technologies, all of which are critical for supporting blue economy sectors, tourism, fisheries, and MSME development in island states. These discussions provided valuable insights into how SIDS can leverage innovation and technology transfer to strengthen energy security and economic resilience.

The SIDS DOCK Delegation attended the SOLTRAIN Pure/STAR-C Soft Launch on 15 April 2026. SOLTRAIN Pure is a new initiative launched by the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) to promote renewable heating and cooling for productive uses across West and East Africa. It builds on the long-running SOLTRAIN programme in Southern Africa, which has been supporting countries in shifting from fossil fuel-based heat systems to solar thermal and other renewable solutions since 2009. It also emphasizes South-South and triangular cooperation, sharing knowledge between Southern, West, and East African regions, and partnering with development agencies from the Global North. STAR-C is a Solar Energy Capacity Building Programme funded by the Government of France and the European Union, as part of the EU–India Trilateral Cooperation Programme. It focuses on:

- Building capacity in solar energy technologies, including renewable heating and cooling.
- Supporting EU–India cooperation in solar energy deployment and innovation.
- Aligning with the International Solar Alliance's (ISA) mission to expand solar energy adoption globally.

SOLTRAIN Pure and STAR-C are complementary initiatives. Both aim to strengthen renewable energy capacity, but SOLTRAIN Pure is region-specific to Africa, while STAR-C has a wider global and bilateral focus. SOLTRAIN Pure is a targeted African programme to expand renewable heating and cooling for industry and productive sectors, building on decades of SOLTRAIN experience, while STAR-C is a broader EU–India solar energy capacity building initiative that may intersect with solar thermal technologies.

6.4 Key Insights and Lessons for SIDS

ISEC 2026 reinforced the importance of resilient decentralized energy systems as a cornerstone of SIDS energy transitions. The conference highlighted that innovation and technology transfer are essential for enabling SIDS to leapfrog toward modern, climate resilient energy systems. Participants emphasized the need for regional collaboration, project aggregation, and standardized approaches to reduce costs and accelerate implementation.

The conference also underscored the growing role of the private sector in financing and deploying clean energy solutions. For SIDS, this presents opportunities to mobilize investment for ocean

energy, waste-to-energy, and other emerging technologies, provided that appropriate risk mitigation instruments and enabling frameworks are in place.

6.5 Potential Areas for Follow-Up Collaboration

Several areas for follow-up collaboration emerged from the conference. These include expanding technical cooperation with research institutions and technology providers, strengthening capacity building programmes for SIDS energy practitioners, and developing demonstration projects to test and scale innovative technologies. Opportunities also exist for research partnerships focused on ocean energy, climate resilient infrastructure, and sustainable cooling.

In addition, the conference highlighted the need to explore financing mechanisms that can support project preparation, blended finance, and risk mitigation facilities tailored to SIDS. These mechanisms will be essential for unlocking investment under the G-RES Programme and other SIDS DOCK initiatives.

During the ISEC Dinner, the Secretary-General had the opportunity to discuss the common Sargassum problem affecting coastal countries in West Africa, specifically, Sierra Leone, where information was shared on the work the SIDS DOCK Secretariat is undertaking jointly with the Government of Belize to find solutions for the Sargassum seaweed problem. The Secretary-General had an informal discussion with Hon. Dr. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella, Chair of the Sierra Leone Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security (PI-CREF), which coordinates cross-sectoral action to address climate risks, promote clean energy, and ensure food security.

Annex X provides a list of persons that the delegation met with during the conference.

6.6 SIDS DOCK Participation in Session: "Accelerating Just Energy Transition Investments in the Global South", 15 April 2026

SIDS DOCK was prominently represented in Panel Discussion II: Spotlight on SIDS, during the session on "Accelerating Just Energy Transition Investments in the Global South." The Secretariat delivered a presentation emphasizing the importance of partnerships under the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, the need for increased investment in ocean energy and waste-to-energy solutions, and the critical role of UNIDO and Austria as long-term institutional partners supporting SIDS energy transitions.

The intervention highlighted the structural vulnerabilities of SIDS, the need for resilient renewable energy systems, and the importance of regional cooperation through GN-SEC centres such as CCREEE and PCREEE. The presentation reinforced SIDS DOCK's leadership in advancing ocean energy innovation and resilience financing.

SIDS DOCK's intervention on the panel was in response to the question: "You are one of the organisations in the world with such a unique yet challenging mandate of providing a collective

institutional mechanism for addressing climate change, resilience, and energy security amongst the SIDS. From your perspective, what forms of international partnerships are most critical to scaling investment in some of the relevant and unique solutions, like ocean energy for resilient energy systems?"

Firstly, SIDS DOCK noted that SIDS were first recognized as a special case for environment and development at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio Earth Summit). This recognition was later formalized in the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), the first global blueprint for SIDS development. The UN acknowledged that SIDS face development challenges similar to other developing countries but with additional, unique vulnerabilities that require tailored international support.

SIDS DOCK is unique in that it is the only United Nations (UN)-recognised international organisation established in 2015, with all the rights and privileges for addressing climate change, resilience, and energy security in small islands. SIDS DOCK represents 32 small islands and low-lying developing states across the globe, and is so named because it is designed as a "DOCKing station," to connect the energy sector in SIDS with the global markets for finance and sustainable energy technologies.

For SIDS DOCK, it was the "SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway," the outcome document of the Third International Conference on SIDS, in September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, that set the partnership framework for SIDS DOCK. SIDS leaders aimed to have partnerships - and the ways in which these partnerships are addressing SIDS priorities of climate resilience, energy security, economic development and sustainable livelihoods - serve as the cornerstone of the event, with the "strengthening of collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community" as a crystalizing focus with which to address the emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS. Partnerships has allowed SIDS DOCK to play a strategic role in promoting sustainable energy and its paramount importance in the context of resilience and adaptation to climate change; partnership development continues to be the guiding principle for building the capacity of the SIDS DOCK in the spirt of the Samoa Pathway.

Since its inception, SIDS DOCK has been supported by "non-traditional" partners: Denmark, Japan, Austria, Norway, Spain. Additionally, SIDS DOCK is aligned with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as our Institutional Partner. In 2014 in Samoa, UNIDO and Austria signed an agreement, which was reaffirmed in Antigua and Barbuda at SIDS4, with a Joint Declaration for a further 10 years, till 2034. The implementation of SDG 7, 9 and 14 are within the Partners' mandates, and over the past 10 years, UNIDO and Austria has contributed significantly to the development of the organization, and together, launched two important initiatives: the Island Women Open Network in 2014 in Samoa, and the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA) in 2022 in Portugal.

The path toward resilient prosperity demands innovative financial mechanisms tailored to our unique challenges. In the past decade, foundational support from international partners like Austria, has enabled the Caribbean and Pacific Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. These centers in Barbados and Tonga, are part of the UNIDO's Award-winning Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), and exemplify successful targeted investment.

The urgency of addressing climate change cannot be overstated and the need for innovative solutions is more critical than ever. Among these, the adaptation and commercialization of ocean energy technologies stand out as a gamechanger, a chance for survival and hope for the people of Small Island Developing States and Coastal Developing Countries. Ocean energy in the form of waves, tides, and thermal gradients can generate all the electricity needed for industry, commerce and households in SIDS and Coastal Developing Countries. Ocean Energy represents a vast, untapped resource that could provide enough clean electricity to meet all our global energy needs. However, the development and deployment of these technologies require substantial investment. This is where climate change financing plays a pivotal role.

6.6.1 Outcomes for SIDS DOCK

Participation in the session significantly increased the visibility of ocean energy solutions and reinforced SIDS DOCK's role as a global advocate for resilient renewable energy systems. The conference strengthened collaboration with the CCREEE and the PCREEE, particularly in areas related to project aggregation, capacity building, and regional harmonization.

The session also facilitated engagement with financiers, technology providers, and development partners interested in supporting SIDS energy transitions. These interactions opened new opportunities for investment, technical cooperation, and the development of demonstration projects under the G-RES Programme and other SIDS DOCK initiatives.

7.0 TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL TOURS, 14 APRIL 2026

The SIDS DOCK delegation participated in a series of technical and industrial tours on 14 April 2026, organized on the margins of ISEC 2026. These visits provided firsthand exposure to Austria's advanced clean energy and industrial innovation ecosystem, offering valuable insights for SIDS energy resilience, sustainable industrialization, and green technology deployment. The tours were designed to strengthen understanding of cutting-edge technologies, manufacturing processes, and innovation models that could inform future cooperation under the GN-SEC platform and the G-RES Programme.

7.1 Overview of Technical Visits

The technical tours were organized to deepen the delegation's understanding of Austria's leadership in clean energy technologies, industrial efficiency, and green innovation. For developing countries and SIDS, these visits were particularly important, as they showcased practical solutions that can support climate resilient infrastructure, strengthen supply chains, and accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies. The tours provided exposure to advanced manufacturing, renewable energy integration technologies, and innovation cluster models that could be adapted to the unique needs of island states. They also highlighted opportunities for technology transfer, capacity building, and triangular cooperation through the GN-SEC network.

Photographs (inside operations at the facility) at each tour location were forbidden.

7.2 Visit to voestalpine Tubulars GmbH & Co KG, Kindberg, Austria

The first technical visit was to **voestalpine Tubulars GmbH & Co KG**, a globally recognized manufacturer of high-quality seamless steel tubes and tubular products serving the energy, industrial, and infrastructure sectors. The company is known for its advanced manufacturing processes, precision engineering, and strong emphasis on industrial efficiency. Its operations demonstrated how modern industrial facilities integrate automation, quality control, and energy efficient production techniques to maintain global competitiveness.

For SIDS and GN-SEC countries, the visit offered valuable insights into energy efficient manufacturing, resilient industrial supply chains, and the role of high-quality materials in supporting renewable energy infrastructure. The delegation observed production processes relevant to geothermal systems, hydrogen infrastructure, and offshore energy applications - areas with growing relevance for SIDS green industry development. The visit underscored the importance of building resilient industrial ecosystems capable of supporting sustainable development and climate resilient infrastructure in island states.

7.3 Visit to Siemens Wollsdorf Wind Power Transformer Factory, Styria, Austria

The second visit was to the **Siemens Wollsdorf Wind Power Transformer Factory**, a specialized facility producing transformers for wind energy systems and grid integration applications. The factory showcased advanced engineering, precision manufacturing, and high-performance power systems technology essential for integrating renewable energy into national grids.

For SIDS and GN-SEC countries, the visit highlighted the critical importance of grid stability, renewable energy integration, and decentralized power systems. Delegates gained insights into transformer technologies that support wind integrated hybrid systems, mini-grids, and island grids with increasing renewable penetration. The tour emphasized the need for resilient transformers capable of withstanding climate impacts and supporting reliable electricity supply in remote and vulnerable communities. These lessons are directly applicable to SIDS transitioning toward high renewable energy systems and seeking to strengthen their grid infrastructure.

7.4 Visit to Green Tech Valley Cluster GmbH, Graz, Austria

The final visit was to **Green Tech Valley Cluster GmbH**, one of Europe's leading green technology clusters connecting companies, research institutions, and public sector partners. The cluster focuses on renewable energy, circular economy solutions, sustainable mobility, and green innovation, serving as a model for how innovation ecosystems can accelerate technology development and commercialization.

For SIDS and GN-SEC countries, the visit demonstrated the value of public-private-academic collaboration and the potential of innovation clusters to drive sustainable energy transitions. The cluster's ecosystem approach illustrated how coordinated networks can support technology transfer, investment promotion, and MSME-level innovation - areas of high relevance for SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation. The visit also highlighted opportunities for partnerships with Austrian companies and research institutions, particularly in areas such as renewable energy technologies, circular economy solutions, and sustainable cooling systems. These insights can inform the development of regional green technology networks within SIDS and support the implementation of the G-RES Programme.

8. KEY MISSION OUTCOMES

The mission to Austria from 8-16 April 2026 delivered significant strategic, technical, and institutional outcomes for SIDS DOCK and its Member States. Through high-level engagements, participation in global forums, and exposure to advanced industrial and clean energy technologies, the delegation strengthened partnerships, elevated SIDS priorities, and advanced the organization's leadership role in global sustainable energy and climate-resilience discussions.

8.1 Strategic Outcomes

The mission resulted in strengthened partnerships with UNIDO, Austrian institutions, and members of the GN-SEC network, reinforcing long-standing cooperation frameworks and opening new avenues for collaboration under the Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES). Through participation in the IVECF, the Gender & Energy Compact Dialogue, the GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, and ISEC 2026, SIDS DOCK significantly enhanced the visibility of SIDS priorities in global energy and climate discussions.

The mission also deepened the Secretariat's understanding of emerging climate resilient energy technologies, including ocean energy, decentralized systems, and industrial innovations relevant to island contexts. These strategic outcomes position SIDS DOCK to play an even more influential role in shaping global implementation pathways for just and resilient energy transitions.

8.2 Technical Outcomes

The mission elevated the visibility of ocean energy solutions and blue economy priorities, particularly through the SIDS High-Level Roundtable and the Seabased-Belize-SIDS DOCK High-Level Dinner. Delegates gained exposure to advanced industrial and renewable energy technologies during technical tours to voestalpine Tubulars, Siemens' Wind Power Transformer Factory, and the Green Tech Valley Cluster. These visits facilitated knowledge exchange on resilient energy systems, industrial efficiency, and innovation ecosystems. The mission also enabled the identification of best practices relevant to SIDS, including decentralized grid solutions, resilient transformers, circular economy models, and MSME-level technology transfer opportunities. These technical insights will inform future SIDS DOCK programming and support Member States in adopting climate resilient, low-carbon technologies.

8.3 Institutional Outcomes

Institutionally, the mission marked a major success for SIDS DOCK, with the Secretariat achieving strong representation at three major international events: IVECF, the GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, and ISEC 2026. The delegation engaged with ministers and senior officials from the Caribbean, Pacific, and AIS regions, reinforcing political support for SIDS DOCK's mandate and strengthening regional cooperation. Participation in the Gender & Energy Compact Dialogue advanced discussions on gender-inclusive energy transitions, aligning SIDS DOCK and the IWON with global efforts to embed gender equality in the post-2030 energy framework.

The mission also expanded collaboration opportunities with development partners, financing institutions, and private sector stakeholders, creating new networking channels for project development, resource mobilization, and technology transfer. Importantly, the Secretariat provided strong support for the launch of G-RES, ensuring that SIDS priorities, especially ocean energy, nature-based solutions and resilience were embedded in the programme's design. Under the G-RES, SIDS DOCK will be allocated resources to support SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation activities to be implemented in partnership with the G-RES. Overall, the mission reinforced SIDS DOCK's role as a key institutional actor within international sustainable energy initiatives and strengthened its capacity to support Member States in navigating the global energy transition.

9.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The mission highlighted several persistent challenges that continue to shape the energy transition landscape for Small Island Developing States. Despite growing global recognition of SIDS vulnerabilities, financing gaps remain one of the most significant barriers to scaling resilient renewable energy systems. Access to concessional finance is still constrained by traditional income-based eligibility criteria, underscoring the urgency of operationalizing the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to ensure that SIDS receive fair and appropriate financial support. Without predictable and accessible financing, many island states struggle to

move from project concepts to implementation, slowing progress toward energy security and climate resilience.

A second challenge relates to the need for more robust project pipelines capable of attracting private sector investment. Discussions across IVECF, the GN-SEC Steering Committee, and ISEC 2026 reinforced that investors require well-prepared, aggregated, and de-risked project portfolios. For SIDS, this means strengthening national and regional project preparation capacities, expanding SIDS-SIDS cooperation, and leveraging GN-SEC centres to support bundling and standardization. Without strong pipelines, even innovative financing instruments such as blended finance and risk mitigation facilities cannot be fully utilized.

The mission also underscored the importance of harmonized standards and regional aggregation. Fragmented regulatory frameworks and small market sizes continue to increase transaction costs for SIDS, limiting the scalability of renewable energy technologies. The GN-SEC platform remains essential for advancing harmonized standards, shared procurement models, and regional approaches that create economies of scale. Lessons from Austria's industrial and innovation ecosystems demonstrated how standardization and clustering can accelerate technology deployment, an approach that SIDS can adapt to their own contexts.

Finally, the mission reaffirmed the continued need for gender-responsive and youth-inclusive approaches in the global energy transition. The Gender & Energy Compact Dialogue highlighted persistent gaps in women's leadership, gender-responsive financing, and the availability of sex-disaggregated data. For SIDS, integrating gender and youth perspectives is not only a matter of equity but also a strategic imperative for building resilient, future-ready energy systems – 50% of the SIDS population are women and the average age of the SIDS population is under 30 years old. Ensuring inclusive participation strengthens community ownership, enhances workforce development, and supports long-term sustainability.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission to Austria highlighted several strategic, technical, and financing priorities essential for accelerating resilient, inclusive, and sustainable energy transitions across SIDS. The following recommendations are proposed to guide SIDS DOCK's next phase of engagement with partners, Member States, and the GN-SEC network.

10.1 Strategic Recommendations

To maintain momentum generated during the mission, SIDS DOCK should strengthen the participation of island states in major global energy and climate forums, ensuring that SIDS priorities remain visible within international decision-making processes. A key strategic action is to advance the implementation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) within climate finance mechanisms. This includes preparing concise policy briefs for SIDS Ministers to support coordinated advocacy on MVI operationalization.

SIDS DOCK should also expand SIDS-SIDS cooperation under the GN-SEC framework, leveraging regional centres such as the CCREEE and PCREEE to harmonize standards, aggregate projects, and strengthen technical capacity. Finally, the Secretariat should follow up with Austria

and UNIDO to deepen partnership expansion under the G-RES Programme, building on Austria's long-standing institutional support and UNIDO's leadership in sustainable energy transitions.

10.2 Technical Recommendations

Regarding technical recommendations, SIDS DOCK should promote the deployment of ocean energy technologies and nature-based solutions, which are essential for strengthening energy security and climate resilience in island contexts. These approaches can address both the need for reliable, low-carbon power and the vulnerability of island nations to climate impacts.

The Secretariat should develop targeted technical cooperation programmes with Austrian institutions, drawing on insights gained from industrial tours and innovation cluster engagements. A structured SIDS DOCK engagement strategy for G-RES implementation should be prepared, outlining roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for Member States. Strengthened collaboration with the CCREEE and PCREEE is recommended to support project bundling, standardization, and regional aggregation. Additionally, SIDS DOCK should develop proposals for ocean energy demonstration projects, capitalizing on the increased visibility of ocean energy solutions during the mission.

10.3 Financing Recommendations

To address persistent financing gaps, SIDS DOCK should actively pursue blended finance opportunities that combine public, private, and concessional resources to de-risk investments in SIDS. Developing a regional project aggregation platform on the GLOEA website will be essential for reducing transaction costs and attracting larger pools of capital. Engagement with Seabased and other private sector partners should continue, particularly to advance commercialization pathways for ocean energy technologies and integrated bioenergy solutions.

Finally, SIDS DOCK should strengthen investment readiness support for SIDS renewable energy projects, including project preparation assistance, feasibility studies, and risk mitigation instruments. These actions will help ensure that SIDS can access climate finance more effectively and accelerate the deployment of resilient, low-carbon energy systems.

11. PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The mission to Austria generated strong momentum for advancing SIDS DOCK's strategic, technical, and institutional priorities. To sustain this progress, several follow-up actions are proposed to deepen partnerships, accelerate project development, and strengthen SIDS' participation in global sustainable energy initiatives.

11.1 Engagement with Austrian Partners and UNIDO

Building on the strengthened relationships formed during IVECF, the GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, and ISEC 2026, SIDS DOCK should initiate structured follow-up engagements with Austrian institutions and UNIDO. This includes formalizing collaboration pathways under the G-RES Programme, identifying areas for joint programming, and exploring opportunities for technical cooperation, innovation partnerships, and capacity building support.

Continued engagement will ensure that SIDS remain central to Austria's and UNIDO's global sustainable energy and climate resilience agendas.

11.2 Identification of Pilot and Demonstration Projects

The mission highlighted several promising areas for pilot and demonstration projects, particularly in ocean energy, decentralized renewable energy systems, sustainable cooling, and circular economy applications. SIDS DOCK should work with the CCREEE and the PCREEE to identify Member States ready to host early-stage pilots and to develop project concepts aligned with G-RES priorities. These demonstration projects will serve as proof-of-concept models for scaling resilient technologies across SIDS regions and attracting blended finance investment.

11.3 Development of Capacity Building Activities

Given the strong interest expressed by Member States and partners, SIDS DOCK should develop targeted capacity building programmes focused on resilient energy systems, project preparation, grid modernization, and ocean energy, waste-to-energy and nature-based technologies. Collaboration with Austrian research institutions, innovation clusters, and technical agencies will be essential for designing training modules, exchange programmes, and technical workshops. These activities will strengthen national and regional capabilities to implement climate resilient energy solutions.

11.4 Exploration of Technology Transfer Opportunities

The technical tours demonstrated Austria's leadership in advanced manufacturing, renewable energy integration, and green technology innovation. SIDS DOCK should explore technology transfer opportunities with companies and institutions visited during the mission, including voestalpine Tubulars, Siemens, and the Green Tech Valley Cluster. These partnerships could support MSME-level innovation, industrial efficiency, and the adoption of resilient technologies tailored to island contexts. Technology transfer will also support SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation under the GN-SEC framework.

(DR. BINGER TO INSERT NAMES OF PEOPLE DISCUSSED TECH TRANSFER WITH)

11.5 Continued Participation in GN-SEC and IVECF Processes

To maintain visibility and influence in global sustainable energy discussions, SIDS DOCK should continue active participation in the GN-SEC and future editions of the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF). These platforms provide essential opportunities to advocate for SIDS priorities, strengthen regional cooperation, and align with emerging global frameworks such as the post-2030 development agenda. Continued engagement will reinforce SIDS DOCK's role as a leading voice for island resilience and just energy transitions.

12. CONCLUSION

The mission to Austria from 8-16 April 2026 represented a significant milestone for SIDS DOCK, strengthening the organization's strategic positioning within global sustainable energy and climate

resilience processes. Through participation in the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), the Gender & Energy Compact Dialogue, the GN-SEC Steering Committee Meeting, and ISEC 2026, the delegation successfully elevated the visibility of SIDS priorities and reinforced the critical role of island states in shaping global implementation pathways for just and resilient energy transitions. The mission demonstrated the value of coordinated engagement across high-level political, technical, and industrial platforms, ensuring that SIDS perspectives remain central to emerging global frameworks.

The mission also underscored the importance of international cooperation for advancing SIDS energy resilience. As climate impacts intensify and global energy markets become increasingly volatile, partnerships with institutions such as UNIDO, the Government of Austria, the GN-SEC network, and development partners are essential for mobilizing resources, accelerating technology transfer, and strengthening regional capacities. The launch of the Global Programme on Climate resilient Renewable Energy Systems in SIDS (G-RES) further highlighted the value of multilateral collaboration in supporting island states as they transition toward resilient, low-carbon energy systems.

A key outcome of the mission was the reaffirmation of the strategic value of Austrian partnerships. Austria's long-standing support for SIDS DOCK, combined with its leadership in clean energy innovation, industrial efficiency, and green technology development, positions it as a critical partner for advancing SIDS energy transitions. Engagements with Austrian institutions, industry leaders, and innovation clusters demonstrated the potential for expanded cooperation in areas such as ocean energy, decentralized renewable energy systems, sustainable cooling, and circular economy solutions.

Looking ahead, the mission laid a strong foundation for next steps toward implementation and long-term collaboration. These include deepening engagement with Austrian partners and UNIDO under the G-RES framework, identifying pilot and demonstration projects, expanding capacity building programmes, and strengthening regional cooperation through the CCREEE and the PCREEE, and other GN-SEC centres. Continued participation in IVECF and the GN-SEC, and international technical forums will ensure that SIDS DOCK remains at the forefront of global efforts to accelerate just, inclusive, and climate resilient energy transitions.

ANNEXES

- Annex I – Mission Programme and Schedule
- Annex II – List of Participants and Institutions Meetings
- Annex III – Summary of Bilateral Meetings
- Annex IV – Key Conference Messages
- Annex V – Technical Tour Notes and Observations
- Annex VI – Photographs and Media Coverage