



**United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (2014-2024)**  
*"Island Energy For Island Life"*

*Draft for consideration by the fourth Assembly of SIDS DOCK and presentation during the Assembly, Agenda Item 7 (e) (iii): "SIDS Day in the Seychelles: "How Can You Champion Girl's or Women's Rights In SIDS?" to be held at the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly, 29 September 2018*

**UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE  
 WORLD'S SMALL ISLAND PEOPLES & CELEBRATION OF SMALL ISLAND KIDS**

We, the Members of the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON), the gender and youth arm of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience organization,

EXPRESS our profound gratitude to the fourth Assembly of SIDS DOCK, for emphasizing the special place and role Small Island Kids play in promoting the energy and climate resilience needs of Small Island Developing States in the context of the SIDS DOCK Goals of 25-50-25 by 2033, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement,

NOTE that SIDS DOCK is a critical vehicle through which technical and financial support, capacity building, and preparation of investment opportunities are delivered to our members in order to achieve the objectives of the SEforALL Initiative and the core purposes of SIDS DOCK, as stated in the *2012 Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States*,

REAFFIRM the urgent need to address energy security, energy affordability and climate change resilience in SIDS, simultaneously and in an integrated way. We confirm the important mandate of SIDS DOCK, to contribute to the cross-cutting areas of SDG Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, Goal 7 on sustainable energy, Goal 13 on climate action, and Goal 14 on life below water.

RECALL in 2000, the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which was the forerunner to the SDGs, where there were SIDS-specific targets addressed in MDG 8, "Develop a global partnership for development - Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States," and this was further reaffirmed in the Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want," of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro,

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Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, which reaffirmed that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development given their unique and particular vulnerabilities,

FURTHER RECALL that our basis for action lies in “Agenda 21, 17.123. Small island developing States, and islands supporting small communities are a special case both for environment and development. They are ecologically fragile and vulnerable. Their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets, place them at a disadvantage economically and prevent economies of scale. For small island developing States the ocean and coastal environment is of strategic importance and constitutes a valuable development resource,”

CALL FOR a United Nations Declaration on the “International Day of the World’s Small Island Peoples and Celebration of Small Island Kids,” to re-highlight the loss of MDG 8 that openly addressed SIDS Special Case, and to support our Small Island Kids who want to develop and advocate for partnerships to implement the “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway” which was adopted at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held from 1-4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The conference called for innovative partnerships to strengthen SIDS-SIDS cooperation,

WELCOME the continued support and express our profound gratitude to the Government of Austria and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in helping to facilitate the launch of the SIDS DOCK IWON and the SIDS DOCK Children’s Programme in Samoa, in 2014, and for the kind and generous support of Austria, for providing millions of euros in financial support for the establishment of a network of regional sustainable energy centres for SIDS in the Caribbean (Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – CCREEE), Pacific (Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - PCREEE), and the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean (SIDS Unit in the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – ECREEE),

ACKNOWLEDGE the key role of the centres to mobilize resources for integrated SIDS-SIDS sustainable energy and climate resilience programmes. The centres will strengthen the capacities to implement the SIDS DOCK project pipeline with an estimated value of USD 1.6 billion, as well as to coordinate implementation of the SEforALL Initiative. The centers complement and strengthen ongoing national activities in the areas of policy and capacity development, knowledge management and awareness raising, as well as investment and business promotion. They will strengthen SIDS-SIDS cooperation and capacities to promote sustainable energy investments, markets and industries in SIDS, and in building climate resilience,

HIGHLIGHT the important role of the network of centres to mainstream gender into SIDS energy policies, decision-making processes, programmes and projects, and that Island Women are disproportionately under-represented in reporting on gender within the United Nations system and there are limited or no specific reference to SIDS or Island Women in major UN reports on women, within the context of Agenda 21, Chapter 17, Section G, that acknowledges that “*small island developing states are a special case both for environment and development...and are considered extremely vulnerable to global warming and sea level rise.*”

EMPHASIZE that SIDS DOCK is the only United Nations (UN)-recognized international platform with all the rights and privileges for addressing climate change, resilience, and energy security in SIDS, that comprise more than one-fifth of the total membership of the UN, and who have responsibility and stewardship for more than 20 percent of the world’s oceans, and that the United

Nations has an important and continuing role to play in helping SIDS build their resilience to climate change and sea level rise, and to promoting the Special Case of SIDS, and protecting the rights of small island peoples,

FURTHER REAFFIRM the words that makes us all equally human, and which are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the world's universalizing document, and we recognize the important contribution of a Champion Small Island Woman, Minerva Bernadino of the Dominican Republic, one of the signers of the UDHR in 1948, for pushing for the inclusion of the phrase, "equality of men and women" in the preamble,

EXPRESS ALARM for the future of our Small Island Kids, and are deeply concerned that no other group of peoples are more vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change and sea level rise, and that Small Islands face extreme sustainable development challenges, including high communication, energy and transportation costs, irregular international transport volumes, disproportionately expensive public administration and infrastructure due to their small size, and little to no opportunity to create economies of scale,

CALL UPON all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes to support the establishment of a "Drafting Committee for the UN Declaration on The International Day of the World's Small Island Peoples and Celebration of Small Island Kids," under the auspices of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Seychelles and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). In this context, we welcome the UN General Assembly's (UNGA's) recognition of SIDS in 2012, where 2014 was Declared the International Year of Small Island Developing States, celebrating the contributions that this group of countries has made to the world,

FURTHER CALL UPON all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes to support the launch of the "UN International Day of the World's Small Island Peoples and Celebration of Small Island Kids," at the 74th session of UNGA, designating the second Monday, in the month of September, on the UNGA Calendar, as "SIDS Day".

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