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Fifth Session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK
UN Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber
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28 September 2019

**Report on the
Activities of the Executive Council for the Period
September 2018 – August 2019**

INTRODUCTION

1. This report is submitted pursuant to Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the SIDS DOCK Statute. It provides an account of the progress made in the development of the Work Programme, the operationalization of the Organization, including the preparation of the pertinent operational documents and arrangements.
2. The SIDS DOCK Executive Council is responsible for overall policy and direction and for providing oversight and advice for the development of the institution. The Executive Council delegates responsibility for day-to-day operations to the Secretary-General and committees. States Parties of the SIDS DOCK, who have either ratified or acceded, will be invited to nominate members for the Executive Committee. Nominations shall be submitted through the State Party's United Nations Permanent Mission or other relevant Government Authority, where applicable (for Countries not having UN Permanent Missions).
3. Election and membership on the Executive Council shall reflect a range of professional expertise with individuals having multiple years of experience, and must have gender balance and equitable regional representation with no fewer than one (1) member from

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each regional group as established by UN-DESA (Atlantic and Indian Ocean, Caribbean and Pacific). In addition, no two (2) members may be nationals of the same State.

4. The election of members of the Executive Council takes place annually during the Assembly. The first election of Members to the Executive Council was held during the inaugural session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK, in Paris, France, in the margin of the UNFCCC COP 21, on 10 December 2015. Terms of Members of the Council will begin on 1 January and expire on 31 December. The following is a list of current and past members:

Name of Member	Country	Term of Office
Dr. Rhianna Neely-Murphy [Vice Chair] [Rapporteur]	Bahamas	2015 – 2017; 2018-2020
Dr. Kenrick Leslie	Belize	2015 – 2018
H. E. Dr. Vince Henderson [Chair]	Dominica	2015 – 2017; 2018 - 2019
Mr. Fitzroy James	Grenada	2015 – 2016; 2017 - 2019
H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire	Grenada (completed term of Fitzroy James)	2019
H.E. Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul	Mauritius	2017 – 2019
Mr. Sylvester Clauzel	Saint Lucia	2015 - 2016
Mr. Ellsworth Dacon	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	2015 - 2016
Mr. Sione Foliaki	Samoa	2015 – 2018; 2019-2021
H. E. Mr. Ronny Jumeau [Vice Chair]	Seychelles	2015 – 2017; 2018 - 2020
H.E. Mr. Aunese Makoi Simati	Tuvalu	2017 – 2019
H.E. Mr. Samuela Lalonui	Tuvalu (completed term of Makoi Simati)	2019
Dr. Tevita Tukunga [Vice Chair]	Tonga	2015 – 2018; 2019-2021

II SIXTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SIDS DOCK

5. The sixth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK was held in New York, on Wednesday, 10 July 2019. The Meeting was attended by the following Members of the Council: H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau (Seychelles - Chair); Dr. Rhianna Neeley-Murphy (Bahamas – Vice Chair); Dr. Tevita Tukunga (Tonga – Vice Chair); Mr. Sione Foliaki (Samoa); H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire (Grenada); and Mr. Rishy Bukoree (Mauritius) was in attendance as an observer.
6. Noting that in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Statute of the SIDS DOCK, the Executive Council is to elect at its annual meeting, a Chair and two Vice Chairs, and noting since the Executive Council has already elected its Bureau – Ambassador Jumeau

(Seychelles) as Chair; Dr. Neeley-Murphy (Bahamas) and Dr. Tevita Tukunga (Tonga) as Vice Chairs, it was recommended that they serve as the Bureau for the seventh meeting whenever it is convened. The current Bureau will serve for a one-year term, which will end on 31 December 2020, and would not be eligible to serve another consecutive term thereafter.

7. SAMOA Pathway Partnerships – Implementing the SIDS DOCK Work Programme through Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) - in the spirit of partnerships under the Samoa Pathway, and to expedite implementation and minimize overhead operating costs, the Secretariat seeks to identify partner organisations who have genuine interest in the well-being of SIDS, and have the needed capacity and expertise to advance the work programme categories. Possible MoUs were discussed for the following organizations and work programme areas: Grid-Arendal (Blue Guardians); Coral Reef Alliance (Blue Guardians); Earth Council (IWON); IRENA (REEP); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) [REEP and OTEC]; and Naval Energies (OTEC).

Members expressed interest in the OTEC, and the Secretariat noted that SIDS DOCK has developed several basic draft pre-feasibility studies on 14 countries, including Samoa, Fiji, Seychelles and Mauritius. The member from Tonga, noted that there are only two countries from the Pacific, and more are needed. The Secretary-General said that enquiries can be made as to which countries are interested so that basic pre-feasibility studies can be done, and which could then be included in the national Climate Change Adaptation Strategies. There are plans to make an outreach to the PSIDS through an intervention at the Pacific Islands meeting in August, in Tuvalu, and participating at the upcoming 20 September 2019 meeting of Transport Ministers in Apia.

8. The Secretariat informed that it has begun the research and initial consultations into the SIDS DOCK being accredited to the UN General Assembly (UNGA), and that it was informed that a UN Member State would have to be the one to submit the request to the UNGA for its consideration and approval. The Council agreed that Belize, as the Host Country of the SIDS DOCK, should take the lead in this matter, and approved the draft documents and mandated the Secretary-General to communicate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize, the desires of the Council to have the SIDS DOCK accredited to the UNGA, during its 74th session.
9. Update on Establishing SIDS DOCK's presence in Belize – the Secretariat has been closely working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belize on the matter as well as preparations to house the SIDS DOCK Secretariat. All the necessary paperwork that will finally allow the SIDS DOCK Organization to have its own bank account, and not dependent on other agencies to manage its resources have been completed, except for one outstanding document left for completion, at which point it will be transmitted to the local Scotiabank, in Belmopan, Belize. Once the account is established, it is anticipated that the Government of Belize will make its first financial commitment. The Secretariat will need to recruit an additional staff member, based in Belize, at the Secretariat.

In September 2017, the Government of Belize signed the SIDS DOCK Host Country Agreement at the 3rd Assembly Meeting. The interim Secretariat remains located at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, in Belmopan Belize. Working with the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Public Service, Energy, and Public Utilities, the Secretariat has received its full credentials. There has, however, been an extended period to register the organization as this requires the establishment of a local bank account. Most recent communication is that during this month (September) the Secretariat will have its account, which will allow us to get registered and receive funding from the Host country to strengthen and improve operation of the Secretariat. The slow movement on the part of the bank is attributed to changes in US corresponding bank rules.

10. SIDS DOCK not-for-profit Status, USA, and the SIDS DOCK Foundation – On 4 July 2019, the Board of Directors of the Foundation held a special meeting to finalize the SIDS DOCK Foundation’s Strategic Plan (2018-2028) contained in document A/4/7, as well as to finalize the documentation for the Foundation as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3). In this regard, the Board mandated the Secretariat to begin discussions with a potential Chartered Public Accountant (CPA), based in New York, who could act as the CPA for the Foundation; pursue activities to plan the launch of the SIDS DOCK Foundation and the Fifth Anniversary of the SIDS DOCK Organization, in 2020, to be held on the margins of the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK, and the 75th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly; establish an Advisory Board, in accordance with Section 3.11 of the Foundation’s Bylaws; and to appoint a temporary, volunteer Foundation Administrator to oversee the start-up work of the Foundation. The Secretariat met with an experienced fundraiser, who came highly recommended by a former President of the Rockefeller Foundation. She was responsible for setting up many significant foundations in New York, and has a big social conscience; she has agreed to help get the SIDS DOCK Foundation launched next year.
11. Pilot Project for Fleet Electric Mobility Vehicles in SIDS - The Secretariat is currently engaged with the US Trade Development Agency (USTDA) and they have agreed in principle to support the initiative, starting with the sponsorship of one pilot country, to conduct a feasibility study. They have requested a four to five-page summary be submitted for their evaluation – the submission is for US\$570,000, to do a pilot for 4-5 vehicles, to generate data and use that to develop a feasibility study to inform the strategy. Part of the strategy entails SIDS undertaking collective purchasing, and to support that arrangement with third-party financing. Countries will identify key vehicle type for the fleet deployment, and governments will be able to purchase, each year, the vehicles they need through third-party financing, and use the savings (estimated at about 30% less to operate) to comprise a portion of the annual payments to third-parties - and savings go to a quarter, of annual payments to third-parties, and at the end of five years, when most guarantee on batteries expire, those cars are then sold in local markets to replace Japanese imports. There is also the need to look at about 250 vehicles for a package. As soon as the document is submitted and approved by the USDTA, the Secretariat will be ready to start the feasibility study.

Currently, the Secretariat is in discussions with third-party financiers, e.g., the Toyota Foundation, in an effort to arrange financing for additional pilots. The Secretariat is also in dialogue with countries to see who wants to participate, thus far, only Caribbean SIDS have responded; there has been no response from the Pacific, however, as noted earlier, we will send a reminder to the Pacific. The Chair indicated that Seychelles would be interested in being part of the government programme to start with the government’s fleet of vehicles.

The Secretary-General noted that as soon initial funding becomes available, the Secretariat will send out a notification to members about participation, the larger the scale, the better in terms of financing and deals we can make. The member from The Bahamas asked if the USTDA will support maintenance. The Secretary-General said the proposal and coverage includes: purchase, infrastructure, maintenance, mechanical, first responders training, and public awareness and education. The Secretariat is looking at the possibility of launching the EV Project, next year, simultaneously with the launch of the SIDS DOCK Foundation - there will be synergy between the third-party financier and the Foundation. SIDS DOCK will work closely with the third-party financier.

12. SIDS DOCK Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Finance Platform (REFF) - Risk Financial Facility for Projects [EC/4/CRP/6]: The Secretary-General noted that this is one of the most difficult programmes to advance in terms of getting the platform up - a lot of work is being done on PV and wind, and so almost every donor has asked, why do we want to make this a priority? Now that we have two, SIDS Regional Centres, the Secretariat intends to figure how to have them take responsibility for setting up a common financing platform that will achieve the goals of the REFF. The regional centers are to work closely with development partners to design initiatives to make more resources available to countries. There are plans to have more meetings with managers of the CCREEE and PCREEE, to decide how best to go forward. The Secretary-General asked for the Council's indulgence and to allow the Secretariat additional time to consult with the two organisations. The members from Tonga and Samoa suggested the Secretariat send reminders to countries requesting support for the initiative
13. SIDS DOCK Blue Guardians (Green Climate Fund (GCF) Proposal) – Partnering for Development of Climate-Resilient Blue Economies and Protecting the Oceans (EC/5/CRP/4) - The Executive Council at its fifth meeting had agreed to reopen the proposal on the Blue Guardians to include Barbados and Grenada. The Secretary-General indicated that the cut-off date was 7 July 2019, but the Secretariat has asked for more time flexibility for three countries: Grenada, Tuvalu and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. There is a meeting scheduled with UN Environment week of 14 July 2019, to start the new process, as the aim is to get the proposal in by January 2020. There is a first stage to request support and the Secretariat will do that in November, but the full proposal won't be ready till next June/July 2020, for submission to the GCF board meeting.
14. SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) Presentation: A draft Operational Plan (2019-2023) is being finalized for review by the Secretariat; the Pilot Initiative for the Development of a Global Sustainable Botanical / Herbal Supplier Market from SIDS DOCK Member States - the Seychelles Mission had transmitted a copy of the draft proposal to the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN, and is still awaiting feedback; the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) Energy Financing Facility - A copy of the proposal was sent to the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN and to the new Caribbean Ambassador, for feedback from Pacific colleagues. We are awaiting feedback. SIDS DOCK IWON Children's Programme: "Kids Day-SIDS Day" - SIDS Day was launched in the Seychelles in 2014, and in May 2019, the template developed is being piloted in Grenada, which is expected to launch their SIDS Day in 2020. A PowerPoint Presentation was given on a mission to Grenada that took place in May 2019, in preparation of the SIDS Day, and to use the opportunity to collect audio-visual material to contribute

to a video promoting SIDS Day in September 2019. With the Presidency of SIDS DOCK rotating to the Pacific in 2020, there are plans to do a mission to the Pacific to launch the SIDS Day in schools, thus covering the three SIDS Regions. The Bahamas, Samoa and Tonga indicated participating as a pilot for the SIDS Day in Schools. It was noted during the presentation on the SIDS Day in Grenada, that a school is being retrofitted as a demonstration climate-resilient pilot, and this project was based on a project in the Bahamas.

15. SIDS DOCK Captive Insurance, [EC/5/CRP/1] - The Secretary-General noted that the proposal is still being developed. The initiative is critical for SIDS, as 70% of premiums never stay in-country. However, under this facility, that money becomes available for greening the SIDS economy, otherwise we would continue being almost totally dependent on external borrowing and donor assistance. The Secretariat has shared the paper with AOSIS, with the aim to have this included in the boarder discussion on “Loss and Damage under the UNFCCC Negotiations”. The Secretary-General stated that the Secretariat will continue to reach out to AOSIS climate colleagues to have the captive insurance considered as part of the AOSIS proposal on loss and damage.
16. Other matters discussed at the meeting under, “Any Other Business,” included:
 - (a) H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN, has been completing the term of the former Chair, who resigned, H.E. Ms. Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the UN, which expires 31 December 2019. The Council is seeking nominations for the Chair, for the term 2020-2022.
 - (b) Proposal for extension of the SIDS DOCK Work Programme (2016 to 2021) to 2016 to 2028, in line with the SIDS DOCK Foundation Strategic Plan (2018-2028) - the Board decided, based on a recommendation from the Secretariat, that the SIDS DOCK Work Programme (2016-2021), approved at the fourth Assembly, be aligned with the SIDS DOCK Foundation’s Strategic Plan, which has a longer term range of 2018-2028.
 - (c) Proposal for a MOU Signing Ceremony – Fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK - The Secretary-General, in providing more information, referred to the earlier discussion on signing MoU’s with partners, in this regard, he had proposed a Signing Ceremony, on the agenda of the fifth session. It will involve presentations on companies and organizations and why working with SIDS is so important for them; representatives are expected from France, Norway, and the US
 - (d) Message of Congratulations to St. Vincent & the Grenadines - UN Security Council – the proposal is to recommend the Assembly congratulate St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Chair noted that all of SIDS are indeed very proud of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. On 27 June 2019, SIDS DOCK sent a congratulatory message to the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It took a lot of hard work and determination, and the Council would like to recognize Her Excellency Ms. Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, for helping to lead the charge toward the Security Council.

- (e) Implementing the SIDS DOCK Work Programme: Populating the SIDS DOCK Indicative Project Pipeline for Investments – The Secretariat requested project ideas from Council Members. implementation of the SIDS DOCK Indicative Project Pipeline is based on partnerships. Currently, the Secretariat is discussing the pipeline with IRENA. The Executive Council members committed to contributing relevant national projects and submitting them to the Secretariat for inclusion in the project pipeline
- (f) Italy CARICOM Credit Facility – newly-introduced thirty (30) million Euros Pilot Credit Facility for Co-operation on Climate Change Vulnerability, Adaptation and Mitigation with CARICOM Countries - over the last three years, through agreement with Caribbean and the Pacific SIDS, the Italians have been providing small grants to do projects up to a \$1 million. Last year (2018), the Italians launched a Credit Facility in the Caribbean for upscaling to all SIDS; thus far, about \$30 million in projects from eight (8) Caribbean countries have been submitted. Italy requested the Secretariat and the 5Cs to develop the portfolio of projects for the Caribbean Credit Facility. There has been a slowdown, as the former Director-General in the Ministry of Environment has gone to head IRENA; he was only replaced, last month. In Samoa last year, at the Inter-Regional Meeting For SIDS On The Samoa Pathway Mid-Term Review, during the SIDS DOCK Side Event, panel discussion, the Director-General expressed the desire to also introduce the Credit Facility Pilot into the Pacific. The facility offers zero interest, after 30 years. This timetable for the Credit Facilities will depend on the priority of the new Director-General in the Italian Ministry of Environment. The Secretariat to continue discussions.
- (g) The Secretary-General asked the Council for suggestions on individuals who we would like associated with the Foundation, e.g., one or two Patrons - one from SIDS and one from the developed world. Based on conversations, the Secretariat has identified a potential Patron from SIDS, i.e., His Majesty, the King of Tonga. For consideration, the Secretariat would approach the Tongan Ambassador, then have him move the request to the Prime Minister then to the King. The Secretary-General suggested a small meeting with the Permanent Representative of Samoa, a Foundation Board Member, to approach Tonga. He also said he welcomes ideas of individuals from the North, for consideration, e.g., someone like the former Prime Minister of Ireland. These decisions have to be made after the fifth Assembly; therefore, the Secretariat is requesting members of the Council to submit names for consideration.
- (h) Establishing a Working Relationship/Mechanism with AOSIS Members - the SIDS DOCK Organization's is seeking to have its presence more known and strengthen relationships with the non- SIDS members of AOSIS, including possible participation by the Secretariat in the regional SIDS meetings, e.g., PSIDS, once a year, at least one meeting in New York, and one in the Pacific and in CARICOM, as well as strengthen relationships with non-members.
- (i) Administrative and Coordination Support to the Office of the Chair of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK - as the organization grows, so too the amount of work, including that of the work the Office of the Chair of the Executive Council (currently the Permanent Mission of the Seychelles) is expected to execute. The Secretariat wants to see how best to support the Office of the Chair, who is called upon to advocate, write

letters, etc. Also, Seychelles has some important lessons learned that they can share with the rest of the SIDS, including the focus on PPP, where they have set so many good examples, for rest of us to follow, that is why the Chair is being asked to come to the Caribbean. There was no objection from the members for the Secretariat to provide administrative and coordination support to the Office of the Chair of the Executive Council.

- (j) Traveling Expenses for Members of the Executive Council to attend Meetings in New York - The Pacific colleagues raised concern that the current daily subsistence allowance (DSA) used by the SIDS DOCK, based on the rate established by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, is not in line with the most recent rates, and they asked that this be reviewed. Additionally, they said that it was difficult to travel to New York in economy class, and requested to be upgraded to business class. The Secretariat to provide updates on the status of travel, based on the most recent UN DSA Circular.

- 17. The Executive Council agreed to await further information from the Secretariat regarding the convening of the seventh meeting

V ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 18. The Chair is member of the GCF board, and reported that at its July meeting, the board was hoping for a big replenishment; they have been approving projects, about US\$1 billion or more per meeting and they are running out of funding. He noted that Germany had pledged to double their contribution, so too Norway. They had pledged \$2.3 billion, but reneged on \$1 billion. The board has asked the United States (US) to double their pledges. The board noted that so far, projects addressing nature based and ecosystem services are missing from the pipeline. The first contributions were a lot of renewable energy projects, now the board is depending on how much funding they get for the first replenishment – from \$10-15 billion, but there is uncertainty. The board is discussing the sort of projects they are moving on to and looking at any gaps, and there is need to work on projects like the Blue Guardians; they have a huge pipeline of renewable energy projects backed up.
- 19. The Chair noted that based on the outcomes of the GCF board meeting, a decision was taken to open the way for leaders to pledge at the Climate Action Summit in September, and based on conversations with contributing countries, the indications are that if the board moved on governance and other issues, France and the United Kingdom (UK) may give an indication at the leadership level, how much they are pledging and to give a signal to the upcoming UNFCCC COP, in Chile. There is the hope that other countries will follow Norway and Germany, to double their contributions – a big ask. The first commitment was \$10 billion, however, the fund did not get this amount, so they have to make up for that cap and then double; it is not going to be easy and other funds are asking for money.

VI NEXT STEPS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

20. Preparation and finalizing of the list of documents for the fifth Assembly of SIDS DOCK scheduled to be held in New York, on 28 September 2019.
21. Submission of Resolution for Observer status for the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) accreditation to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and other major entities of the UN, during its 73rd session.
22. Continue to work with the Government of Belize to finalize establishment of the Headquarters for the Secretariat.
23. Finalize documentation for the SIDS DOCK not-for-profit Status, USA, and identify a CPA, and begin process of establishing an Advisory Board for the Foundation.
24. SIDS DOCK Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Finance Platform (REFF): Risk Financial Facility for Projects - the Secretariat to recirculate the document to allow the AIMS and the PSIDS to reconsider and indicate their interest.
25. Electric vehicles – The Secretariat to do more consultations with member countries, as well as to look into how this initiative can be expanded to the general public, as there may be a roll off benefit to this.
26. Captive Insurance -
27. The IWON attracted limited support during 2018-2019. The Secretariat is currently reviewing ways in which it can help get the IWON back on track and plan for the Second Meeting of the IWON Committee, that is now scheduled for 2020. The IWON meets bi-annually; its last meeting was in 2017.
28. Blue Guardians – the Secretariat is awaiting documentation from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Tuvalu, confirming participating in the programme.