



Distribution: General
25 September 2019

United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (2014-2024)

Fifth Session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK
UN Headquarters
New York, New York
28 September 2019

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT
ON THE WORK OF SIDS DOCK
JANUARY 2018 – DECEMBER 2018**

SIDS DOCK Secretariat
C/o Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

2nd Floor, Lawrence Nicholas Building
P.O. Box 563, South Ring Road
Belmopan, BELIZE

Tel: (501) 822-1104 or 1094
Fax: (501) 822-1365
www.sidsdock.org
secretariat@sidsdock.org

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	3
II.	Assembly	4
III.	Executive Council	6
IV.	Depositary	6
V.	Secretariat	6
	A. Institutional Arrangements	
	B. Staff	
VII.	Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget	7
	A. Thematic Programme Areas	
	1. Advocacy for Renewable Energy Development	
	2. Mobilizing Financial and Technical Resources	
	3. Objective 4: Promotion of Sustainable Use of New and Renewable Energy	
	4. Promotion of Conservation Efforts	
	5. Reduction of Greenhouse Gases	
	B. Activities Budget Projection	
VIII.	Programmes	10
IX.	Institutional & Public-Private Partnerships.....	11
X.	Conclusion	11

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The period January 2018 to December 2018, the Secretariat was primarily engaged in developing and securing strong and durable partnerships in keeping with the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway. Implementing the SIDS DOCK Work Programme through Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) will help expedite implementation and minimize overhead operating costs, and provide the Organisation with 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); Global ICoral Reef Alliance (Blue Guardians); Earth Council (IWON); IRENA (REEP); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) [REEP and OTEC]; and Naval Energies (OTEC).
2. Following on the signing of the Host Country Agreement by Belize in September 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belize has been helping to coordinate and finalize bringing the SIDS DOCK Organization closer to its goal of establishing its physical presence in Belize, by facilitating completion of documentation with Scotiabank, in Belmopan, Belize. It is expected that all documentation will be finalised by mid-2019, at which point, the Secretariat will begin recruiting staff.
3. The Secretariat supported the convening of one session of the Assembly, where His Excellency Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles, and Chair of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK, received the 2018 SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) Excellency in Leadership Award, for his outstanding contribution to the establishment of SIDS DOCK.
4. **SIDS Regional Centres** – SIDS DOCK is represented on the board of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) in Barbados. The Secretary-General attended the First Executive Board Meeting of the CCREEE, 22 May 2018, in Barbados, as well as the CCREEE Executive Board Retreat, from 22-23 November 2018, in Belize. SIDS DOCK, as well as the CCREEE Board Members, participated in the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF), held in Belize from 20-22 November 2018. SIDS DOCK role as the co-sponsors of the two regional centres, the other being the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE), with the Government of Austria and UNIDO, is to work with the Centres in the development of their work programmes and in mobilizing resources and technical assistance.
5. **The S.A.M.O.A. Pathway** – the Secretariat participated in two events, (1) The SAMOA Pathway Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held from 7-9 August 2018, in San Pedro, Belize, where the Secretary-General gave remarks in, “Session 2: Assessing Progress In Samoa Pathway Implementation: Achievements, Gaps And Challenges - The SIDS DOCK Partnerships”; (2) Inter-Regional Meeting For SIDS on the Samoa Pathway Mid-Term Review, 31 October 2018, where SIDS DOCK, in partnership with SPREP, the PCREEE, UNIDO and the Global Coral Reef Alliance (GCRA) staged a Side Event: “Blue Guardians: Building Partnerships For The SIDS Blue Economy”.
6. **Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) 2018** – SIDS DOCK participates in the biennial meetings of the VEF, which was founded in 2008, by a joint initiative of the Austrian Government, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and the United Nations Industrial

Development Organization. The past 5 forums focused on a range of topics related to the question of energy and development. The biennial meetings have not only provided major contributions to the design of the SEforALL goals, but also have fostered the development of the city of Vienna as a Global Energy Hub. During the 2018 VEF, SIDS DOCK promoted its Ocean Energy Programme and OTEC and Electric Vehicle in SIDS Programme.

7. **SIDS DOCK Foundation and Trust Fund** is in the final states of establishment, having received major legal advice and assistance from the SIDS DOCK *pro bono* law firm, Squire Patton Boggs (SPG), who in October 2018, applied on behalf of SIDS DOCK through a Power of Attorney, to the United States Internal Revenue Service for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is anticipated that the process would be completed by mid-2019, to facilitate the launch of the Foundation.
8. **Work on the Blue Guardians Programme** continued, in partnership with GRID-Arendal, UN Environment and other partners, developing the proposal piloting the development and strengthening of national capacities to better utilise science resources, information, and technology tools to build climate resilience of coastal communities and economies with an emphasis on oceans.
9. **Climate Resilience work** – Progress on the Captive Insurance Mechanism has been slow. This is a self-owned and managed insurance mechanism that would provide SIDS DOCK members with insurance against climate change impacts for economic assets in countries where such risk instruments are becoming increasingly costly as a result of the more frequent occurrence of weather-related disasters, or in countries where the market is too small and consequently there is no availability.
10. **Support of the SIDS DOCK Mission** came from: Earth Council, Environmental Defense Fund and from income earned by the Secretariat. For the reporting period, more than USD 180,000 was raised in support of start-up activities, convening of statutory meetings, and participation at key SIDS DOCK events.
11. **Membership has remained the same, to date:** sixteen (16) countries are now members of SIDS DOCK: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cook Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica (2017), Mauritius, Samoa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Tonga and Tuvalu. There are nine (9) signatories who have not yet ratified.

II. ASSEMBLY

12. The Assembly held one session during the reporting period.

Fourth Session

13. The fourth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK was held on 29 September 2018, in New York, at the UN Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber, on the margins of the 73rd UN General Assembly. Honourable Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, was elected as President of the fourth Assembly.

14. H.E. Ambassador Keisha McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, expressed her Prime Minister's regrets for not being able to attend. She expressed the profound gratitude of the Prime Minister of Grenada for the confidence bestowed on him to lead the Organization as President of its fourth Assembly. Through his statement, Prime Minister Mitchell thanked and commended his predecessor, colleague and dear friend, the Honourable Mr. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of the Seychelles, for his leadership and hard work during the third session of the Assembly. President Faure and his team contributed greatly to the work of the Organization, not only through the superb execution of the tasks of the Presidency, but also by showing leadership in the areas of renewable energy and the Blue Economy
15. The meeting also featured a video presentation from the Seychelles Small Island Kids, passionately telling the story of the SIDS Blue Economy, and how their very survival depends on how the world and SIDS care and protect their largest resource – the oceans. They advocated for a *SIDS Day for Small Island Kids at the UN*, and the Assembly unanimously agreed to support the initiative by the 74th UNGA, in 2019. The Women of SIDS also took centre stage with presentations on the *SIDS DOCK IWON Pilot Initiative on Developing a Successful Natural Products Industry: Quality, Claims, Cyber and Intellectual Property*. This is the signature project for the SIDS DOCK IWON Organization, and is a partnership with the law firm of Rivkin Radler, Ullman, Shapiro and Ullman, Of Counsel. EAS Consulting Group, LLC, is the most recent group identified as a potential partner with the SIDS DOCK organization.
16. The Assembly further elected by acclamation, His Excellency Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the UN, and His Excellency Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN, as the Vice-Presidents of the fourth Assembly of SIDS DOCK, term to expire September 2019.
17. The session was attended by twelve (12) SIDS DOCK Member States; one (1) AOSIS Members who is a non-Signatory; three (3) UN Member States – Non-AOSIS Members; and seven (7) Organizations and Agencies.
18. At this session, the Assembly adopted five decisions; (1) Establishment of the SIDS DOCK Foundation; (2) Blue Guardians Programme; (3) Fleet Electric Mobility Vehicles in SIDS; (4) Energy-Focused Captive Insurance Multi-Window Facility for Small Island Developing States (SIDS); (5) SIDS DOCK IWON Pilot Initiative for the Development of a Global Sustainable Botanical/Herbal Supplier Market from SIDS DOCK Member States.
19. The Assembly further mandated the Executive Council in collaboration with the SIDS DOCK Secretariat to (a) continue dialogue and collaboration with the partners SIDS DOCK on the Renewable Energy Finance PlatForm (REFF): Risk Financial Facility for Projects to prepare a funding proposal for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to support a cross-cutting risk mitigation project initially focused on the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and (b) advance discussions on the proposed UN Declaration on the International Day of the World's Small Island Peoples and Celebration of Small Island Kids.
20. The Assembly re-elected by acclamation, Mr. Sione Foliaki of Samoa, and Dr. Tevita Tukunga of the Kingdom of Tonga, to the Executive Council for the term 2019 to 2021. The Assembly

was informed that the Governments of Grenada and Tuvalu, communicated their desire to change their representatives to the Executive Council, Mr. Fitzroy James, and His Excellency Mr. Aunese Makoi Simati, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tuvalu to the UN, respectively. In this regard, the Assembly elected Her Excellency Ms. Keisha McGuire, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN, and His Excellency Samuelu Laloni, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tuvalu to the UN, to the Executive Council, for the remaining term of Mr. Fitzroy James and H.E. Mr. Aunese Makoi Simati, respectively, which expires 31 December 2019. The Chair of the current Bureau is H.E. Ronald Jumeau (Seychelles) whose term expires in 2020.

III. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

21. The Executive Council held one meeting under this reporting period.

Fifth Meeting

22. The fifth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK was held in New York, on Saturday, 21 July 2018. The Meeting was attended by the following Members of the Council: H.E. Dr. Vince Henderson (Dominica); Dr. Rhianna Neeley-Murphy (Bahamas); Mr. Sione Foliaki (Samoa); H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau (Seychelles); Dr. Tevita Tukunga (Tonga). In addition, H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire (Grenada); and Mr. Rishy Bukoree (Mauritius) were in attendance as observers.

IV. DEPOSITARY

23. The Government of Belize, in its capacity as Depositary to the SIDS DOCK Statute has continuously updated the Assembly, the Executive Council and the Membership on the status of the Statute. To date the depositary has confirmed the receipt of sixteen (16) instruments - eleven (11) instruments of ratification, four (4) instruments of accessions and two (2) instrument of acceptance. There are nine (9) signatories who have not yet ratified.

VI. SECRETARIAT

Institutional Arrangements

24. Establishment of a tax exemption US-based organization is in its final stage. Its establishment will facilitate the mobilizing of resources from foundations, corporations, philanthropists and individuals in the US and elsewhere, to support SIDS DOCK. The Executive Council of SIDS DOCK adopted a Conflict of Interest Policy at its fifth meeting on 21 July 2018, for recommendation to the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting. The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (the SIDS DOCK Foundation) interests when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Foundation or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to non-profit and charitable organizations. The following are members of the Board of the SIDS DOCK Foundation:

Chairman of the Board:	Vince Henderson
President:	Albert Binger
Vice President;	Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia
Vice President:	Ronald Jumeau
Secretary	Inga Rhonda King

Staffing

25. The organization staffing during the period consisted of part-time and volunteer staff: SIDS DOCK Secretary-General, Chief of Staff & Projects Director, IWON Technical Advisor, and a Liaison Coordinator supported by a *pro bono* Legal Counsel from the Washington DC, USA-based law firm, Squire Patton Boggs.
26. The SIDS DOCK Secretary-General is responsible for organizational development, resource mobilisation and assistance to members states.
27. The Chief of Staff & Projects Director manages information and communication with members and assists the Secretary-General with organizational and partnership development.
28. The IWON Technical Advisor is based in New York, and assists with coordination of the IWON Project Pipeline, in particular, the IWON Livelihoods Programmes.
29. The Liaison Coordinator is based in New York, supporting relationships with the members and organizing meetings of the Assembly and Executive Council.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

A. THEMATIC PROGRAMME AREAS

30. The thematic areas are based on the Objectives in the Statute, Article II.

ADVOCACY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

31. Ocean energy is the largest renewable energy resource common to all SIDS. Technological progress in Japan and France, driven by clean energy concerns have seen increased levels in investment in ocean energy technologies. Beginning with the SIDS technology fair in Mauritius, as part of the Second UN International Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, ocean energy technologies have been identified as a priority for SIDS.
32. To advance this segment of the organization's work programme as set out in the Statute, the Secretariat pursued the following activities:
33. In May 2018, the Secretariat began partnership discussions with Naval Energies, a company incorporated under the laws of France with a capital of EUR 219,300,000. In July 2018, the partners agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a framework for close cooperation between the Parties with a view to develop and deploy ocean energy technologies based on Naval Energies solutions in a sustainable, effective and efficient manner in Small Island Developing States.

MOBILIZING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

34. The Secretariat utilizes two primary means for mobilizing financial and technical resources in support of member governments in two areas, sustainable energy and building climate resilience. Partnerships with research organization, academia, private sector and consultants represent the dominant means through which the Secretariat has provided technical assistance to member countries, and the preparation of concept paper and proposals to identify potential funding sources. The main area of activities where technical and financial resources mobilized in the period was in the areas of:

Sustainable Energy

- (a) Energy Efficiency: In partnership with the CCCCC, and with funding from the GEF, a Pilot Energy Efficiency Project for buildings is being implemented in five (5) Caribbean Member states – the *UNEP-GEF Energy for Sustainable Development in Caribbean Buildings*. The Secretariat provides technical assistance to the CCCCC as the implementing agency, additional technical assistance is being provided by US Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL).
- (b) The Blue Guardians Programme Proposal, being developed in partnership with GRID-Arendal from Norway, and IT and private sector partners from the project, is focused on piloting the development and strengthening of national capacities to better utilize science, information and technology to build national and climate resilience of coastal communities and economies. A Draft Concept Note and Proposal for submission to development partners and the GCF is under preparation.

Bilateral Partnerships

35. The Executive Council has identified bilateral partnerships as a priority for the mobilization of technical and financial resources. Below is a brief summary of the current partnerships:

- (a) Jamaica Waste-to-Energy Project Concept Paper: Based on the request from the Jamaican government, a draft concept paper for an integrated project to minimize air and coastal pollution as well as protecting coastal ecosystems was prepared by the Interim Secretariat. The proposed project would manage solid waste and wastewater generated in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), to produce some 50 MW of baseload power and some 50 million gallons, per day, of nutrient rich irrigation water, and a hundred of tons, per day, of organic fertilizer. The Government is now planning on issuance of a Request for Proposal to implement the project.
- (b) In April 2018, the Secretariat submitted a Proposal for Funding to the Government of Italy for Support for Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening of the SIDS DOCK Secretariat. However, Italy requested the Secretariat to partner with the CCCCC and the CARICOM Countries that had signed the Government of Italy, Ministry for the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Co-operation on Climate Change Vulnerability, Adaptation and Mitigation with CARICOM Countries, to establish the 30 million euro credit facility to support provision of 30-year, no interest loans.

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE USE OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

36. ***Belize Biomass Research and Development Project:*** Developed in partnership with the Government of Belize, Clinton Foundation, and the Belize Sugar Company, the research project is to provide information on the feasibility of establishing a biomass plantation that would produce an estimated 250,000 tons of biomass as fuel for the sugarcane factory co-generation plant to facilitate year-round generation of baseload power for export to the national grid. The research is to determine the agricultural practices for growing *Arundo donax*, a fast-growing grass found in Belize, on lands that are not viable for food production. The project would reduce the need for the importation of fossil fuel generated power from Mexico, and provide new employment in rural communities. Assistance is being provided by NREL in addressing issues related to biodiversity. This project is directly linked to the SIDS DOCK goals for increased green electricity generation, and transportation fuels substitution as the biomass produced can also be converted to substitute fuel for compression ignition engines (diesel).
37. In July 2018, the CCCCC successfully submitted a request to the GCF for funding in the amount of USD 500,000 to conduct a feasibility study on the production of *Arundo donax* as a fuel for the Belize Sugar Company sugar factory in Orange Walk, Belize. The Secretariat provided the technical support to prepare the proposal. The study should be completed in 2019.
38. ***Pilot Project for Electric Mobility Vehicles in SIDS:*** During 2018, the Secretariat consulted with representatives from Norway and various automobile companies, including Tesla, Nissan, BMW, and Toyota, to consider potential government procurement of electric vehicles, which is considered viable at a level of 250 vehicles, per year. This is expected to reduce operational costs for government vehicles by 20 - 40 percent. However, one major challenge is cost. The Secretariat has begun looking into finding independent financing sources, with whom governments could enter into agreements for payment based on the reduced cost of operations. The plan is that third party financing entity(ies) will purchase the electric vehicles from the companies at the price negotiated by the Government with the car manufacturer(s), and then finance the sale to the government based on the terms of the repayment agreement. Once the period of repayment was completed, a period of between 5 to 6 years coinciding with the lifetime guarantee of the energy storage system, these vehicles would be serviced and sold to the public through local financial institutions to replace the used internal combustion vehicles now being imported.
39. ***SIDS DOCK Captive Insurance:*** The Secretariat was mandated by the Executive Council to discuss with the new AOSIS Chair the Concept Paper on the SIDS DOCK Captive Insurance, with the aim to have this included in the boarder discussion on “Loss and Damage under the UNFCCC Negotiations”. In addition, it recommended that the Secretariat continue to work on the initiative bringing more awareness to SIDS, especially governments and the private sector, with the aim of further addressing the current insurance problems and gaps, how to improve the insurance and the importance of resilient building and this being a part of the insurance.
40. **SIDS DOCK Renewable Energy Finance Platform (REFF):** Risk Financial Facility for Projects: The Secretariat is in receipt of two letters of endorsement from Grenada and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and is awaiting a letter from the Commonwealth of Dominica and Belize. This initiative is still a concept to be developed into project proposals once the countries are identified and assessments completed. Currently SIDS pay, on average, a penalty

in interest charges, from 1 to 2 cents per KWh, which proves the need for this type of facility that would provide de-risking and support to reduce the level of risk. It has been estimated that approximately 2 percent of risk financing premium is the amount of money that leaves the country.

B. ACTIVITY AND BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR THE SIDS DOCK SECRETARIAT

41. The funding to support the Secretariat activities are mobilized as needed by the Secretariat staff, from partners and foundations.
42. The activities that required financing during the period were the fourth Assembly, in September 2018, in New York USA. Funding was also raised to help cover the preparation, travel and convening of the Fifth Meeting of the Executive Council Meeting in New York, USA, in July 2018; and travel for the SIDS DOCK Secretary-General. Contributions to financing these events came from Earth Council and income earned by the Secretariat.
43. It is to be noted that the CCCCC continues to provide significant administrative support.

VIII. PROGRAMMES

SIDS DOCK ISLAND WOMEN OPEN NETWORK

44. The SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) focused on the development of the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) Pilot Initiative for the Development of a Global Sustainable Botanical/Herbal Supplier Market from SIDS DOCK Member States, and development of the SIDS DOCK Children's Programme.
45. The Pilot Initiative for the Development of a Global Sustainable Botanical/Herbal Supplier Market was launched in 2017, on the margins of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Rivkin Radler (RR) law firm and Ullman, Shapiro Ullman of Counsel to RR, who will be providing legal support to the Initiative. While the herbal/botanical industry is already occurring on a smaller scale/community based informal manner in SIDS, it is estimated that the global market for dietary supplements would reach some USD 300 Billion by 2024. The proposal is being prepared for submission to development partners and involves at least eight (8) pilot countries.
46. Seychelles has been designated the Coordinator for the SIDS DOCK Children's Programme under the SIDS DOCK PEP (Public Education Programme), and has pioneered the idea of a "SIDS Day in Schools. In this regard, the IWON has been working with the Seychelles to produce a video to launch the SIDS Day in Schools Programme at the fourth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly in September 2018.
47. Discussion are still ongoing to pursue development of a partnership with CIEMAT - Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas - the Spanish Energy,

Environment and Technology Research Centre reporting to the Ministry of Science and Innovation for training and capacity building in RE&EE for women in SIDS.

48. H.E. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles, was presented with the 2018 SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) Excellency in Leadership Award.

IX. INSTITUTIONAL & PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

49. For the Third Conference on SIDS, leaders aimed to have **Partnerships** as the cornerstone of the conference, and called for the “strengthening of collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community” as one of the important ways and means to address new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.
50. The major focus of the Secretariat was in building and entering into partnerships through Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs). The following partnerships are in development: Naval Energies (Ocean Energy Programme); Rivkin Radler LLP (“RR”), Ullman, Shapiro and Ullman, LLP (“USU”) [Herbal/Botanical Project); Global Coral Reef Alliance (Ocean Energy Programme); IRENA (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency); Grid Arendal and UN Environment (Blue Guardians Programme); and Earth Council Alliance (IWON).

X. CONCLUSION

51. The devastating aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria showed how vulnerable our economies are and our economies will not be able to withstand the now, and future climate. SIDS need to urgently and collectively set about the task of building an economy that has at its focus, the development and deployment of technologies that convert the vast renewable resources of the oceans and seas, and the high value of its biodiversity as the foundation for the future economy to take the place of tourism and agriculture.
52. There is even more urgency to the work of the Secretariat in fast-tracking the development of the Captive Insurance, the Risk Financing Facility, the Blue Guardians Programme, and the development of SIDS Ocean resources. These areas of the Work Programme go to the heart of the SIDS DOCK goals and addresses the question, “How do we finance adaptation, and how do we make our economies and islands more climate resilient?” One of our major challenges is the management of waste, and this is being addressed in partnership with the SIDS Regional Centres and UNIDO. The longer we take to address waste management, the greater risk is upon the SIDS tourism industry which accounts for a significant amount of foreign exchange used to pay debt and finance social services.
53. During the reporting year, the Secretariat’s major emphasis was on developing partnerships that would provide SIDS with critical information and access to expertise that assist in accessing the necessary resources to implement the various components of the Work Programme. As noted earlier, seven partnerships are in advanced stages of development that will address areas such as Ocean Thermal Energy Development, the Blue Economy, Gender

and Youth. Other partnerships address deployment of electric mobility vehicles, captive insurance as it relates to loss and damage, and waste-to-energy, which are all progressing.

54. While Belize signed the Host Country Agreement in 2017, the Secretariat has not been established in Belize and is still be facilitated by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, in Belmopan. 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 local bank account. The slow movement on the part of the bank is attributed to changes in US corresponding bank rules. The Secretariat is still functioning with limited staff and volunteers.