



Distribution: General
13 September 2021

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

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

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES DOCK [SIDS DOCK]

| Document Title | Document Number |
|--|------------------------|
| Report of the fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK | A / 5 / SR / 1 |
| Agenda fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK | A / 5 / 1 / Rev.4 |
| List of Participants | A / 5 / PRC / 1 |
| List of Observers | A / 5 / 2/ Rev.1 |
| Report on the Activities of the Executive Council for the Period September 2018 – August 2019 | A / 5 / 3 |
| Report on the Activities of the Secretariat for the Period September 2018 – August 2019 | A / 5 / 4 |
| Report of Belize as Depositary of the Statute Establishing the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) | A / 5 / 5 |
| Report of the Credentials Committee | A / 5 / 6 |
| Work Programme and Budget for 2016 – 2028 | A / 5 / 7/Rev.1 |
| Draft Briefing Note - SIDS DOCK Work Programme - Waste-to-Energy Programmes | A / 5 / CRP / 1 |
| Draft MoU: Grid-Arendal - SIDS Blue Guardians Programme | A / 5 / MoU1 (2019) |
| Draft MoU: IRENA - SIDS Renewable Energy Deployment Programme | A / 5 / MoU2 (2019) |
| Draft MoU: SIDS DOCK-Global Coral Reef Alliance | A / 5 / MoU5 (2019) |
| Decision on the SIDS DOCK Work Programme On The Development Of An Organic Waste Management Sub-Sector In Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Energy Services From Organic Waste - Integrated Waste Management Solutions For Coastal, Marine And Freshwater Protection | A / 5 / DC / 1 |

Report of the fifth session of the Assembly of the SIDS DOCK

The fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK was convened pursuant to Article VI (1) of the Statute of the SIDS DOCK. The meeting was held in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on Saturday, 28 September 2019.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Session

1. Her Excellency Ms. Keisha McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, serving as acting President of the fourth Assembly of SIDS DOCK, called to order the fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK.
2. The Assembly observed a minute of silence in solidarity with the Government and People of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, on the devastation caused and the lives lost as a result of Hurricane Dorian, and also on the passing of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, His Excellency Ak-i-lisi Pōhiva.
3. The Acting President delivered a statement on behalf of the President of the fourth Assembly of the SIDS DOCK, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, who was unable to attend this year's Assembly.
4. Through his statement Prime Minister Mitchell expressed his profound apologies for not being able to be at the Assembly and humbly accepted his reappointment to serve as President of the fifth session. He also extended sincerest sympathies to the people and Government of the Kingdom of Tonga on the passing of their Distinguished Prime Minister, indicated that this was a great loss for the entire SIDS community.
5. In addressing the sad state of affairs facing the people and Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas due to the massive destruction and loss of lives caused by Hurricane Dorian, he praised the people of SIDS for being resilient human beings. He stated that these annual devastating occurrences are the reasons why SIDS have been, since 1992, championing the call for urgent and ambitious action to address climate change and also why we have established this Organization.
6. He also highlighted the importance of SIDS pursuing a Blue Economy, acknowledged the great strides The Seychelles and Grenada are making in this area, and encouraged others to join. He added that the oceans and seas represent SIDS' largest natural resources and the planet's largest renewable energy resource. Therefore, it is imperative that we deploy environmentally save technologies to extract value without negatively impacting the ecosystems. He added that by the middle of 2020, with the assistance of partners such as the United Nations Environmental Programme and Grid-Arendal of Norway, SIDS DOCK would have submitted full proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for approximately fifty million dollars (US\$50M), over 5 years for about six pilot countries to continue work on developing the Blue Economy.

7. Reflecting on the recently concluded activities of the high-level week of the United Nations, which begun with the UNSG's Climate Action Summit and concluding with the Review of the SAMOA Pathway, under the theme of "Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion". Noting that these are all crucial factors that are at the heart of SIDS sustainable development.
8. Further indicating that in the wake of all the disasters, which are fueled by climate change, and are costing affected countries in the billions, addressing "Loss and Damage" is vitally important to SIDS. He added that it is morally unjust to expect SIDS to continue to burden the high cost of the consequences that we negligibly contribute to. He added that this also is unfair to our children, that is why he applaud the young children who are taking an active part in calling for ambitious climate action. He indicated that during this Assembly session, the Assembly will hear from the children of Grenada on this matter as part of the IWON Children's Programme.
9. He highlighted that progress was made over the last year by the SIDS DOCK Organization with the various other projects in the work programmes, such as the IWON's bio-products initiative for women, the SIDS DOCK Electric Vehicle Project, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, and Waste-to-Energy, and that significant progress has been made with the SIDS DOCK Foundation. Adding that 2020 will mark the fifth anniversary of the Organization and that plans are being made to celebrate this, as well as to launch the Foundation. He urged all Members to contribute to this cause and to ensure participation at the highest level.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of work

(a) Election of Officers of the Assembly – President and Vice-Presidents

10. In accordance with Article VI (4) of the Statute of the SIDS DOCK, and on the recommendation of the Executive Council, and without setting a precedent, the Assembly decided to extend the Presidency of Dr. the Right Honourable Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, to the fifth session of the Assembly. This was due to the untimely passing away of the President Designate of the fifth session, His Excellency Aki-li-si Pohiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, on 12 September 2019.
11. Her Excellency Ms. Keisha McGuire, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, expressed her Prime Minister's profound gratitude to the Assembly for its confidence in him presiding over the fifth Assembly, and again extended sympathy to the People and Government of the Kingdom of Tonga on the passing away of Prime Minister Pohiva, reiterating that this is not only a great loss for Tonga but also for the whole SIDS community.

12. The Assembly further agreed to extended by acclamation the Vice-Presidencies of His Excellency Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations, and His Excellency Mr. Mahe 'Uli'uli Sandhurst Tupouniua, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations, to the fifth Assembly of SIDS DOCK, term to expire September 2020.
13. In the absence of the President of the fifth Assembly, and without prejudice to the future sessions, Her Excellency Ms. Keisha McGuire, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations presided over the session.

(b) Adoption of the Agenda

14. The Acting President introduced the Provisional Agenda contained in document A/5/1/Rev.3.
15. The following two Agenda Items were added to the Agenda: 1. Symbolic signing of the Statute Establishing the SIDS DOCK by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, respectively; and 2. A presentation of a donation to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.
16. **The Assembly adopted the orally revised Agenda of the Assembly as document A/5/1/Rev.4.**

(c) Appointment of a Credentials Committee

17. The Acting President informed the Assembly that the Secretariat has advised that Mauritius, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Seychelles are desirous of serving on the Credentials Committee.
18. The Assembly was then invited to approve the appointment of Mr, Rishy Bukoree (Mauritius); Ms. Janeel Drayton (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines); and Mr. Andre Butler-Payette (Seychelles) to the Credentials Committee.
19. **The Assembly approved by acclamation the appointment of the three aforementioned Members to the Credentials Committee.**

(d) Participation of observers

20. In accordance with Article VI (8) of the Statute, in which the Assembly can provide observer status to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of adaptation to climate change and renewable energy, and Signatories that have not ratified the Statute, with the understanding that Observers may participate, without the right to vote, in the public sessions of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs. Consideration is

also being granted to Members of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) who are not signatories or members of SIDS DOCK.

21. In accordance with Rule 13 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Assembly approved the requests of countries and organizations as contained in document A/5/2 to participate as Observers in the fifth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.
22. **The Assembly agreed to amend document A/5/2 to duly reflect the meeting's participation and approved the participation of the countries and organizations contained in document A/5/2/Rev.1 to participate as Observers in the fifth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.**

(e) Adoption of the report of the fourth session of the Assembly

23. The Acting President introduced the report of the fourth session of the Assembly and invited the Assembly to consider and approve the report as contained in document A/4/SR/1.
24. **The Assembly adopted the Report of the fourth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK, as contained in document A/4/SR/1.**

Agenda Item 3 – Report of the Chair of the Executive Council

25. The Acting President in her presentation of the Report of the Chair of the Executive Council (A/5/3) indicated that the Report before the Assembly and the Assembly's highly packed Agenda reflects the tremendous work that the Council has undertaken and executed over the past year.
26. She congratulated the Chair of the Executive Council, His Excellency Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations, and the Members of the Executive Council for their hard work, dedication and their stewardship of the Organization thus far.
27. **The Assembly noted with appreciation the report of the Chair of the Executive Council, as contained in document A/5/3**

Agenda Item 4 - Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for the period September 2018 to August 2019

28. The Acting President stated that from the report contained in A/5/4, one would have noticed that the Secretariat and the Secretary-General have engaged in a variety of activities and have made tremendous strides in building the Organization and establishing the SIDS

DOCK Foundation. The Secretariat continued to provide support to build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate in our islands, especially those ravaged by natural disasters, there is undoubtedly growing evidence of more intense hydro-meteorological events making development in SIDS more difficult. She added that the Membership have no choice but to act collectively for their own best interest and survival and that is why the implementation of the Organization's work plan is crucial.

29. She continued that during the past week, Members, as well as the Secretariat have been actively participating in the various High-Level Meetings at the UN, trying to keep on the forefront of the international community, especially those best positioned to do something about the continued increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) atmospheric concentrations, which threaten the survival of present and future generations. She added that it is therefore very important for each one of SIDS to be responsible for promoting this Organization; she urged Members to encourage the other SIDS to join the Organization, as in numbers lie the potential to bring about change. She continued by stating that it was equally important, to encourage our developed partners to join as well.
30. On behalf of the Assembly, the Acting President expressed gratitude to the Secretary-General, and his small team for their hard work and leadership in advancing the work of the Organization. She also thanked the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) for its continued service to the SIDS DOCK Organization, and recognized that its headquarters in Belmopan, Belize, will soon be the official home for the SIDS DOCK Secretariat.
31. **The Assembly noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for the period September 2018 to August 2019, as contained in document A/5/4.**

Agenda Item 5 - Election of the members of the Executive Council

(a) Election of three members for the term 2020-2022

32. The Acting President informed the Assembly that the terms of Office of Her Excellency Ms. Keisha McGuire of Grenada, His Excellency Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul of Mauritius and His Excellency Samuelu Laloni of Tuvalu will expire on 31 December 2019, and that the Secretariat has advised that it is in receipt of nominations from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Jamaica, and that the Government of Mauritius has indicated that it wishes to nominate Ambassador Koonjul for re-election.
33. She added that due to the lateness of the nominations, the Executive Council was unable to conduct the appropriate reviews of the nominees and is therefore requesting time from the Assembly to do its due diligence. In this regard, the Executive Council has requested to submit its recommendations for the consideration of the Assembly no later than 30 November 2019.

34. **The Assembly took note and agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Council to postpone the election of the three members of the Executive Council for the period 2020 to 2022 until 30 November 2019.**

(b) Election of one member to fill the vacancy on the Executive Council for the period 2019 - 2021

35. The Secretariat informed that the Government of Belize has nominated Dr. Peter Allen, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Public Service, Energy, and Public Utilities of Belize, to fill the vacancy under reference, and that to date there were no other nominations. However, due to the lateness of the nomination, the Executive Council was unable to duly consider the nomination, and thus recommends that the Assembly allows the Executive Council to conduct its vetting process before electing Dr. Allen to the Executive Council for the term that expires 31 December 2021.
36. **The Assembly approved the recommendation of the Executive Council and agreed to elect Dr. Allen to the Executive Council for the term expiring 31 December 2021 once the Executive Council has completed its vetting process.**
37. Before closing the Agenda Item, the Acting President conveyed the Assembly's profound gratitude to the countries for their nominations and continued interest in having highly qualified and suitable individuals service on the Executive Council. She also reiterated that these individuals serve on the Council in their personal capacities and therefore it is imperative that they commit to participate fully in the council and its work. She took the opportunity to urged countries to consider nominating more female candidates for the vacancies.

Agenda Item 6 - Institutional and Administrative Matters

(a) Report of the Depositary

38. The Acting President introduced the Report of the Depositary, as contained in document A/5/5, and took the opportunity to express the Assembly's profound gratitude to the Government of Belize for the excellent work it has done in its capacity as Depositary to the SIDS DOCK Statute.
39. The Acting President reminded members that the Organization would be celebrating another milestone as it will be its fifth Anniversary next year (2020), so it would be extremely important that the Organization increases its membership. She urged each Member to work on encouraging the other SIDS to join by either ratifying, if they are already a signatory, or acceding to the SIDS DOCK Statute.
40. **The Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Depositary, as contained in document number A/5/5.**

(b) Report on Host Country Agreement

41. Secretary-General Binger informed the Assembly that since the signing of the Agreement during the last Assembly, he has been personally working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize to finalize all arrangements for the establishment of the Secretariat in Belize. He added that during his last consultations in August 2019, he was informed that the particulars of the arrangements were being finalized and would be forthcoming.
42. He continued that once the Government of Belize completes its process, the Secretariat will be able to move forth with its arrangements with the 5Cs to formally set up the Secretariat, and for the Secretariat to begin to institutionalize itself in Belize, including through the opening of bank accounts, etc.
43. **The Assembly took note with appreciation of the oral update on the Host Country Agreement.**

(c) Report of the Credentials Committee

44. The Chair of the Credentials Committee, Mr. Rishy Bukoree (Mauritius), introduced the “Report of the Credentials Committee” as contained in document A/5/6. He reported that the Committee met on Thursday, 26 September 2019, and on its examination of the credentials received, the Committee determined that 5 Members (namely Belize, Jamaica, Mauritius, Samoa and Seychelles) had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and that 5 Members (namely Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tuvalu) did not submit credentials in the proper form but through Mission Diplomatic Note Verbales.
45. Mr. Bukoree added that in accordance with Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure, the latter countries can be permitted to participate provisionally in the fifth session of the Assembly on the understanding that their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the SIDS DOCK Secretariat as soon as possible. The Committee therefore recommended that the 10 aforementioned Members be permitted to participate in the fifth session.
46. Mr. Bukoree noted that a number of the delegations attending the session had not submitted any credentials and invited these delegations to conform to this requirement.
47. The Secretariat informed that it was in receipt of a Letter of Credentials from the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.
48. **The Assembly approved the report of the Credentials Committee and agreed to amend the document accordingly to reflect participation and reissue the report as A/5/6/Rev.1.**

(d) Report of the establishment of the SIDS DOCK Foundation, including SIDS DOCK Not-For-Profit Status

49. The Secretary-General, reporting in his capacity as President of the SIDS DOCK Foundation Board of Directors, informed that the Board met on 4 July 2019, and that the members of the Board are as follows:
- His Excellency Vince Henderson, LPD, Chairman
His Excellency Albert Binger, PhD, President
His Excellency Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Vice President
His Excellency Ronald Jumeau, Vice President
Her Excellency Ms. I. Rhonda King, Secretary/Treasurer
50. He indicated that the SIDS DOCK Foundation is a unique trust organized as a 501(c)(3), under the United States Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Foundation is a Delaware Non-Profit Corporation. The aim of the Foundation is to support low carbon economic growth and to help generate financial resources to support adaptation to climate change in SIDS, and to sustain and support sustainable energy and climate resilience activities that lead to achievement of Island Energy For Island Life: 25-50-25 by 2033 and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
51. The Board approved the Foundation's first *Strategic Plan 2018-2028*. The purpose of the strategic plan is to articulate the long-range direction and priorities for the SIDS DOCK Foundation. The objectives and strategies described in the document will guide the Foundation's efforts and investments over the coming ten (10) years. It provides the Foundation with a 10-year roadmap for support, services and organisation development.
52. The Secretary-General indicated that the Board proposes to the Assembly to have an official launch of the Foundation on the margins of its sixth session in September 2020, which will also mark the fifth Anniversary of the Organization.
53. He highlighted that the establishment of the Foundation, including its rights to function as a Not-For-Profit entity would afford the SIDS DOCK Organization the unique opportunity to be able to broaden its donor and funding base, as well as widen its image on the international stage.
54. The Secretary-General once again thanked the Law Firm of Squire Patton Boggs, and in particular, Mr. Michael Driver and Mr. John Sharpe, for their service and commitment to assisting SIDS. He added that without their assistance this process would have been extremely costly and would have definitely taken the Organization a longer time to accomplish.
55. **The Assembly took note with appreciation of the status update by the Secretary-General and agreed to the launch of the Foundation on the margins of the sixth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly.**

Agenda Item 7 – Update and Proposal for extension of the SIDS DOCK Work Programme (2016 to 2021), in line with the SIDS DOCK Foundation Strategic Plan (2018-2028)

56. The Secretary-General requested the Assembly's kind consideration to align the SIDS DOCK Work Programme for 2016-2021, with that of the SIDS DOCK Foundation's Strategic Plan, for 2018-2028, in an effort to be able to coordinate a more coherent approach to the work of the Organization.
57. **The Assembly agreed to the alignment of its 2016 - 2021 Work Programme with that of the 2018-2028 Strategic Plan of the SIDS DOCK Foundation and directed the Secretariat to make the relevant changes .**

Agenda Item 8 - SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON)**(i) *SIDS DOCK Children's Programme Video Presentation – "SIDS Children Call for Climate Action"***

58. The Acting President indicated that this video presentation is part two of what we hope will be a series of presentations by SIDS Children, noting that last year's was a presentation from the Kids of The Seychelles. She added that she is exceptionally proud to introduce this year's video as it was done by the children of Grenada, and its focus is a call for climate action. She then invited the Assembly to view the video.
59. She thanked the Island Women Open Network (IWON) Programme Director Mrs. Neves Duncan, the SIDS DOCK Children's Programme Advisor, Ms. Danyel Marks, and the IWON for the insightful and enriching presentation, and for the inspiring video, which clearly articulates that the younger generation is paying attention and is ready to take action to ensure that they have a healthier and productive environment for their generation and beyond.
60. She further commended all those who worked with the young children and urged the membership to continue to provide our youth with the tools and fora to contribute to improving our societies and to our overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SAMOA Pathway and the Paris Agreement.
61. She added that our young people are showing us that they are serious and that with or without our assistance they will strive to make our world a better place. She stated that there is much for SIDS to learn from their activism. She encouraged other Member States to participate in the programme and to have their children document their actions to save our planet.

(ii) *SIDS DOCK IWON 2019 Excellency in Leadership Award*

62. The Acting President stated that since 2015, this annual award has been given to persons who have contributed greatly to the establishment of SIDS DOCK and the SIDS DOCK IWON, particularly in the area of advancing women and girls' empowerment, as well as charting a path to provide them with opportunities not only in the area of renewable energy but in all spheres of life.
63. The Acting President informed that the 2019 SIDS DOCK IWON Excellency in Leadership Award is to be presented to Her Excellency I. Rhonda King, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, for her work and leadership to SIDS and for her dedication to promote and advance women and girls. She added that Ambassador King not only Chaired the IWON Committee but has served as the President of the Economic and Social Council of the UN, where she worked diligently to advance SIDS issues and that of women empowerment.
64. Ambassador King thanked the IWON for the prestigious award indicating that last year as she herself presented the said award to Ambassador Jumeau she could not have imagined that she would be receiving it this year. She added that she is truly surprised and feel tremendously humbled and honoured to receive this Award. She expressed her thanks to the Programme Director of IWON, Mrs. Christine Neves Duncan, for having confidence in her and for insisting that she serve as the Chair of IWON. She continued that this was at the time when she was newly appointed as Ambassador, and coming from a background that was far from the diplomatic arena.
65. **The Acting President extended congratulations to Ambassador King on behalf of the Assembly.**

Agenda Item 9 – The Symbolic signing of the SIDS DOCK Statute

(i) Guinea-Bissau

66. Honourable Suzi Carla Barbosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communities of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau signed on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, and committed to deposit its Instrument of Ratification to the Depository before the end of 2019.
67. In her address to the Assembly she indicated that the 88 islands comprising of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau all suffer greatly from the adverse impacts of climate change and thus they see the SIDS DOCK as a vitally important Organization to help them with their response to these challenges. Adding that they are fully committed to working to 100% renewable energy and therefore looks forward to working closely with the Organization to attain this achievement.

(ii) Sao Tome and Principe

68. Honourable Osvaldo Abreau, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe signed on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, and committed to deposit its Instrument of Accession to the Depositary.
69. In his brief remarks, he indicated that his Government sees this as a great honour and that they are extremely committed to become a member of this prestigious Organization, as their national objective is to have more than 50% of hydropower energy by 2025.
70. **The Assembly welcomed with appreciation the symbolic signing of the Statute by the Republics of Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe, as a commitment to deposit their Instruments of Ratification and Accession, respectively, to the Depositary.**

Agenda Item 10 – Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

(i) *Global Coral Reef Alliance: Deployment and Monitoring of Ocean Environment Management, Rehabilitation of Ecosystems*

71. Dr. Thomas Goreau, President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance, and His Excellency Mr. Ronald Jumeau of The Seychelles, in the latter's capacity as Chair of the Executive Council, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Global Coral Reef Alliance and SIDS DOCK, respectively.
72. This Agreement formulizes and solidifies a long-standing relationship between SIDS DOCK and Global Coral Reef Alliance, for the deployment and monitoring of ocean environment management, Rehabilitation of ecosystems. This is critically important to SIDS as large Ocean States, our oceans are critically important to our sustainable development, and with the adverse impacts of climate change on our oceans it is important that we are fully equipped to monitor, manage and rehabilitate them.
73. Dr. Goreau in his brief remarks thanked the Organization for the opportunity to work together on what he expressed as his life-long love. Highlighting that with proper management and rehabilitation SIDS would be able to reverse damage to its oceans and its resources – giving examples of reversing coral reef bleaching. He also thanked SIDS for being at the forefront of this matter and for being strong advocates for ambitious climate change action.

(ii) *Rivkin Radler LLP, Ullman, Shapiro and Ullman, LLP: Development of a Regulatory Infrastructure to Support the Development of a Sustainable Botanical/Herbal Supplier Market for SIDS DOCK Member States*

74. Mrs. Shari Lewis Veltre, Senior Partner of Rivkin Radler, LLP, and His Excellency Mr. Ronald Jumeau of The Seychelles, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Council, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Rivkin Radler, LLP, Ullman, Shapiro and Ullman, LLP and SIDS DOCK, respectively.

75. The Secretariat, in particular the IWON, has been partnering with the law firm since 2017, to assist SIDS with establishing an herbal/botanical initiative in small islands, targeting women.
76. Mrs. Lewis Veltre in her brief remarks expressed their sincerest gratitude to have this arrangement finalized, as they see tremendous opportunity and benefits for SIDS to have control over its resources and be able to receive maximum benefit. She stated that it was important that SIDS moved to gaining the full benefits of its resources and to accomplish this they must become more in tune with the nuances and technicalities, especially around the legal and cyber security aspects. She added that it continues to be a pleasure to work with IWON and they look forward to moving the project into the implementation phase.
77. The Acting President thanked the Global Coral Reef Alliance and Rivkin Radler, LLP, Shapiro and Ullman, LLP, for their partnership and indicated that these represent the types of partnerships SIDS call for, which are firmly rooted in the priority areas of SIDS. She added that the signing of these MoUs is a true testament of the hard work of the Executive Council. She encouraged the Executive Council to continue its work with the other organizations in order to finalize the arrangements for the signing of MoUs.

Agenda Item 11 – Presentation of a donation to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

78. Mrs. Shari Lewis Veltre, Senior Partner of Rivkin Radler, LLP, Ullman Shapiro Ullman, LLP, presented a check to Her Excellency Ms. Sheila Carey, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the UN, for the Bahamas Relief Fund.
79. Ambassador Carey expressed thanks to Rivkin Radler, LLP and Shapiro Ullman for their generous donation and for their continued support to SIDS. She also thanked all countries for their best wishes and contributions to The Bahamas. She indicated that the official death toll is 56 with 600 still missing or unaccounted for. She added that the financial toll is extremely high and is estimated in the hundredths of millions. She indicated further that there is 100 billion tons of debris in Abaco, which they have no clue how to handle this. She continued that the people and government of The Bahamas are resilient and highly motivated to build back better and stronger.

Agenda Item 12 – Remarks by Member States and Observers

80. His Excellency Mr. Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations, expressed his delegation's condolence to the Kingdom of Tonga on the passing away of its Prime Minister and sympathies to the Government and people of The Bahamas for the lives loss and massive destruction caused by Hurricane Dorian. He indicated that SIDS DOCK was heading in the right direction and that his Country was both proud and pleased to be a Member State of this great SIDS

- Organization. He commended the Secretary-General and the Executive Council for their leadership and efforts thus far.
81. He also commended the IWON for its work with SIDS children and requested that the video be shared with the membership and also be placed on the SIDS DOCK website. He indicated that it is surely a programme the children of Samoa would love to participate in. He informed that his tour of duty to the United Nations would be coming to an end, but that he looks forward to continuing to engage with the Organization as he returns to Capital.
 82. He recommended that the Secretariat seek to schedule the 2020 Assembly in the middle of the first week of the UNGA's General Debate in an effort to have the participation of our Heads of State and Government who will be attending the 75th Anniversary of the UNGA. He added that this is important as this Organization will also be celebrating its 5th Anniversary which is another big milestone for us.
 83. Ms. Christine Bailey, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN, joined others in extending condolences to Tonga and Bahamas, and also took the opportunity to express best wishes to Ambassador Feturi Elisaia of Samoa. She stated that Jamaica fully supports the work of the Executive Council and the Organization as a whole, and encouraged the Organization to establish as soon as possible its existence in New York, so as to lend more qualified support to Missions. She added that Jamaica fully supports the project on E-mobility and it looks forward to receiving and reviewing an analysis of the project once the finding becomes available. Continued. That initiatives. At the national level would benefit. From the cross fertilization of the ideas that can accrue from these current efforts.
 84. Rishy Bukoree, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the UN, reiterated Mauritius' support to the SIDS DOCK programme of work and its commitment to the Strategic Plan 2018-2028. He also added that they fully support the aligning of the work program with that of the Strategic plan of the SIDS DOCK Foundation. He again took the opportunity to highlighted some of the renewable energy projects in place in Mauritius, such as the one supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Home Solar project, the Green Energy Scheme, as well as the institutional strengthening in place to develop the necessary regulatory framework and encourage investment in renewable energy. He recommended that SIDS DOCK increase its interaction with the technical experts and relevant line Ministries on the ground to have a more coordinated and coherent approach to advancing the work of the Organization and its pipeline projects. He added that Mauritius continues to look forward to fully engaging through SIDS DOCK on strengthening its renewable energy sector as well as sharing its good practices and expertise, and would be re-nominating its expert to the Executive Council.
 85. Ms. Olney Dailey, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana to the UN, joined in the expressions of condolence and sympathies to the Governments of Tonga and Bahamas. Adding that the situation The Bahamas finds itself

in is one that is most dreaded by SIDS but is fast becoming an annual reality for one or more of SIDS. She stated that Guyana although exploring its oil prospect still remains committed to doing so in an environmentally safe manner and still. Commits to transition to 100% renewable. She indicated that Guyana sees the value of SIDS DOCK and that it is in the process of finalizing its internal process in order to deposit its Instrument of Accession to the SIDS DOCK Depositary.

86. Mr. Hans-Joachim Almoslechner, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, reiterated his country's continued commitment to SIDS and indicated that assistance to SIDS remains on top of Austria's agenda. He commended SIDS for establishing this Organization that tackles the important matter of renewable energy. He highlighted some of the initiatives Austria has undertaken to support SIDS and its agenda, which includes collaboration with UNIDO to set up regional renewable energy hubs, and still awaits the setting up of the AIS region hub. He added that her Country continues to look forward to further strengthening this relationship, and also looks forward to engaging with the Secretariat in its planning for the launch of the SIDS DOCK Foundation and its fifth Anniversary celebrations in 2020.
87. The Acting President thanked the Delegates and participants for their interventions and on behalf of Tonga and The Bahamas, expressed gratitude for the warm wishes of sympathies extended to them. She also indicated SIDS DOCK's pleasure having their delegations participate in the Assembly and for their continued assistance to SIDS. She reiterated Grenada's wish to work closely with each of them during its Presidency to further strengthen relations and solidify plans for the further development of SIDS DOCK.

Agenda Item 13: Organization and arrangements for the sixth session of the Assembly

(a) Designation of the date

88. The Acting President proposed that the sixth session of the Assembly be convened in September 2020, on the margins of the General Debate of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly. She noted that this year the United Nations will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary and this would most likely mean many of our Heads of State and/or Government will be in attendance. She recommended that the Secretariat takes this into consideration when scheduling the sixth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, in order to ensure the highest-level participation at the SIDS DOCK Assembly.
89. **The Assembly took note of the discussion and agreed that the sixth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly will be scheduled in New York, in September 2020, on the margins of the General Debate of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and that the Secretariat in collaboration with the President of the Assembly would determine the exact date.**

(b) Designation of the members of the Bureau

90. The Acting President invited States Parties to indicate their desire to serve on the Bureau of the sixth session of the Assembly to the SIDS DOCK Secretariat, as soon as possible and no later than 1 July 2020, in order to facilitate a smooth transition in September 2020.
91. In keeping with the principle of equitable regional rotation of the post of the Presidency among the three sub-regions, and noting the special arrangements agreed upon due to the unexpected passing away of the President designate of the fifth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, and without setting a president, the President of the sixth session should come from the Pacific sub-region, with the first option for the Kingdom of Tonga to serve as President, and the Vice-Presidents from the AIS (formally AIMS) and Caribbean sub-regions, respectively.
92. **The Assembly hereby agreed that interested States Parties would communicate to the SIDS DOCK Secretariat no later than 1 July 2020, their desire to serve on the Bureau of the sixth session of the Assembly, and that the President of the sixth session be from the Pacific sub-region, the Kingdom of Tonga, unless otherwise agreed.**

Agenda Item 14: Any Other Business

93. There were no items raised for discussion under this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 15: Closure of the session

94. The Acting President thanked the Assembly for once again allowing her to preside over the session, and for the continued confidence in Grenada to lead the Assembly during its fifth session. She also thanked the representatives for participating in the fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK. She especially thanked the government, institutional and private sector partners for participating and contributing to the success of the session.
95. She encouraged Members to continue to work together to advance the objectives of SIDS and SIDS DOCK, calling on them to continue advancing SIDS priorities as were outlined in the recently concluded Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, which is scheduled to be held in SAMOA in late October, and the Mid-Terms which is scheduled on the margins of the 74th UNGA in 2019.
96. She added that Prime Minister Mitchell, in his capacity as President of the 4th and now 5th Assemblies of SIDS DOCK is committed to working diligently to fulfill the approved work programme and mandates of this session, and looks forward to working closely with the Vice-Presidents, Secretariat, the Executive Council and the Membership to advance the priorities of the Organization.
97. She reiterated that 2020 would be another big milestone for SIDS DOCK as it celebrates its fifth anniversary, and called on the members of AOSIS who have neither ratified nor

98. acceded to the SIDS DOCK Statute to do so, in order to ensure that this SIDS established and owned organization succeeds.
99. She added that we must all work together to securing a better, more climate resilient economy for the citizenry of SIDS, and that it is vitally important that SIDS make this journey together speaking with one voice.
100. She concluded the fifth session of the Assembly by bidding everyone a successful and productive UN General Assembly, and a safe journey back to those who were visiting New York.
101. **The Acting President adjourned the fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK.**