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

Sixth Session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK
Via Telephone and Videoconferencing
28 September 2021/29 September 2021
400 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. EDT – Eastern Daylight Time
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. TOT – Tonga Time

**Report on the
Activities of the Executive Council for the Period
September 2019 to August 2021**

I 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 Council. Nominations shall be submitted through the State Party's United Nations (UN) 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 each regional group as established by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) [Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS), 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 members:

Name of Member	Country	Term of Office
H.E. Conrod Hunte	Antigua & Barbuda	2020-2022
Dr. Rhianna Neely-Murphy [Vice Chair] [Rapporteur]	Bahamas (term extended by one year, due to COVID-19)	2015-2017; 2018-2020; 2021
Dr. Peter Allen	Belize	2020-2022
Hon. Mr. Pearnel Charles, Jr., MP	Jamaica	2020-2022
H.E. Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul	Mauritius	2017-2019; 2020-2022
Mr. Sione Foliaki	Samoa (resigned 2019)	2016-2018; 2019-2021
Ms. Heremoni Suapaia	Samoa (completed term of Sione Foliaki)	2020-2021
H. E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau [Chair]	Seychelles (term extended by one year, due to COVID-19)	2015-2017; 2018-2020; 2021
H.E. Mr. Aunese Makoi Simati	Tuvalu	2017-2019
H.E. Mr. Samuela Lalonui	Tuvalu (completed term of Makoi Simati)	2019; 2020-2022
Dr. Tevita Tukunga [Vice Chair]	Tonga	2016-2018; 2019-2021

5. This Report is an unprecedented report as it covers two years of reporting, for the period September 2019 to August 2021. The Report of the Executive Council to the Assembly is submitted each year, however, due to the postponement of the fifth Assembly in 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Council did not submit an annual report. The Executive Council convened three meetings during this reporting period, including a special meeting, all held via telephone and video conferencing:
- a. Special and Seventh Meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK: 27 May 2020.
 - b. Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK: 1 December 2020.
 - c. Ninth Meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK: 17 June 2021.

II NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SIDS DOCK

6. The ninth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK was held on Thursday, 17 June 2021, via telephone and video conferencing using Zoom, a web-based hosting service.

7. Prior to confirming a Quorum for the meeting (as per Rule 31 of the Rules and Procedures, “Two thirds of the members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum for decision making.”), and due to the fact that the Honourable Mr. Osvaldo Abreu, Minister for Public Works, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment, representing São Tomé and Príncipe as an Observer had to leave the meeting early, the Chair invited the Minister to deliver a statement to the Council members present.
8. The Chair extended a special welcome to the Honourable Mr. Osvaldo Abreu, Minister for Public Works, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment, representing São Tomé and Príncipe as an Observer, as well as Mr. Luiselio Pinto, Advisor to the Minister and the SIDS DOCK National Coordinator for São Tomé and Príncipe. As most members are aware, São Tomé and Príncipe is the newest SIDS DOCK member, and the Chair recalled meeting the Minister and his Delegation at the SIDS DOCK-UNIDO High-Level Samoa Pathway Luncheon, in 2019, at UN Headquarters. The Chair said the Council was looking forward to São Tomé and Príncipe joining the Council as a member, as there are only three SIDS DOCK AIS Members, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles.
9. There were no decisions or actions taken, and no motions or votes occurred during this informal introductory session, and before the official start of the meeting. There were four (4) members present (Seychelles, Samoa, Belize, Mauritius). Six (6) members are required to constitute a quorum. Two (2) members (Antigua & Barbuda and Bahamas) joined the meeting thereafter, and the official proceedings began. Three (3) members were not present, Jamaica, Tonga and Tuvalu.
10. Having determined that a quorum was present, the Chair called to order, the ninth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK. The Chair apologized for the late start of the meeting and expressed that he understands the challenge of attending virtual meetings. The Chair thanked the six members present and extended a very special thanks to the member from Mauritius, who went above and beyond to attend the meeting. The member from Bahamas was also thanked for attending, recognizing that she had broken her vacation to prioritize the meeting.
11. The Meeting was attended by the following Members of the Council: H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau (Seychelles - Chair); H.E. Mr. Conrod Hunte (Antigua & Barbuda); Dr. Rhianna M. Neely-Murphy (Bahamas – Rapporteur); Dr. Peter Allen (Belize), H.E Mr. Jadgish Dharamchand Koonjul (Mauritius); Ms. Heremoni Onosai Suapaia- Ah-Hoy (Samoa). The Honourable Mr. Osvaldo Abreu, Minister for Public Works, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment (São Tomé and Príncipe) and Mr. Luiselio Pinto, Advisor to the Minister and the SIDS DOCK National Coordinator (São Tomé and Príncipe). H.E. Ali’ioaiga Feturi Elisaia Samoa’s High Commissioner to Fiji (Samoa), His Excellency Mr. Viliami Va’inga Tone, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN (Tonga), and Ms. Shalini Gungaram (Mauritius) were in attendance as observers.

12. The Minister brought greetings from the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, and expressed thanks to the leadership of SIDS DOCK, and in particular to the Chair, for extending an invitation to São Tomé and Príncipe to participate in the ninth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK, as an Observer. Since becoming a member of the SIDS DOCK organization in November 2019, São Tomé and Príncipe has been very encouraged and pleased with the engagement of the SIDS DOCK Secretariat, in making sure that São Tomé and Príncipe is included in SIDS DOCK activities, and in assisting us with developing our project pipeline.
13. In his opening statement, the Chair informed that the ninth meeting of the Executive Council is the final meeting for 2021, and also his final meeting as the Chair for the Council, as his terms ends on 31 December 2021. Recalling his statement at the eighth meeting of the Council on 1 December 2020, he reminded that he may have retired from public service but he is not going into retirement, but will continue working to build the SIDS DOCK Organization in various capacities, as well as working on his national and international commitments.
14. Recognizing the various time differences among the members and that it was very late at night for some members, the Chair requested the Secretariat to advise which items on the Agenda are the top priorities, and which items could be addressed through circulating the relevant agenda documents to the members with explanations, and under silence procedure, noting that the members had already received the documents.
15. The Council adopted the revised Draft Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for its ninth meeting (EC/9/1/Rev.1) with the understanding that there may be further changes and addressed the following Agenda items:
 - a. Agenda Item 2: Organization of Work, sub-item a. – Draft Provisional Agenda (EC/9/1).
 - b. Agenda Item 2: Organization of Work, sub-item b. - Adoption of the Report of the eighth meeting of the Executive Council (EC/8/SR/1).
 - c. Agenda Item 4. a. Arrangements for the sixth session of the Assembly and potential impacts from the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - d. Agenda Item 5: Arrangements for the tenth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK and Election of Officers.
 - e. Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business sub-item a. - Contract Renewal - SIDS DOCK Secretariat Staff.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of Work, sub-item a. – Draft Provisional Agenda (EC/9/1)

16. The Council adopted the revised Draft Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for its ninth meeting (EC/9/1/Rev.1) with the understanding that there may be further changes.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of Work, sub-item b. - Adoption of the Report of the eighth meeting of the Executive Council (EC/8/SR/1).

17. There were no comments or amendments made to the Report. The Report was approved by the Chair and seconded by Dr. Rhianna Neeley-Murphy (Bahamas) and Dr. Peter Allen (Belize).

Agenda Item 4. a. Arrangements for the sixth session of the Assembly and potential impacts from the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

18. The Secretariat informed that the tentative date for the session is Saturday, 25 September 2021, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., virtually, and depending on the situation with the COVID-19, face-to-face at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on the margins of the General Debate of the 76th session of the UNGA. The actual room will be communicated, at a later date. In addition to the items recommended during this meeting for the Assembly's consideration, the Chair noted the following additional items that will be on the agenda for the sixth session of the Assembly:
- a. Election of the President (Pacific Region – Tonga: President-Designate) and Vice Presidents (AIS and Caribbean Regions, respectively) for the sixth session;
 - b. Election of four members to the Executive Council for the term 2022 to 2024 (Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles (AIS); Samoa and Tonga (Pacific)).

Agenda Item 5: Arrangements for the tenth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK and Election of Officers

19. 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 will need to elect its Bureau as the terms of Ambassador Jumeau (Seychelles) as Chair; Dr. Neeley-Murphy (Bahamas) and Dr. Tevita Tukunga (Tonga) as Vice Chairs, ends on 31 December 2021, and they would not be eligible to serve another consecutive term thereafter. At its first meeting in 2022, the current Council is to elect its Bureau that will serve for a one-year term, which will end on 31 December 2022.
20. As a friendly reminder, the Chair took the opportunity to impress upon the membership that they are elected to serve on the SIDS DOCK Executive Council in their own capacities, and therefore, it is vitally important that members are able to participate in the meetings.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business sub-item a. - Contract Renewal - SIDS DOCK Secretariat Staff

21. The Council approved the Secretariat's recommendation to renew the contracts for the Secretariat staff, including the Chief of Staff and Project Director.
22. The Council also approved the Secretariat's recommendation to revise the terms of reference for the SIDS DOCK IWON Committee, and to keep the Council updated.

VI NEXT STEPS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

23. It was further agreed that the Secretariat will recirculate documents referred to on the Provisional Agenda (EC/9/1), and place the following items for approval under silence procedure:
 - a. That the Executive Council approve the Draft Terms of Reference, Independent Auditor-Consultant, SIDS DOCK Secretariat, as contained in documents [EC/9/8].
 - b. That the Executive Council approve the Draft Expression of Interest Independent Auditor-Consultant, SIDS DOCK Secretariat as contained in document [EC/9/16].
 - c. That the Executive Council approve the Secretariat to cease devoting resources to development of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) SIDS DOCK-Blue Planet A/5/MoU6 [2020].
 - d. That the Executive Council approve the Briefing Note and to transmit same to the Assembly for the Assembly's consideration and approval - The World Bank Energy Services Management Programme (ESMAP): Japanese Funding Allocated For The SIDS DOCK Institutional Development [EC/9/15].
 - e. That the Executive Council approve to continue discussions with Resilient Energi, and to explore a partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
 - f. That the Executive Council approve to revise the Terms of Reference and Responsibilities of the Chair of the SIDS DOCK IWON Committee.

III EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SIDS DOCK

24. The eighth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK was held on Tuesday, 1 December 2020, via telephone and video conferencing using Zoom, a web-based hosting service.
25. The Meeting was attended by the following Members of the Council: H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau (Seychelles - Chair); H.E. Mr. Conrod Hunte (Antigua & Barbuda); Dr. Rhianna M. Neely-Murphy (Bahamas – Vice-Chair & Rapporteur); Dr. Peter Allen (Belize), H.E. Mr. Jadgish Dharamchand Koonjul (Mauritius); Dr. Tevita Tukunga (Tonga – Vice Chair). H.E. Ali’ioaiga Feturi Elisaia (Samoa) and Ms. Shalini Gungaram (Mauritius) were in attendance as observers.
26. The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for 2020, and asked the members to permit him to make a short statement.
27. The Chair informed that he will be returning to Seychelles, for good, on 2 December 2020. He noted that it was on 23 August 2007 that he presented his credentials to the former UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, as Seychelles’ Permanent Representative to the UN. After serving two terms as Ambassador, he will be retiring from the Seychelles Foreign Service, but not going into retirement. In reflecting on his mission, the Chair said it “has been the best 13 years of my life, as it included being Seychelles first and still only Global Ambassador for Climate Sustainability, Ocean and Island Issues.” He also said that it gave him the opportunity to work with some highly regarded colleagues and friends in New York and around the world, who shared the same passion – helping the people of SIDS, Island People and communities in their fight against climate change. In doing this, he had the honour to help launch the SIDS DOCK, which remains, as he leaves New York, the only UN Treaty SIDS organization. He assured the Council that they can depend on the Seychelles Administration to continue to cooperate with SIDS DOCK, to continue taking a central role, and to maintain its place in the ranks of the SIDS DOCK Membership.
28. The Chair reminded the Council of the Decision taken by the Assembly in May 2020, *Decision on the Procedure for taking decisions of the SIDS DOCK Assembly during the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*, as contained in Document A/5/DC/2 (2020), where the Assembly authorised the President, where, in his view, meetings are not practicable due to the coronavirus pandemic, to circulate draft decisions of the SIDS DOCK Assembly to all Member States under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours. This resulted in several items on the Agenda to be approved by silence procedure.
29. The Chair, noting that in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Statute of the SIDS DOCK, the Executive Council is to elect a Chair and two Vice Chairs, as the term of the present bureau has ended.

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30. Noting that under the Statute two members of the Council would no longer be eligible for re-election, as they have served the maximum term, and recalling Rules 16 and 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and Executive Council as contained in Document A/2/6, and that without setting any precedent, and due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Assembly approved as contained in document A/5/DC/4 (2020), the re-election of H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the UN, and Dr. Rhianna M. Neely-Murphy, Environmental Officer, Ministry of Environment and Housing, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, as members of the Council and Chair and Rapporteur, respectively.
31. **Ambassador Jumeau and Dr. Neeley-Murphy agreed to serve till 31 December 2021, and the SIDS DOCK Assembly shall take note of the decision at its first plenary meeting held after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstances allow, and that this decision shall be in effect until such plenary meeting.**
32. Further, recognizing that the Council is to elect a Vice-Chair, and after consultations with the Secretariat, the recommendation to the Council is to re-elect Dr. Tevitia Tukunga, Director, Department of Energy, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECCC), Tonga, to continue to serve as Vice-Chair.
33. The Chair reminded that members are elected to serve on Executive Council in their individual capacity, therefore, it is important the members are able to attend and participate in meetings of the Council. The Chair was very encouraged by the commitment of members to make the effort to attend the meetings, and more importantly, to make significant contribution.
34. **The Council re-elected by acclamation Dr. Tukunga as Vice Chair. Dr. Tukunga's term expires on 31 December 2021.**
35. The Chair extended a warm welcome on behalf of the Council, to the second female Executive Council member, Mrs. Heremoni Suapaia, Assistant Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Energy Policy Coordination and Management Division of the Ministry of Finance, Samoa, who replaced Mr. Sionie Foliaki, who retired from public service before the end of his term on 31 December 2020. The Chair formally recognized the service of Mr. Foliaki, our friend and former member of the Executive Council, and wished him well in his retirement.
36. The Chair also welcomed Ms. Shalini Gungaram, Second Secretary, representing Mauritius as an Observer. Ms. Gungaram replaced Mr. Rishy Bukoree, the former Second Secretary. The Chair thanked Mr. Bukoree for his service and wished him well noting that he is back home in Mauritius.

37. 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. The Edgewood Partners MOU is a framework to develop a partnership to advance the Captive Insurance Work Programme. The Secretariat is requesting members to approve the ongoing work with Edgewood Partners, based on the document. The Secretariat has also identified a group in the Cayman Islands, called Omega, who are experts in the establishment of Captive Insurance for Businesses in the United States and the Caribbean. Based on discussions with them, the Secretariat believes they could be a very valuable partner for some aspects of the work such as data generation. The Secretariat is requesting the Council approve entering into discussions with Omega on issues like, how a Captive Insurance could be rolled out in some small islands, the cost, implications and scale – these are major pieces of information needed to move the Captive Insurance to the next level.
38. The Secretariat is requesting the Council’s members, after review of the Concept Paper laying out how the captive would operate, if they can share with the Secretariat how they see the Captive Insurance operating, the benefits, how it compares to existing risk vehicles, and let us know if there is a favourable environment in their respective countries so that the country can be considered a pilot in the design that the Secretariat would pursue with Edgewood or Omega or a combination of both. The Secretariat will keep the Council informed on any opportunity to advance the relationships through a MOU. The Secretary-General noted that the Concept Paper is a work in progress subject to revisions, which is the basis on which the MOU is developed. The Secretariat will revisit the Concept Paper and review how the mechanism was diagrammed, and attempt to modify it to include countries from the three regions. The Secretariat will need to depend heavily on countries to help with data and identify information, as these two institutions (Edgewood and Omega) have no experience outside the U.S. and the Caribbean, so the Secretariat would need help with data and to identify partners in the Pacific and AIS regions, going forward.
29. **The Secretariat noted the comments from the Council on this matter. The Council requested the Secretariat to investigate the potential for including pilot countries from the Pacific and AIS regions, and that the Secretariat will return to the Council with appropriate information. The Executive Council recommended that the Secretariat recirculate the information on the Captive Insurance to countries, inviting countries interested in becoming pilots, and to keep the Council updated.**
39. Establishment of SIDS DOCK Presence in Belize: The Secretary-General indicated that compared to the previous year, there has been significant progress, however, the Secretariat is still experiencing some delays with the establishment of the office, but thanks to the member from Belize, Dr. Peter Allen, there has been progress to the point that only the issues of a company registration certificate is needed to complete the process for SIDS DOCK being a fully legal entity in Belize. The application has been submitted and is in

the system and the Secretariat will keep the Council updated. A discussion ensued on a matter raised by the Member from Mauritius on the hosting of SIDS DOCK in countries other than Belize, and the kind of legal arrangement, in the context of ensuring that individuals representing SIDS DOCK in those places are safe and secure if any issues arise with a host country. The Member from Antigua & Barbuda also asked if there was any immunity or privilege granted to staff in Belize.

40. The Secretary-General noted that at the third session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK, in September 2017 at UN Headquarters, SIDS DOCK signed a Host Country Agreement with Belize, that allows the establishment of the office, budget support from the to operate the Secretariat. The Secretary-General said he will address, later in the agenda, two other issues in terms of a proposed office in New York with a partner, and in Vienna in partnership with UNIDO. Establishing these two locations will follow the same procedures in developing a host country agreement to be approved by the Council and the Assembly. SIDS DOCK staff has been granted immunity and privileges with all the rights and privileges of a UN Organization, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have issued diplomatic cards to staff. The Member from Belize can inform the Council further in terms of laws of Belize and the parts of the Host Country Agreement. The member from Belize confirmed the Secretary-General's report and recommended the Secretariat circulate the Host Country Agreement to members.
41. **The Council took note of the update and requested the Secretariat circulate a copy of the Belize Host Country Agreement, and to keep the Council updated.**
42. SIDS DOCK not-for-profit Status USA, and the SIDS DOCK Foundation; Election of new Board of Directors; Recommendation – Board of Directors Vacancy; Identification of a Certified Public Accountant (CPA): The President of the SIDS DOCK Foundation, Dr. Albert Binger, informed the Council that the Board of Directors met on 5 October 2020, where the following persons were elected to serve on the Board for 2021-2022:
- His Excellency Ronald J. Jumeau, Chairman
Mr. Albert Binger, PhD, President
His Excellency Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Vice President
Dr. Peter Allen, Secretary/Treasurer
43. It was decided to re-appoint the members and recruit a new Secretary/Treasurer to replace Her Excellency, Ms. I. Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations (UN), who resigned before her term expired, due to new commitments including overseeing St. Vincent and the Grenadines' work on the UN Security Council. The Board expressed great thanks to Ambassador King for her service and from all reports she is representing St. Vincent and the Grenadines and all the developing world, in an outstanding way, as usual.

44. The Board also welcomed Dr. Peter Allen, the Council member from Belize, who was recruited to serve on the Board. Recognizing that Dr. Peter Allen is a signatory on the SIDS DOCK bank accounts, our attorney advised that Dr. Allen would make a suitable candidate for Secretary/Treasurer.
45. The Board resolved to approve the invitation to Mrs. Mary Alyce Driver, the spouse of Mr. Michael Driver, the Senior Partner at Squire Patton Boggs (SPB), who is one of SIDS DOCK's major fundraisers, to serve as a member of the Board in 2021-2022. Mrs. Driver is well-known and well-connected in U.S. philanthropic circles and has participated in several SIDS DOCK events. Ms. Christine Duncan, Project Director and Volunteer Administrator for the Foundation, has been in touch with her and she has said that she, quote: "humbly accepts this honour" and she committed to assisting SIDS DOCK with fundraising and promoting the Foundation and the SIDS DOCK Organization in any way that she can.
46. Regarding identification of a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Board expects to have the CPA in place before the next Board Meeting.
47. **Noting that there are no objections, the Chair recommended that the Council endorse the recommendation and decide to forward the decision of the Council to the Board of Directors for the SIDS DOCK Foundation and to the fifth session of the Assembly for its consideration and approval, under silence procedure as decision EC/8/DC/1.**
48. SIDS DOCK Website - Consultancy for Implementation of Gaining General Protection Regulation (GDPR) Compliance for all SIDS DOCK Websites and Social Media Sites: The Secretary-General noted that the mandate to have the SIDS DOCK Websites GDPR compliant is in follow up on the Decision of the third session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly in 2017, to secure the SIDS DOCK Platform from cyber threats. In 2018, the Secretariat beefed up the network by placing additional security measures. Failure to comply with GDRP has major financial consequences in the form of fines. the GDPR took effect on May 25, 2018, and elevates personnel data to the level of being an asset. Any entity, including government or private, that retains the information of any EU citizen or business will be required, by law, to implement technological measures to protect the information under the GDPR.
49. The Secretariat is getting ready to host a series of Ocean Energy and other Webinars, and we will be collecting personal data. Before doing so, it was advised that we must be GDPR Compliant by our former Chief ITC, Knowledge and Management Advisor, David Neves Duncan, who also re-designed and launched the AOSIS website in 2009, and designed and launched the SIDS DOCK Website in 2012, and still provides volunteer support.

50. **The Executive Council took note with appreciation of the Secretariats work on securing and bringing the SIDS DOCK Websites into GDPR Compliance, contained in documents EC/8/CRP/1, EC/8/CRP/2, EC/8/CRP/3 and EC/8/CRP/4, and endorsed the recommendation from the Secretariat and that the Secretariat can proceed with the documents and the method of procurement. The Council agreed that the Secretariat should prepare an Explanation Note on the rationale for the method of procurement, for the records, and as part of the documentation, and keep the Council informed on points raised, particularly by the Member from Mauritius.**
51. Inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) – Observer Status in the General Assembly for SIDS DOCK. The Chair informed the Council that SIDS DOCK received tremendous support from the SIDS and our major partners and donors, and this allowed SIDS DOCK to successfully attain Observer Status in the UN General Assembly. The agenda item was brought to the floor of the General Assembly by Belize, in its capacity as Host Country and Depositary, assisted by Grenada, in its capacity as President of the fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK, and Seychelles, in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Council. The Council expressed gratitude to the colleagues from the Permanent Missions to the UN for Belize, Grenada and Seychelles, for helping to facilitate this achievement.
52. The SIDS DOCK organization received tremendous support for UNGA Observer Status. The Secretary-General thanked the Chair for his personal commitment and work in getting the level of support that came from 42 UN Members, plus the numbers increased as the Secretariat was informed that Haiti and Spain supported the motion when it was on the floor. Of the 44, 15 were SIDS DOCK Member States – two have not yet signed on, that is, Barbados and the Cook Islands, which is not a member of the UN. However, the Secretariat will follow up with Barbados, as it would be good optics to include all Parties to the SIDS DOCK Treaty.
53. There are 17 AOSIS Member States, with two – Cuba and Singapore – who are not Parties to the Memorandum of Agreement Establishing the SIDS DOCK. Seven (7) AOSIS Member States – namely - Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Micronesia (FSM) and Palau, have all signed the Statute Establishing the SIDS DOCK, and acceding to the Statute would be the next step. We have some work to be done to encourage them to the next step.

Table: UN Member States that Supported UNGA Observer Status for SIDS DOCK

SIDS DOCK MEMBER STATES (15)	AOSIS MEMBER STATES (17)	OTHER UN MEMBERS (10)
Antigua & Barbuda	Cabo Verde	Austria
The Bahamas	Comoros	Canada
Belize	Cuba	Equatorial Guinea
Dominica	Dominican Republic	Germany
Grenada	Fiji	Ireland
Jamaica	Guinea-Bissau	Italy
Mauritius	Guyana	Portugal
St. Kitts and Nevis	Kiribati	Republic of Moldova
St. Lucia	Marshall Islands	Switzerland
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Micronesia (Federated States of)	United Arab Emirates
Samoa	Palau	
Sao Tome and Principe	Papua New Guinea	
Seychelles	Singapore	
Tonga	Suriname	
Tuvalu	Timor-Leste	
	Trinidad and Tobago	
	Vanuatu	

54. **The Council took note of the update and requested the Secretariat to formally follow-up with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations thanking them for their support, and to keep the Council updated.**
55. Establishment of a SIDS DOCK Liaison Office on Knowledge Management and Innovation, Vienna Austria, supported by the Government of Austria and UNIDO: The Secretary-General informed that in June 2020, the Secretariat wrote to the Director-General for UNIDO, requesting assistance with the preparation of two proposals and assistance with implementation of the modified programme of work and requesting an update on the request for the Office in Vienna for the SIDS DOCK to facilitate improved collaboration and support to the SIDS. In July 2020, the Secretariat received a positive reply which directed us to begin the conversation with senior members inside UNIDO on the liaison office and assistance in preparation of proposals. The Secretariat is currently in the process of working with two senior persons in UNIDO and based on discussions UNIDO had with the Government of Austria, the Secretariat and UNIDO are jointly preparing the Proposal to provide an estimated 550,000 Euros from the Government of Austria, in support of establishing the office. The Secretary-General the Secretariat hopes to conclude discussions sometime next year, and this will further strengthen the partnerships with UNIDO, the Government of Austria and other organisation within the Vienna Energy Hub.

56. **The Executive Council noted with appreciation the report, and noting that there were no substantive issues raised regarding the documents and the matter before the Council, the Secretariat was instructed to transmit the documents to the President of the Assembly for the Assembly’s consideration and update, and to keep the Council informed of any further updates.**
57. Establishment of SIDS DOCK’s Presence in New York, supported by the Blue Planet Alliance: The Secretary-General said it would not be a Liaison office to the UN, it is more of an outreach to help raise resources from development partners, promote collaboration among SIDS and use the Foundation to mobilize domestic resources in the US philanthropic arena and engage in mutual efforts. The TOR for the office has not been fully defined, but will be an annex to the MOU, which will define in an article what BPF would support and what the SIDS DOCK Foundation would support. The purpose of the New York office is two-fold, or having “two shingles” outside the door – one for a “mini-satellite” Secretariat and the other for the SIDS DOCK Foundation. The SIDS DOCK Work Programme calls for the Secretariat to transition its management of administration and communication from the SIDS Permanent Missions to the UN that currently assist, and this office will facilitate that, and the new UNGA Observer Status is just one step in the transition. The other purpose of the office is to house the Foundation, with someone who has expertise in fundraising and administration and who can assist with the managing fundraising and ensuring the SIDS DOCK Work Programme is in synch with what the Foundation is doing for the organization.
58. The Secretary-General noted that in 2019, at a climate change conference, Ambassador Feturi was introduced by a colleague from the Climate Institute to Henk Rogers, from the Blue Planet Foundation (BPF), based in Hawaii. Based on those initial introduction and discussions, Mr. Rogers met in February 2020, in New York, with a group of Pacific SIDS (PSIDS) Ambassadors, facilitated by the Secretariat to explain to them what the BPF had done in Hawaii. Based on the work of the BPF in Hawaii over the past ten years, where it helped Hawaii make significant progress with the development of its RE, Hawaii now has a mandate of 100 % RE by 2045. Mr. Rogers was interested in seeing see how he could help other islands achieve what BPF has achieved with the Government in Hawaii, and help them with their transition.
59. Based on the discussions, the Secretariat worked with the PSIDS Ambassadors and BPF to prepare the MOU for cooperation between BPF and SIDS DOCK to support the PSIDS with RE development. The current approved MoU, which has not been signed, is being reviewed based on a recent meeting on 23 November 2020, with the Secretariat, BPF, and PSIDS Ambassadors in New York. The meeting gave some additional insights as to the

priorities and a couple of major issues that BPF would have to help the countries address. More emphasis should be placed on transportation not just the electricity sect and transport should include marine transport, not just land given the nature of the islands in the Pacific, and existing partnerships that are ongoing in countries in helping the transition had to be accommodated and the Ambassadors wanted to know how the BPF would address those kinds of partnerships. From that meeting the Secretariat will make amendments to the MOU and update the Council when all the parties agree on the final document for signature.

60. **The Executive Council took note of document A/6/MoU6 (2020), and approved the next steps as proposed by the Secretariat to make amendments to the MOU and update the Council when all the parties agree on the final document for signature, and circulate the document for the Council's approval.**
61. UNIDO's request to the SIDS DOCK Secretariat for assistance in helping UNIDO to establish a political relationship with AOSIS: Regarding the outreach to UNIDO on establishment of the SIDS DOCK office in Vienna, as part of the positive response from UNIDO, was a request from UNIDO for SIDS DOCK's assistance in helping UNIDO establish a political relationship with AOSIS. The Secretariat informed the Chair of the Executive Council and the member from Antigua and Barbuda, as upcoming Chair for AOSIS, and Belize, as current Chair for AOSIS. Based on the guidance from the Chair and Antigua and Barbuda, a letter was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belize, transmitting the request. There has been no response, and this is likely due to a change in administration in early-November 2020. Also, Belize's term as AOSIS Chair ends at the end of December 2020. It is doubtful that Belize will be able to respond by the end of the year, and it may fall to Antigua and Barbuda to address this matter. The Secretariat proposes to wait to see if there is any response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belize, before December 31, if not, the matter will be directed to Antigua and Barbuda.
62. **Noting that Antigua and Barbuda will assume the Chair of AOSIS in 2021, and recognizing that Antigua and Barbuda is a member of the Council thus providing a communication link among the parties, the Council approved the recommendation from the Secretariat that the matter be handed over to Antigua and Barbuda, to initiate the discussions with UNIDO, if there has been no response from Belize by 31 December 2020.**
63. SIDS DOCK Blue Guardians (Green Climate Fund (GCF) Proposal) – Partnering for Development of Climate-Resilient Blue Economies and Protecting the Oceans:
 - a. Project Preparation Facility (PPF) Application, Draft Concept Note, Budget and Terms of References for Consultants
 - b. Blue Guardians – A Programmatic Approach

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64. The two documents are the revised Concept Paper based on discussions with the five pilot countries, namely, Belize, Bahamas, Grenada, Tonga, Seychelles, which is to be submitted along with the funding request document to the GCF for a grant of approximately \$1.5 million to finance the preparation of the full \$40 million proposal. The Secretariat requested the Council to approve the draft so that the documentation can be finalized for submission.
65. **The Executive Council took note of the update and approved the Draft Proposal recognizing that there may changes based on discussions with the partners, and/or the funding institutions. The Council also approved the draft PPG for submission to the GCF. If there are any substantial changes to either document the Secretariat has been requested to resubmit the document to the Council, for approval.**
66. SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON): The Secretary-General commended Ms. Duncan, who coordinates the work of the IWON with her colleagues in Mauritius and Seychelles, and further commended the member from Jamaica for responding to the outreach from the IWON, to establish the first IWON Jamaica House. In 2019, Mr. Foliaki, the former Member from Samoa, indicated that Samoa would be agreeable to an IWON Samoa House, and in November 2019, Sao Tome and Principe also was agreeable to establishing an IWON Sao Tome and Principe House. The IWON House Concept is a business incubation centre that is not just for women but also for men. However, the aim is to make sure that women are fully represented. The IWON House is intended to support women that have small businesses, but using RE to power their businesses and make their lives and communities more sustainable. The IWON House covers a number of activities and all targeted activities are common to the Pacific, Caribbean, and the AIS. The IWON is partnering with a local Jamaican NGO, the Association of Development Agencies (ADA), that has a regional and international presence, and is one of the oldest NGOs in Jamaica, focused on the environment, trade and climate change
67. On Friday, 27 November 2020, a meeting with the IWON and ADA Board Members was held with the Executive Council Member from Jamaica, Hon. Pearnel Charles, Jr., in his capacity as Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, noting that this IWON House is a Climate Change Project. A Briefing Note and Proposal was prepared and submitted to the Hon. Minister, who agreed to place the matter before Cabinet, for approval. A Government building, currently dormant, was also identified, and the Minister's office agreed to follow up on the status. The IWON also has commitments from UNIDO who will help under the SDG 9, in terms of industrialization and infrastructure, and the CCREEE, PCREEE and ECREEE, CARICOM Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in terms of technical support from the regional organizations. This is the template that we would use to roll out the Pacific and AIS IWON Houses. The Secretariat will keep the Council informed of the progress.
68. SIDS DOCK Ocean Energy Programme: The Secretariat informed of two activities under this area of the Work Programme:

- a. Project Proposal to access funding from the United Kingdom (UK) Energy Catalyst round 8: Clean Energy Access - Industrial Research: Joint Partnership with SIDS DOCK, Sao Tome and Principe, UNIDO and OTEC Resources (UK) - Deployment of a small-scale Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Offshore Platform Barge – Dominique - with a 1.5MW System providing baseload power. This project is on behalf of the newest member of the organization – Sao Tome and Principe, to support the development of a public private partnership (PPP) for the deployment of the world’s first OTEC facility. We have talked long and plenty about OTEC and finally we think we have a convergence between the private sector and a government to develop a facility that would generate prices below the cost of diesel.
 - b. SIDS DOCK, UNIDO, Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GEN-SEC) Webinar: Ocean Energy Technologies for Blue Economies in SIDS. This is a collaborative effort between UNIDO, CTCN, and the regional energy centres that we established with UNIDO and the Government of Austria, and hopefully, our new partner, IRENA, to develop an Ocean Energy Platform comprised of government, private sector, academia, and development partners that would continue to hasten the deployment of ocean energy technology in SIDS. This group will plan a number of Seminars to increase and Webinars to increase the understanding of Ocean Energy and to prepare the Platform for presentation at the VEF for July 21, 2021.
69. **The Executive Council expressed its appreciation for this proposal as it sees it as critically important to SIDS, noted with appreciation the update and approved the partnership with UNIDO and others to develop the Ocean Energy Platform, scheduled to be launched at the Vienna Forum in July 2021, and to keep the Council updated.**
70. SIDS DOCK Waste-to-Energy (WtE) Programme: Energy Services from Organic Waste: Integrated Waste Management Solutions for Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Protection in SIDS – Update on Project Partnerships: Identifying potential partners for this work programme has been very difficult. Despite the numerous co-benefits, there is very limited interest in improving the management of waste by converting significant portions of the waste stream to energy, and he is unsure why there is this lack of interest, and this includes difficulties in getting the energy people to talk to the waste people. In SIDS, more than 70 percent of regularly generated waste is usable for producing fuel that can be used for energy purposes. After a significant amount of time, the Secretariat has identified three potential partners:
- a. UNEP, our Blue Guardians Partner. This project comes under their Clean Seas Programme. The Secretariat managed to convince UNEP that the pollution comes from the land and if you manage it on the land lot less costly and you can derive more co-benefits from it.

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- b. Albioma, a French Engineering company, that is widely diversified, in terms of technologies, mostly thermal technology.
 - c. SeaOne, a US natural gas technology company.
71. **The Council took note of the comments and approved the Secretariat continuing the dialogue with UNEP and potential private sector partners.**
72. Other matters discussed at the meeting under, “Any Other Business,” included:
- a. The Member from Mauritius asked about any approach to the Commonwealth, to have some kind of partnership. The Secretariat informed that currently, there is no formal cooperation agreement but the Commonwealth has attended a couple sessions of the Assembly as an Observer, including the Secretary-General for the Commonwealth. The Secretariat has also coordinated with their with their Oceans Programs and they have participated in an IWON meeting. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19, the SIDS DOCK Work Programme was modified and the Secretariat is thus focusing on those partners with agreements. Interface is currently very limited or not at all, but the hope is to normalize it even though it might be virtual. The Secretariat is looking at what kind of outreach is possible as everyone has a modified COVID work programme, and there is need to look at their priorities and also the Secretariat’s resource constraints.
 - b. The Secretary-General informed that the Secretariat has had informal conversations with Jan Hartke, a well-known friend of the SIDS, who has joined the Stimson Center, a new effort on global resilience. The Secretariat will send information to Members to see if there is any potential interest, as there seems to be resources available. The Secretariat is requesting the Council approve the Secretariat continue discussion and to further investigate a potential partnership.
73. **The Executive Council took note with appreciation of the oral update, and decided to approve the Secretariat to continue discussions to investigate the potential for a partnership and keep the Council updated.**

V NEXT STEPS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Arrangements for the Sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK

74. The Chair referred to the Draft Decision on the Extension of the Term of the Bureau of the Fifth Assembly of SIDS DOCK, approved by the Assembly on 20 October 2020, as contained in document A/5/DC/3 (2020), recommending to the Assembly to approve Grenada, Tonga and Seychelles to continue to serve as President and Vice Presidents, respectively, till 31 December 2021. As some of you are aware, a new President of Seychelles was elected on 25 November 2020, and in this regard, the Secretariat has informed that it has been in communication with the Government of Seychelles regarding

its continued participation on the Bureau.

75. The Secretary-General informed the Council that Secretariat recently sent a letter of congratulations to the new President of Seychelles and also sent a separate communication to the SIDS DOCK Focal Point. Like Belize, Seychelles is going through a political transition, however, regarding project implementation it has been business as usual. The Secretariat informed that it is continuing the outreach to the Government of the Seychelles, to continue being an integral part of the SIDS DOCK organization.
76. **The Executive Council noted that the sixth session of the Assembly would be convened within the term of the current officials and therefore agreed to place the matter for a date at its next meeting.**

Arrangements for the ninth meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK

77. The Secretariat has recommended June 2021, for the convening of the ninth meeting, which will likely be virtual. In this regard, the Secretariat will send out its usual notices enquiring about members availability and setting a mutual day and time.

IV SPECIAL & SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SIDS DOCK

78. The special and seventh meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK was held on 27 May 2020, via telephone and video conferencing using GoToMeeting, a web-based hosting service.
79. The Meeting was attended by the following Members of the Council: H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau (Seychelles - Chair); H.E. Mr. Conrod Hunte (Antigua & Barbuda); Dr. Peter Allen (Belize), Hon. Mr. Pearnel Charles, Jr., MP (Jamaica); H.E. Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul (Mauritius); Dr. Tevita Tukunga (Tonga – Vice Chair); and Mr. Rishy Bukoree (Mauritius) was in attendance as an observer.
80. The Chair welcomed the new members of the Executive Council, and extended congratulations to the three new outstanding candidates elected to the Council from Antigua and Barbuda (2020-2022), Belize (2020 to 2022), and Jamaica (2020-2022):
81. 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.
82. This was the first Special meeting that a Chair has convened since the constituting of the Council in 2015. He noted that these are remarkable times that has caused the entire world to reflect on how we will function and operate in what is turning out to be, a more virtual and electronically managed world. This is just one of the major changes that the Coronavirus or COVID-19 has brought, and as the Pandemic continues unabated, it seems there will be more changes as we navigate an unknown path.
83. The Chair informed that there has been a wave of postponements and cancellations of United Nations (UN) meetings in New York and around the world, and the Pandemic has impacted the staging of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Glasgow Climate Change Conference, and the fifth UN conference on the least developed countries (LDCs), as well as efforts to reach agreements on new frameworks for biological diversity and chemicals and waste management beyond 2020. In some areas, work is shifting to alternative virtual formats, such as the UN's Fifth Committee on administrative and budgetary matters.
84. The Council noted that SIDS DOCK had to adapt and one of the first actions taken, was to instruct the Secretariat to engage in a consultation and seek advice on approaches to continuing the important work of the SIDS DOCK Assembly and the Council during this

- most challenging of times, particularly as it relates to taking key decisions concerning the Organisation.
85. The Special and Seventh Meeting of the Council was called primarily to focus on the decisions that have been made as it relates to the modifications of the work programme and to make subsequent decisions for its effective implementation, including issues related to governance and administrative matters relating to the establishment of the Secretariat and its staffing.
 86. 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.
 87. On 15 May 2020, the Chair of the Council was joined by Dr. Peter Harris, Managing Director for GRID-Arendal, for a virtual signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as contained in Document A/5/MoU1(2019/Rev1, that was agreed to by the Assembly of SIDS DOCK at its fifth session. Dr. Harris signed in Norway, and the Chair signed in New York. This is a significant strategic partnership for sustainable use and management of marine resources in small islands and low-lying developing countries. Projects will support the economic and livelihoods systems of the populations and promote nature-based solutions and technologies.
 88. The 2014 Samoa Conference placed a lot of currency on partnerships as the best method to advance the Samoa Pathway and to provide the assistance that the SIDS need in dealing with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the other international commitments including those for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The GRID-Arendal partnership is in support of the Blue Guardians Programme which is focused on helping pilot SIDS to develop much better coastal management systems to build resilience to climate change and begin to drive the Blue Economy using a lot of examples of nature-based solutions that have been proven. An advertisement was posted for a Consultant to prepare a Readiness Grant proposal to the GCF; GRID-Arendal reported receiving 74 applications, and have narrowed it down to three (3), and very shortly, will begin interviews to select the consultant to prepare the proposal for submission to the GCF within the next three to four months.
 89. The MoU with IRENA as contained in document A/5/MoU2 (2019/Rev.1), is designed to help the SIDS build their capacity, increase their access to information and upgrade the analytical tools to undertake the kinds of multi-variable analysis needed in the energy sector to find the synergies with, for example, the water sector, waste management, agriculture and tourism. The Secretary-General informed that the Secretariat would circulate the final draft of the MoU for the Council’s approval.

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90. The Secretary-General reported that the Secretariat has two MoUs under consideration with energy-based private sector companies (a) Grid Market, known to the member from Tonga, where they are doing some work, and also in Samoa. They have a comparative advantage in that they have very advanced artificial intelligence systems that allows for energy sector analysis, cost comparison and resource requirement, which are critical pieces of tools and know-how for SIDS, and we look forward to seeing how they can contribute to the transformation of the SIDS energy sector. The Secretary-General reported that the other MoUs is with the Blue Planet Foundation, a 10-year-old foundation based in Hawaii, that had been at the forefront of transforming the Hawaii energy sector to renewables. Hawaii is one of the well-known examples for development of renewable energy at rapid pace. Blue Planet has been a catalyst in supporting them with technical assistance and developing policies and pilots, and through different initiatives, proving that you can have a high level of renewables and still have a stable grid. Blue Planet will bring a lot of practical experience to support renewable energy projects and SIDS DOCK Member Governments, while Grid Market will bring real private sector experience and will help both our private and public sector entities in making better decisions in choosing renewable energy options.
91. Update on Establishing SIDS DOCK's presence in Belize – the Secretariat now has an operational account with the assistance of the Government of Belize, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Dr. Peter Allen, from the Ministry of Energy Public Service, who were tenacious, cooperative and persistent in ensuring the establishment of the Secretariat's presence in Belize, fulfilling the Council's mandate given by the Assembly in September 2019. The Council congratulated Belize, the SIDS DOCK Host Country, noting that Belize has been living up to its commitments in the Host Country Agreement. In September 2017, the Government of Belize signed the SIDS DOCK Host Country Agreement at the third session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK. The Secretariat remains located at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC/5Cs), in Belmopan Belize.
92. SIDS DOCK not-for-profit Status USA, and the SIDS DOCK Foundation; Launch of the SIDS DOCK Foundation; and Appointment of SIDS DOCK Foundation Patron - The Chair informed that the Board of Directors of the SIDS DOCK Foundation met on 19 November 2019. The Board is required to meet, annually. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board, His Excellency Dr. Vince Henderson, Permanent Representative of Dominica to the US, His Excellency Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Vice President, and former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN, chaired the meeting. The Board has two Vice Presidents, the other being His Excellency Mr. Ronald J. Jumeau, the current Chair of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK. The Chair informed that the meeting was called by the President of the Board, Dr. Albert Binger, for the following purpose:
- a. To elect officers to serve on the Board for 2020, and to facilitate preparation of its Annual Report.
 - b. To provide an update on the planning of the Launch of the Foundation & Fifth Anniversary Event.

- c. To provide an update on the progress made in identifying a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).
 - d. To discuss the Draft Role & Responsibilities: SIDS DOCK Foundation Patron.
93. Launch of the Foundation - Based on consultations and professional advice from individuals within the not-for-profit sector, travel restrictions, and knowing the high risk of hosting an event in New York as the situation stands now, and recognizing that major activities have been postponed and cancelled, the Council decided that the Launch of the SIDS DOCK Foundation be postponed till a date to be decided in 2021, and that this was recommended to the President of the Assembly, for the Assembly's consideration and adoption by silence procedure, as agreed by the Assembly on 15 May 2020.
94. On the matter of the identification of a SIDS DOCK Foundation Patrons, this is to aid with promoting the launch of the Foundation and fundraising efforts. Recalling that at the 7 July 2019 meeting of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK, members were asked to recommend eminent persons for consideration. The Secretariat also held consultations, including with the Bureau and in particular the President of the fifth Assembly. Three recommendations were received – all recommending His Excellency Mr. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa. A letter of invitation to serve as Patron (EC/S/7/3), along with a document outlining the Roles and Responsibilities of the Patron (EC/S/7/4), was transmitted to the Prime Minister of Samoa on 19 February 2020. On 3 March 2020, the Prime Minister of Samoa formally accepted the invitation to serve as the first Patron for the SIDS DOCK Foundation. The Foundation has filled the vacancy for one of the Patrons from SIDS, with the acceptance from the Prime Minister of Samoa, but must still identify a Patron from a Developed Country.
95. Progress was made in identifying at least three (3) Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Unfortunately, the discussions halted at the end of March 2020, due to the Pandemic, however, the Secretariat restarted discussions at the beginning of May 2020, with at least one of the CPAs, and will inform the Council as soon as there is any new information.
96. The Board at its 19 November 2019 meeting elected the following to serve for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020:
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| Chairman of the Board | Ronald Jumeau |
| President | Albert Binger |
| Vice President | Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Inga Rhonda King |
97. 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.

98. SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON) The Chair informed that in the same vein as the appointment of the SIDS DOCK Foundation Patron, the SIDS DOCK IWON has proposed the appointment of a Patron for the women's network. Very shortly, the Secretariat will be circulating a document, "Roles and Responsibilities of the SIDS DOCK IWON Patron," for the Council's review, and recommendations for consideration from the Secretariat. The Chair noted that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are hearing a lot about the leadership of women in fighting the pandemic and noted that some of the more successful countries fighting the pandemic are led by women. It was his hope that this has an effect on the choice of the Patron. The IWON has a heavy focus on women and children and the aim is to promote their needs. The Secretariat will circulate that document and requested members to provide recommendations of eminent high-level persons who can serve along-side the Patron of the SIDS DOCK Foundation, the Prime Minister of Samoa and Patron from the developed world.
99. The previous IWON Patron was a man, His Excellency Dr. Vince Henderson, former Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the UN, former Chair of the SIDS DOCK Steering Committee, and the first Chair of the Executive Council. The IWON does not discriminate in the selection of the IWON Patron, it is open to men and women. The IWON would not have existed without the support of men within and outside the SIDS DOCK Organization who insisted. It was recalled that even one of our early partners tried to negate the entire IWON from the work programme, but it was thanks to the men from SIDS, for ensuring they have provided a space for the women and children.
100. SIDS DOCK Captive Insurance - the Secretariat has been doing some work on the Captive Insurance in the context of Loss and Damage and a Core Working Group has been formed to help accelerate the process. Currently, the Secretariat is working with a Captive Insurance firm named Integra, introduced by the SIDS DOCK pro bono attorneys, Squire Patton Boggs (SPB). Integra provided pro bono time to investigate the viability of a Captive Insurance for SIDS that would be even more suitable than what exists for economic and environmental assets and public infrastructure. Integra concluded that there was no obvious reason why such a mechanism should not be successful, subject to some critical factors designed to get buy-in from countries, premiums are affordable, innovative methods of financing some of the recurring cost and they also reminded that insurance is not the magic bullet to address all the issues related to loss and damage but that should not diminish our ambition to provide as much coverage as possible to even consider groups such as fisherfolk.

101. Based on the Modified Work Programme, the Secretariat has started to engage Captive Insurance colleagues, and decided that additional information was required, e.g., a more easily understood document of what a Captive Insurance is and pros and cons compared to conventional insurance offered now in SIDS where most of the premiums are reexported in the form of reinsurance to reduce national risk. Based on discussions held at the first meeting of the Climate Change and Loss and Damage Core Working Group (CCLD-CWG), on 22 April 2020, via teleconferencing, it was decided to work toward developing a Readiness Grant Proposal to the GCF based on a process that would be agreed sometime in November to December 2020, when the initial drafting of the proposal to GCF can begin. The Secretariat will need to identify pilot countries and identify how to finance initial data collection to develop the proposal. The Secretariat made a request to the Council, for USD 25,000 for this activity, that was earmarked by Belize for the launch of the Foundation, and based on the Modified Work Programme, there is the opportunity with the Council's approval, to prepare the proposal for the GCF to conduct the feasibility study for the pilot countries. The Council approved the request from the Secretariat that based on the Modified Work Programme (2020-2022), to use the USD 25,000 that was earmarked in the Secretariat's budget by Belize for the launch of the Foundation, to prepare the Readiness Grant Proposal for the GCF to conduct the feasibility study for the Captive Insurance Facility for the pilot countries, and requested the Secretary-General to keep it updated on the matter.
102. SIDS DOCK Ocean Energy Programme - Establishment of an Ocean Energy Core Working Group (OE-CWG). Similar to the work being undertaken to accelerate the Captive Insurance Facility, an Ocean Energy Core Working Group was formed. He said the SIDS Oceans Programme is prominent in the Modified Work Programme, recognizing that oceans are our largest renewable energy resource and that our marine resources are the major foreign exchange earners for the majority of our countries. the SIDS Ocean Programme focuses on our largest renewable energy source – the oceans, which can provide us with just about everything, if we know how to do it in a sustainable manner. One of the things we need most from the ocean is energy, i.e., energy in the form of energized electrons, but also energy in the form of services, such as cooling, refrigeration, desalination, various industrial applications where seawater can become raw material producer for things like lithium.
103. The Secretariat is looking to put together enough of a Core Group of development partners, private sector, development institutions that gives the critical mass and credibility needed to promote Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) technology as a great idea for small islands, to one that is actually a working idea. SIDS DOCK sees OTEC as the corner piece of what is now emerging as the Blue Economy because the ocean is a source of inexhaustible amounts of energy; once we can get the technology right, we can get it deployed at the right scale at the right price. The Working Group consists of the French company, Naval Energies. Last year, SIDS DOCK signed an MoU with Naval; there are also smaller private sector groups in the Caribbean such as New Leaf Power (Jamaica), and regional energy institutions as partners. The Core Working Group had its first meeting, via teleconference, on 21 April 2020. The idea is to develop the best proposal for each

interested country. Naval brings to the partnership access to financing, which we hope to get access to French funding and more favourable consideration from the European Union (EU) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), when we submit our joint projects.

104. Naval developed a very unique software technology that allows the various products from the OTEC to be analysed in an actual situation to figure the best combination of products from an OTEC facility that would make it viable, given the point that each country will have different demands; some would need desalination while some need more air conditioning in addition to electricity. This software would help SIDS to do a lot of simulation on optimum OTEC combinations for the 14 countries the Secretariat has been working with on OTEC, for a while now. OTEC is now viewed in the context of “what does an OTEC cogeneration facility produce in added value compared to other renewable energy facilities.” We can now generate different scenarios and run computerized models to show that there are significant economic, social and environmental benefits with each cogeneration application, this helps us to make the case to our leaders as to why OTEC should be a priority. At the moment, the Secretariat is focused on trying to deploy pieces of the technology, where lucrative pieces for energy services make economic sense, e.g., use of seawater cooling in hotels, which is one thousand (1,000) times more efficient than using a Heating, Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) system, and the return on energy efficiency investment is one-tenth (1/10th) the cost of a comparable conventional renewable energy system.
105. The plan is by June 2021, to develop a proposal to build an ocean energy platform in collaboration with UNIDO and Austria, that would facilitate the development of partnerships to promote various ocean energy activities that benefit the SIDS and then to keep track of the experiences and share them on the platform. One of the main problems for SIDS is availability of freshwater, and the technology that has freshwater as a co-product is going to find a lot of utility if the option is to use reverse osmosis to generate freshwater because of the cost of the environmental impact. The Council hopes to update the Assembly at its next session.
106. The Council approved the development of the Ocean Energy Platform in partnership with UNIDO and Austria, and requested the Secretary-General to keep it updated on the matter, and to further update the Assembly at its next meeting.
107. Other matters discussed at the meeting under, “Any Other Business,” included:
 - a. Secretariat Staffing:
 - i. The Executive Council agreed to the Secretariat increasing Ms. Christine Neves Duncan, Chief of Staff and Project Director’s time, from half-time to full-time, for the next 18 months, to get the work programmes properly defined, launch the Foundation, and execution of other programming activities.

- ii. The Executive Council agreed to the Secretariat hiring a Coordinator/Administrator for the Secretariat in the Ministry of Energy, Belize, on a part-time basis.
- iii. The Executive Council agreed to the Secretariat hiring an Assistant, to support the work of the IKI Project¹, on a part-time basis, and will notify the members prior to hiring.

V ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

108. The Secretary-General said one of the reasons why we should take advantage of submitting proposals to the GCF at this time, is that there are two SIDS on the GCF Executive Council, i.e., the Chair of the SIDS DOCK Executive Council, Ambassador Jumeau, and another representative from the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), represented by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, so we are trying now that we have two voices, to get in as many proposals as possible.

VI NEXT STEPS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Arrangements for the Sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK

109. The tentative date for the sixth session was scheduled for Saturday, 26 September 2020, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on the margins of the General Debate of the 75th session of the UNGA. However, this will not be possible due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The question facing members, knowing what we know, is, what is the recommendation to the Assembly. In the case of the UN, the Chair said that he and the member from Mauritius had been discussing, prior to the meeting, the complexities caused by the pandemic. The UN Secretary-General proposed to the President of the General Assembly, convening a hybrid meeting as they don't expect all leaders to make it to New York, further, and because we do not expect all leaders would want to come to New York, but will be staying at home to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. What is being proposed by the UN Secretary-General is video presentations by world leaders, that's the virtual part of the General Debate, and a partially physical part with most likely Permanent Representatives to the UN, in New York, who would represent their country, with one representative per country in the UN General Assembly; usually, countries are allocated

¹ "IKI Project" or the Project for Supporting the Implementation of NDCs in the Caribbean – Transforming the Energy and Transport Sectors Towards a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Future: Commissioned by the International Climate Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU): Consortium for the German-funded International Climate Initiative (IKI) Project for "Implementation of Transport & Energy,

six (6) seats in the UNGA. Due to social distancing, it is not possible to fill all those seats, so we in SIDS DOCK have to adapt accordingly.

110. The Secretariat held a series of consultations, and concluded that it would not be possible to undertake the orientation for the new Bureau and new members of the Executive Council. The Secretariat usually conducts pre-Assembly briefing sessions (at least 2-3 months before the September session), and post-Assembly (October to December), the Secretariat updates the President and Vice Presidents and new members of the Executive
111. Council to prepare them for the programme of work in the following year. Currently, the Secretariat is stretched, and the main focus is in trying to ensure that we secure funding and support we received commitments for; it is not a situation where partners are reneging, it's countries are prioritising "me, first" due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, however, some partners are moving forward, so the Secretariat's resources are channeled to that. It would be very difficult to reorient, go through the entire work programme again and trying to realign everything when the current team in place, including members of the Executive Council and the Bureau, represented by Grenada (President) and Tonga and Seychelles (Vice Presidents) have been heavily involved and informed.
112. The Secretariat recommends that without setting any precedent, we try to see if we can keep the current team in place to carry us through till next September, at the sixth session of the Assembly, in 2021, so that we can have a full and proper handover of the new modified work programme and enough time to give a full brief and also, just to be fair to the new President and the Bureau, to ensure that they have a successful term. Against this background, the Secretariat noted that handing over at this time would not ensure that the new President and Bureau of the sixth Assembly would have a highly successful term, in terms of outcomes and participation.
113. The Secretariat conducted an event risk analysis to make sure that all the assumptions and risks being faced, recognizing that the Council and Assembly are governed by Rules and Procedures. Those Rules and Procedures makes way for postponement of meetings which the President and the Assembly can make that decision as well as extension of the terms of officers, and all this can be done without setting precedent. The event risk analysis showed multiple causes for postponement and/or cancellation. Failing to recognize potential problems could have a huge impact on many areas of the organization, including SIDS DOCK's reputation and financial stability. It can compromise the fledgling SIDS DOCK brand, jeopardize the safety of attendees, and create inestimable damages.
114. The Chair thanked the members for their remarks, and noted that pending feedback from the Secretariat to ensure that everything is legal, the Secretariat will draft a Decision of the Assembly, to extend the term of the Bureau of the fifth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly. The Council agreed that this document will be appropriately noted and transmitted to the President of the Assembly, as decision EC/7/DC/4, for the Assembly's consideration and adoption by silent procedure, as agreed by the Assembly on 15 May 2020. The Chair asked if there were any further comments.

115. The Council decided to recommend for the Assembly's consideration and adoption by silence procedure, as agreed by the Assembly on 15 May 2020, that without setting any precedent, the Election of the President (Caribbean Region) and Vice Presidents (AIS and Pacific Regions, respectively) for the fifth session be invited to continue serving till the convening of the next session of the Assembly (sixth session) when it is deemed safe for all the members to meet, and have the Bureau, whose term expires in 2020, serve an additional one-year term to 2021. Those members are:
- a. Dr. The Right Honourable Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada and President of the fifth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK (Caribbean)
 - b. Honourable Mr. Danny Faure, President, Republic of Seychelles (AIS)
 - c. Honourable Dr. Pohiva Tu'I'onetoa, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Tonga (Pacific)
116. The Council decided to recommend for the Assembly's consideration and adoption by silence procedure, as agreed by the Assembly on 15 May 2020, that without setting any precedent, the recommendation is to have two members of the Council, whose term expires in 2020, serve an additional one-year term to 2021. Those members are:
- a. His Excellency H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the UN.
 - b. Dr. Rhianna M. Neely-Murphy, Environmental Officer, Ministry of Environment and Housing – The Commonwealth of the Bahamas – Rapporteur.
117. The member from Tonga, Dr. Tevita Tukunga, recalled that at the fifth session of the Assembly, in September 2019, it was decided that Tonga would serve as President of the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK. He said he was happy that the members agreed and expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to all the members on behalf of Tonga.
118. The Council made it clear that Tonga will serve as the President-designate of the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK. The Council noted that there have been no changes, only a postponement of the meeting. Tonga remains the candidate for Presidency when we the next Assembly is convened.
119. Establishment of the SIDS DOCK Secretariat – The Council will continue to work with the Government of Belize to finalize establishment of the Headquarters for the Secretariat.

SIDS DOCK not-for-profit Status

120. The Secretariat will support the Foundation in finalizing documentation for the SIDS DOCK not-for-profit Status, USA, and identify a CPA, and begin the process of recruiting a new Board Member who is a well-known philanthropist.

Captive Insurance Mechanism (CIM)

121. Captive Insurance – The Secretariat to begin the process to request the Government of Belize to disburse USD 25,000 that was earmarked in the Secretariat’s budget by Belize for the launch of the Foundation, to prepare the Readiness Grant Proposal for the GCF to conduct the feasibility study for the Captive Insurance Facility for the pilot countries, and requested the Secretary-General to keep it updated on the matter.

SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON)

122. While the IWON continues to attract limited support, it was able to stay afloat during 2019-2020, as a result of its dedicated partners who continue to live up to their commitments. The Secretariat is currently reviewing ways in which it can help get the IWON additional resources and have begun looking at other similar organizations and their leadership structure that support fundraising and advocacy efforts.

Blue Guardians Programme

123. Blue Guardians – the Secretariat is awaiting the outcome of the selection of the consultant to prepare the proposal for submission to the GCF within the next three to four months.