



“Lifting us all up” - Accelerating innovative clean energy value chains in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Organized by: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), CARICOM Secretariat, SIDS DOCK, PCREEE, CCREEE, Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates

13 July 2018, 13:15 – 14:30

Conference Room 3 in the UN Conference Building

Context:

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) could represent one of the most globally compelling business cases for sustainable energy investment, with renewable energy and energy efficiency dramatically less expensive than the predominant use of diesel and heavy fuel in the power and transport sectors. At the same time, the rate of deployment – while increasing – remains lower than is economically justified, and many SIDS are yet to fully capture greater socio-economic benefits from the development of their local energy sector.

Apart from positive social and environmental effects, enhanced access to sustainable energy services can – through lower costs and new value adding uses of local resources – contribute to increased competitiveness and productivity of economic key sectors (e.g. energy generation and distribution, waste management and treatment, water supply and sanitation, fishery, agro-processing, tourism, small-scale manufacturing, transport).

Moreover, the expanding sustainable energy and climate technology sector can become itself an important source of qualified jobs and turn-over for domestic entrepreneurs. In some areas, such as electric mobility, waste to energy and ocean thermal energy conversion, SIDS can become important laboratories for facilitating wider global technology change and dissemination.

However, despite ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency targets of many SIDS, the energy transformation has not reached economies of scale. The market development continues to be hindered by a broad range of both demand and supply(ier) side barriers and shortcomings related to policy and regulation, fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, technical limitations, economics, finance, capacity, quality infrastructure, R&D and innovation frameworks, knowledge and awareness.

In a number of SIDS the inability of the domestic private sector to supply sustainable energy quality products and services under competitive prices has become a bottleneck. The domestic manufacturing and servicing sector remains weakly developed and the growing demand remains underserved by international suppliers and supply chains due to high market entry costs and risks.



Such trends raise concerns regarding the inclusiveness of technology transfer processes. This offers opportunities, but also bears the risk that the local value and job creation effects of such investments remain low and are not sustained in the long-run. Particularly in least developed countries (LDCs) and some SIDS even basic equipment and services (e.g. consulting, energy auditing, installation, and maintenance) continue to be imported. The lack of domestic suppliers and service providers puts into question the long-term sustainability of already undertaken renewable energy investments. The lack of domestic R&D and entrepreneurship hinders the commercialization of solutions adapted to the realities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Typically, around 50 per cent of the entire value stream of clean energy technologies originates from major equipment. The rest is generated by the balance of system components, smaller replacement parts, installation, operation and maintenance services, as well as civil works. These are precisely the areas where there is room to develop local content and where local SMEs can play a key role as ancillary industries.

There is a need for increased action to strengthen the productive (manufacturing, assembling, servicing) and innovation capacities of domestic energy businesses and entrepreneurs (e.g. fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, incubation, acceleration, R&D, quality infrastructure and standards, qualification, IPs, cluster building). Moreover, there is the requirement to make systematic use of new energy technologies to transform domestic resources into value adding commodities in key sectors of island economies.

Using these two dimensions, the side event will explore how SIDS, regional organizations, and international partners are fostering and can better foster inclusive clean energy markets through policy, technical and technological approaches, business models, and multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks.

Participation

Participants will include Member States, United Nations organizations, financial institutions, as well as representatives from academia, the private sector and civil society that are attending the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Format

This event will feature interactive panel discussion following the Davos style format, and an interactive Question and Answer segment. The panelists will represent different stakeholders from the UN, other international organizations, member states, private sector and academia followed by an interactive dialogue with members of the audience.



Draft Programme

<p>Opening</p> <p>1:15pm – 1:30pm</p>	<p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Sylvia Meier-Kajbic, Head of the Department for Development Cooperation in the framework of the European Union and the United Nations, Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria • H.E. Mr. Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations • H.E. Ms. Keisha A. McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations
<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>1:30pm – 2:15pm</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Vince Henderson, Ambassador of Dominica to the United States <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Justin Locke, Director of Island Energy Program, Rocky Mountain Institute • Mr. Davon Gardner, Energy Programme Manager, CARICOM Secreteriat • Ms. Safiya Sawney, Blue Economy Director, Blue Innovation Institute <p>Closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tareq Emtairah, Director of Energy Department, UNIDO
<p>Q&A session</p> <p>2:15pm-2:30pm</p>	<p>Interactive discussion with the audience</p>