

The Fourth Meeting of the Small Island States Resilience Initiative (SISRI) Practitioners' Network

“Bringing resilience to scale in Small Island Developing States”

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) - 7bis Avenue de la Paix

Geneva, Switzerland – May 12–13, 2019

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Meeting is co-sponsored by the European Commission (EC), World Bank, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Islands Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Background

SIDS are some of the most vulnerable countries to natural hazards and climate change owing to their unique set of challenges due to their social, economic and environmental circumstances. They include more than two thirds of the countries with the highest relative average annual disaster losses caused by natural disasters– between 1 to 9% of their GDP, and their costs are growing. These recurrent losses undermine development gains and add to the national debt.

SIDS are in the frontline of climate and disaster resilient solutions and have taken the lead to ensure coherence in the implementation of the three major international agreements with high relevance for climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework 2015-2030.

To achieve climate and disaster resilient development it is imperative to integrate and scale up climate and disaster resilient solutions in development policies, plans and investments. It is therefore important to bring together SIDS representatives from the Ministries of Finance and Planning - with the overall responsibility for development, representatives from the technical ministries and agencies and development partners to exchange challenges, solutions and to discuss how to scale up efforts for climate and disaster resilient development in SIDS.

To this end, the EC, World Bank, GFDRR, UNISDR, WMO and UN-OHRLLS have joined forces to hold a meeting of 70 to 80 practitioners from 25-30 SIDS on climate and disaster resilience in SIDS back-to-back with the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC) and UNISDR's 2019 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland from May 13-17.

The draft program will be developed jointly with the practitioners from SIDS to ensure that the knowledge, best practices and lessons learned most relevant to their work is being shared. Possible topics to cover include resilience planning and prioritization, addressing implementation bottlenecks and an in-depth

analysis/discussion of key dimensions of resilience including resilient infrastructure, nature-based solutions, social resilience, preparedness and early warning systems and risk finance.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are:

- To exchange experiences and good practices developed by small island states to make development climate and disaster resilient;
- To facilitate peer-to-peer learning to support effective design and implementation of climate and disaster resilient investments and policy interventions and;
- To further strengthen the community of practice between small island states' practitioners

Format

- 2-day event
- Short opening and contextual session followed by a series of topics aimed at sharing successful experiences of the participant countries, and (ii) allowing for replication / peer learning. The sessions would be a blend of lightning talks by SIDS representatives and presentations by development partners
- 1-2 break-out sessions for focused work in groups

Outcomes

- Successful peer exchange with examples of countries picking up lessons/models/practices to implement
- Post-workshop surveys showing high ratings for knowledge sharing and learning

The outcomes of the meeting will be captured in a workshop report and possibly a video that will highlight key points from the discussions and propose concrete set of recommendations and next steps based on lessons learned and good practices. The report will be published on the GFDRR/SISRI website.

Annex 1: About the Small Island States Resilience Initiative (SISRI)

The Small Island States Resilience Initiative (SISRI) was launched at the UN SIDS Conference in Samoa 2014 as a response to small island states' calls for more adequate, predictable and effective flows of finance from the international community. SISRI's objective is to help up to 24 small island states in the Caribbean, Pacific and African/Indian Ocean reduce climate and disaster risks to their populations, assets, ecosystem and economies. SISRI supports countries to integrate climate and disaster risks management into their development plans, strengthen infrastructure and ecosystems, reduce social vulnerability, and improve capacity to recover from disasters.

SISRI supports the mainstreaming of resilience into World Bank portfolio through technical assistance, analytical work, access to climate finance, synthesis of knowledge and good practices in small island states and facilitates the sharing of such knowledge. One of SISRI's pillars is to build and maintain a Practitioners' Network that connects governments from small island states across the globe to exchange experiences and good practices on climate and disaster resilient development. It aims to facilitate peer-to-peer learning to support effective design and implementation of climate and disaster resilient investments and policy interventions.

To date, three Practitioner's Network Meetings have been organized. The first one took place in Venice as a side event of the Understanding Risk conference in May 2016, bringing together 50 participants from 22 islands. The second meeting was held at the margins of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun in 2017, bringing together 80 participants from 34 SIDS in collaboration with the UN Agencies UNISDR, UNDESA and UNFCCC. The Third SISRI Practitioners' Network meeting took place in Mexico City from 13-14 May, as a side event of the 2018 Understanding Risk (UR) Forum. This event was funded by the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program (ACP-EU NDRR). The meeting brought together 41 government officials from the Pacific, Caribbean and African/Indian Ocean in addition to other experts from the World Bank, the EU, the ACP Secretariat, and other institutions. It was an opportunity to share good practices, innovations, challenges and practical solutions on resilient recovery in the aftermath of disasters, a topic particularly relevant after the recent disasters resulting from Hurricane Irma in Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Saint Kitts, Hurricane Maria in Dominica and Cyclone Gita in Tonga.