

the Humming Bird



**WHAT IS
SIDS 4?**

WHAT DOES IT SEEK TO
ACHIEVE

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
THE FUTURE OF SIDS**

RETURNS TO THE CARIBBEAN

**SECURING GREATER
AND SUSTAINED
ACCESS**

TO LONG-TERM FINANCE
FOR SIDS



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

inside THIS ISSUE

- 4 What is SIDS 4?
- 6 **A HUMMING BIRD FEATURE:**
SIDS4- The international conference on the future of SIDS
- 12 Securing greater and sustained access to long-term finance for SIDS
- 14 SIDS 4 Opening Ceremony
- 16 The Hummingbird Kitchen: Dukana

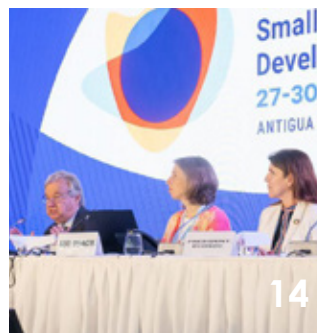
ABOUT US

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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INTERNATIONAL DAYS

4 June

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

5 June

World Environment Day

8 June

World Oceans Day

20 June

World Refugee Day

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JUNE 4, 2024

Opportunities to advance Inclusive, Sustainable and Smart Cities

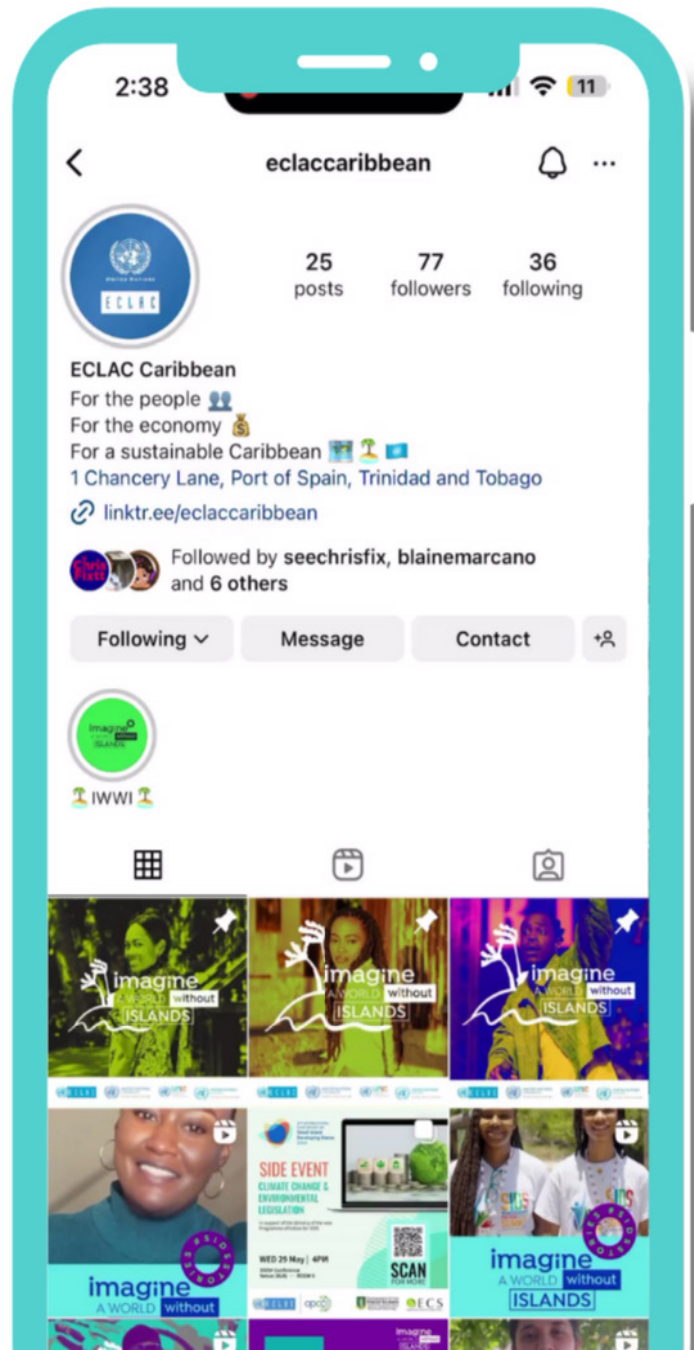
JUNE 18, 2024

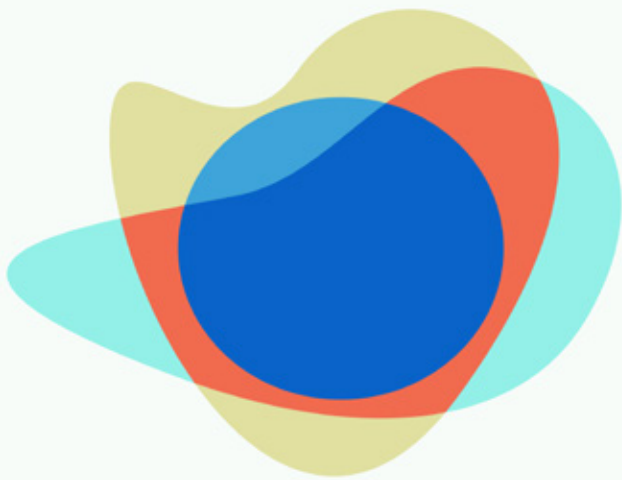
Regional Seminar "Challenges and Opportunities of Population Aging: The Silver Economy"

JUNE 26, 2024

Virtual Expert Group Meeting - Statistics for Sustainable Development

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4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
2024

un.org/smallislands



WHAT IS SIDS4?

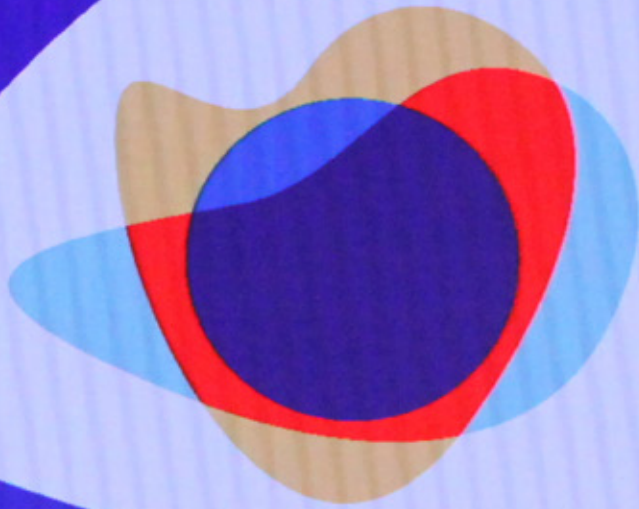
SIDS4 IS THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ALL THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES OF THE WORLD

What does it seek to achieve?

At the meeting, SIDS leaders and representatives will discuss how these globally disadvantaged countries and territories can course-correct, mitigate and adapt to climate change, get closer to sustainable development, improve human and environmental well-being and improve working relationships among themselves, bigger countries and the UN System.

Why is SIDS4 important?

SIDS4 takes place after the challenges of the COVID-19, with small island states still suffering economically and socially from the ravages of the pandemic. The conference is the opportunity for SIDS to regather, reinvigorate and plan their future, development and place in the world when their existence and survival are under threat.



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY 2024
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

A Hummingbird
FEATURE

SIDS4 – THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES...

RETURNS TO THE CARIBBEAN



Theme: Charting the course toward resilient prosperity

Through discussion and resolutions, the conference will assess the ability of SIDS to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. SIDS are also expected to launch several initiatives that will improve collaboration among themselves, data and resource sharing and partnerships with other states to work towards sustainable development.



WHERE IS IT?

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
27 – 30 MAY | 2024



ST. JOHN'S



PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON SIDS

BARBADOS 1994

Barbados Program of Action was focused on:

- Climate change and sea-level rise
- Waste management
- Coastal and marine resources
- Fresh water resources
- Environment and disaster preparedness

MAURITIUS 2005

Mauritius Strategy was focused on:

- Climate change and sea-level rise
- Biodiversity resources
- Trade and economic development
- Coastal and marine resources
- Energy resources

SAMOA 2014

Samoa Pathway was focused on:

- Promoting economic growth
- Mitigating + adapting to climate change
- Protecting biodiversity fo SIDS
- Improving human health + social development
- Fostering partnership among SIDS & others

KEY SIDS4 DISCUSSIONS

- **Revitalizing SIDS Economies for Accelerated and Sustainable Growth**
- **Making Climate Finance Work for SIDS: Building on the Outcomes of UNFCCC COP 28**
- **Enhancing Critical Forms of Financing and Aid Effectiveness through Collaborative Partnerships: A Conversation – discussion led by ECLAC Caribbean**
- **Investing in Human Capital: Addressing Health Crisis in SIDS and Building the Potential of Youth in SIDS**

Like most other international conferences, there will be several side events taking place in and around SIDS4, these will be announced closer to the conference. It is the opportunity for SIDS to regather, reinvigorate and plan their future, development and place in the world when their existence and survival are under threat.



imagine

A WORLD **without**

ISLANDS

#islandicons



#islandtreasures

Without SIDS, 20 per cent of the world's biodiversity in plant, bird and reptile species will disappear. SIDS only make up

3 per cent of the Earth's land surface.

30 per cent of the world's ocean **natural** and **cultural** resources are under the custodianship of SIDS.

Caribbean SIDS are among the **five** most globally important **"biodiversity hotspots"** with four different forest types and a variety of coastal and marine ecosystems.

All Pacific islands' population (except Fiji) are made up of about **80 per cent** indigenous people, their culture connecting them to pre-historic migration.

Over **60 per cent** of countries with the **highest losses** from disaster events are SIDS.

#islandlife



SECURING GREATER AND SUSTAINED ACCESS...

TO LONG-TERM, LOW-COST FINANCE FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

Opinion from the desk of the Executive Secretary of UN ECLAC
José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs

The leadership of the United Nations and the wider international community, including over fifty Heads of Government and Heads of State, are focusing on the smallest and most vulnerable member countries this week with the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in Antigua and Barbuda. This meeting reviews the sustainable development progress of SIDS over the past decade and adopts a new action platform for the next ten years.

Of the 57 countries identified as SIDS by the UN, 29 are in the Caribbean, comprising 16 member States and 13 territories. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is committed to providing essential, targeted support to this subregion in its pursuit of sustainable development. The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, beginning on June 1st, just two days after the conference ends, is predicted to be the hottest and most active season on record, underscoring the extreme vulnerability of these countries to climate-related impacts.



Beyond their vulnerability to climate change, the subregion faces high levels of debt, a consequence of low growth and high financing costs in capital markets, compounded by the increasing frequency and severity of hurricanes and tropical storms. In 2017, category 5 hurricanes Irma and Maria caused extensive damage in the Caribbean amounting to approximately US\$97 billion, and Hurricane Dorian in 2019 resulted in US\$3.4 billion in losses and damage in The Bahamas alone.

The subregion also faces fiscal stress due to other external shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic crippled the tourism-dependent economies of the Caribbean, pushing many governments to the brink of insolvency. Amid high debt and servicing costs, public investment in social infrastructure and services has stagnated or even declined in some cases.

The Caribbean's debt constraint and its impact on growth are well recognized. ECLAC's econometric analysis reveals a negative relationship between debt and growth in the Caribbean. Since the global crisis of 2008-2009, the Caribbean has not experienced robust growth, and its trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) performance have also declined. Six SIDS have debt-to-GDP ratios exceeding 100%. Genuine development and planned resilience are unattainable when scarce resources are diverted to debt repayment.

High indebtedness negatively impacts sovereign credit ratings, subjecting the Caribbean to higher borrowing costs. However, the subregion has limited access to concessional finance for investment in resilience and growth due to their upper-middle and high-income status, a metric that ignores their high vulnerability and capacity constraints.

The principal message of the SIDS4 Conference is the urgency of securing greater and more sustained access to long-term, low-cost finance for these small countries. This is reinforced by their call for "a seat at the table" where decisions regarding the reform of the global financial architecture will be made.

ECLAC has been integrally involved in supporting this effort. During the preparatory stage, ECLAC assessed development progress in Caribbean SIDS over the past decade. The Commission also led the preparation for a key interactive dialogue at SIDS4 on "Enhancing critical forms of financing and aid effectiveness through collaborative partnerships: A conversation." Along with the dialogue on climate finance, this is a crucial discussion, as the most formidable obstacle that SIDS face is how to secure access to finance for investment in their sustainable development.

ECLAC is also launching the OPCC Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition, providing parliamentarians in the Caribbean and Latin America with a common data platform to support

their leadership and legal precedent in environmental legislation. Recognizing the importance of data for informed decision-making, ECLAC will co-lead five side events, including three addressing geospatial information management.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the government, and the people of Antigua and Barbuda deserve commendation for organizing and hosting this significant conference. Their tireless efforts have ensured its success. The conference's outcome document, The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), focuses on partnerships, more effective support from the United Nations, and the basic development rights of island people, all framed around the Sustainable Development Goals. It also calls for more robust international support to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and for the early capitalization and operationalization of the proposed Loss and Damage Fund.

The SIDS4 Conference anticipates tangible outcomes, including the launch of a SIDS Centre of Excellence, which will encompass a SIDS Data Hub, a technology and innovation mechanism, and an Island Investment Forum. This initiative aims to provide the necessary social and economic support that SIDS need to plan their strategy for survival and resilient prosperity.

Attention is also being given to the development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, acknowledging the impact of a country's vulnerabilities on its development trajectory. Additionally, a Debt Sustainability Support Initiative is set to launch, promising multifaceted and innovative support for debt-strapped SIDS. ECLAC and other regional commissions eagerly await the design document's presentation and the service's operationalization to offer support to the world's islands.

To promote public awareness of this significant meeting for the Caribbean, the commission has created an impactful campaign, encouraging the world to "Imagine a World without islands." This thought-provoking campaign highlights the cultural, environmental, and economic contributions of islands, emphasizing the necessity of their preservation and support.

High-level political commitments have been made, but they come with compromises from all sides. This time, they come with the duty for all involved, especially the donor community and the UN system, to do more to support development in SIDS. ECLAC is firmly committed to this effort.



SIDS4:

CHARTING THE
COURSE TOWARD
RESILIENT PROSPERITY
FOR ISLANDS...

AND THE WORLD



The Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) has produced a wide-ranging and ambitious outcome document: the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), which establishes a clear action path for the survival, resilience and sustainable development of small islands around the world.

ABAS is the fourth international agreement on road mapping a sustainable development path for small islands. It follows the Barbados Plan of Action (1994), the Mauritius Strategy (2005) and the Samoa Pathway (2014). It is a long-negotiated document that seeks to address how the small islands of the world can survive while facing the multiple vulnerabilities of anthropogenic climate change, isolation, debt and financing sustainable development.

SIDS HAVE THE RIGHT TO INSIST ON HELP

[At the opening ceremony in St. Johns in May](#), Prime Minister of host country, Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne said: "This is a crucial gathering at a time of unprecedented global challenges in which SIDS find themselves on the frontline of a battle against a confluence of crises, none of which they have caused or created. Our inherent vulnerabilities characterized by small size, limited financial resources and constrained human capital place us at a marked disadvantage on the global stage, with the scales of equity and justice unevenly balanced against us."

PM Browne stressed that SIDS are battling multiple crises "none of which they have caused or created", and progress has been interrupted by the global financial crisis of 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Antigua and Barbuda has been a key advocate for SIDS in recent years, having held the chair of the Alliance of Small Island States between 2021 and 2022. He stressed that for small

islands to achieve the progress on sustainable development required for their survival,

"The global north in particular, must honour its commitments, including the pivotal pledge of 100B dollars in climate financing to assist with adaptation and mitigation, as well as effective capitalization and operationalization of the loss and damage fund. These are important investments in humanity, justice and the equitable future of humanity."

Prime Minister Browne advocated for a global carbon tax to "be levied on these oil companies that are consistently enjoying profits to provide much needed climate financing".

He said now is a crucial point at which our actions as a global community "and failure to act will dictate the fate of SIDS, as well as the legacy we leave for future generations... The major contributors to climate change have failed to meet the obligations to mitigate its effects."

He highlighted the SIDS4 launch of the Debt Service Support Initiative for small islands, which calls for the reform of the international financial architecture and will include debt for climate swaps, insurance instruments, SDRs (Special Drawing Rights), green and blue bonds and leveraging of private partnerships to maximize sustainable development.

Secretary General António Guterres said, "Small Island Developing States have every right and reason to insist that developed economies fulfil their pledge to double adaptation financing by 2025. And we must hold them to this commitment as a bare minimum... In the longer term, we are working for deep reforms to the outdated, dysfunctional and unjust global financial architecture.

We need a financial system that puts the interests of developing countries first and is able to work as a global safety net. And for SIDS, that means simplifying processes to access finance. It also means revisiting the rules for access to concessional financing, to include the swift endorsement of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index."

SG Guterres continued, "The foundation of the ABAS is the recognition that the next ten years are critical for SIDS, and that "the economic, social and environmental as well as geopolitical threats to SIDS development are so great that they can only be ameliorated by a reinvigorated enabling environment that gives meaningful effect to their sustainable development. Without the full support of the international community, SIDS will endure potentially far-reaching consequences."

Prime Minister of Samoa and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States Fiame Naomi Mata'afa stressed that SIDS should not have to choose between "the recovery of today or the development of tomorrow". She called on the international community to create an enabling environment that can help small island developing countries tackle the economic, environmental and geopolitical threats to their development. She stressed that "unity is strength and resilience".

In the ensuing general debate, over 30 high-level speakers — among them Heads of State and Government, most from small island developing States themselves — took the floor to alternately spotlight the unique characteristics of such States, the specific problems they face and the urgent, tailored solutions required to address them. Many cited the example of recent, devastating landslides in Papua New Guinea in this context, expressing sympathy for those affected and urging international solutions fit for purpose.

THE Hummingbird KITCHEN



DUKANA

If you know Caribbean food, you may know one of Antigua and Barbuda's most popular dishes... Dukana. If not, you may know of conkie from Barbados, dukoonoo or "blue drawers" from Jamaica or pone from Trinidad and Tobago. Dukana is where conkie meets pone. Dukana is a sweet potato and coconut dumpling, mildly sweet and spicy, cooked in banana leaves. Its sweet and spicy flavours are usually paired with salted fish or stews, or enjoyed as a traditional snack.

Prep Time: 30mins | Cook Time: 30mins

What you will need:

- 1 cup finely grated sweet potato
- 3/4 cup fresh grated coconut
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter room temperature
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/4 cup raisins optional
- 1- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup water
- Banana leaves and kitchen twine/foil for wrapping

How to Make it:

Step 1: Bring a big saucepan of water to a boil, unsalted.

Step 2: Combine the grated sweet potato and coconut in a large mixing dish. Combine the sugar, butter, cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, and raisins in a large mixing bowl.

Step 3: Add just enough flour to make a dough that holds together. Add around 1/4 cup water if it's too dry.

Step 4: Cut the banana leaves into 6-10 inch squares, depending on the size of your Dukana. Rinse the banana leaves in boiling water or gently heat them over an open flame until malleable.

Step 5: Form a rectangle/cylinder out of some of the dough in the center of a banana square. Fold the banana over the dough to cover it on all sides, then tie it with string or foil. Rep with the rest of the dough.

Step 6: Reduce the heat to medium-high and allow the water to gently boil. Cook the dough packets till done to your liking, about 30 minutes for somewhat soft and 45 minutes for more firm.

Step 7: Allow it cool for 10 minutes before unwrapping after removing from the saucepan.



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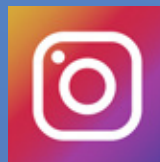
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