


Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Side Event 41

Shaping the future of African Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Multitude of vulnerabilities and pathways to change for resilient urban development

 8 JUNE 2023, 18:15 – 19:15

 Conference Room 9

SUMMARY

Globally, SIDS are exceptionally exposed and vulnerable to climate change, both to extreme events and slow onset hazards. While SIDS share unique features like their small size, remote geographic locations, particular urbanisation patterns, limited resource availability, and high reliance on natural assets for economic activities, their vulnerabilities are not uniform, and they have different experiences of climate change and solutions for adaptation.

African SIDS are no exception, in fact they are some of the most left behind and least resourced. However, these challenges also come with opportunities for innovation, reinvention and the green transformation of these abundantly beautiful and culturally rich countries. But to do this, the small island nations of Africa will need to be bolstered by partnerships and climate financing.

This side event will create a space to discuss how to address the specific challenges and opportunities of African SIDS and outline pathways to their sustainable development. A panel featuring exciting speakers from national and local governments, private sector, and UN system partners will set the scene and take us on a journey through the islands to identify options for their climate resilient development.

Questions for discussion will include:

- How do urban dynamics in SIDS differ from other African countries, and what obstacles or opportunities do they offer for building urban resilience?
- How are human settlements in SIDS affected by climate change and what types of solutions are most urgently needed for their adaptation?
- What are the main challenges faced by African SIDS to access climate financing, and how can the existing opportunities be better tailored to meet the specific needs of SIDS?
- What are some examples of climate-related innovation emerging from small island countries that should be promoted and scaled-up?



#UNHA2



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Organizer(s)

UN-Habitat, Regional Office for Africa (ROAf), <https://unhabitat.org/>

Moderator

Fruzsina Straus, UN-Habitat, Regional Office for Africa

Speaker(s)

H.E. Mr. Issa Timamy, Governor of Lamu County, Republic of Kenya

Mr. Mohamed Abdou, Director of Land Use Planning, Urban Development and Housing, Union of Comoros

Ms. Isabel Njihia, UNDRR, Regional Office for Africa

Mr. Edson Incopte, Academia Ubuntu Guinea-Bissau

Mr. Daniel Essoo, CEO of the Mauritius Bankers Association



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA

<https://unhabitat.org/governance/un-habitat-assembly/second-session-2023>

