



DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



SDG  
Pavilion



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021



UN-OHRRS



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## Concept Note

# Helping SIDS transition to Low-Carbon Mobility System: Climate, Transport and Energy Nexus

10<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 2:15pm – 3:30pm at the UNDESA's SDG Pavilion

### Opening Remarks (15 minutes)

Transportation and mobility are central to the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS). Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth, promote trade opportunities, and improve accessibility. Sustainable, reliable, and safe transportation achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. Efficient movement of people and goods fosters the full engagement of SIDS in local, regional, and global markets which would, in turn, improve social equity, health, the resilience of their cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas.



H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative  
of Antigua and Barbuda to the United  
Nations, Chair of the Alliance of Small Is-  
land States (AOSIS)



Mr Liu Zhenmin,  
Under-Secretary-General,  
United Nations Department of  
Economic and Social Affairs  
(UNDESA)



Mr. Courtenay Rattray,  
Under-Secretary General and  
High-Representative of Least  
Developed Countries, Landlocked  
Developing Countries and small  
island developing States  
(OHRRLS).

### Sustainable Transport & SIDS (10 Minutes)

*Briefing on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Global Sustainable Transport Conference  
(10 minutes)*



Mr Alexander Trepelkov

Officer-in-Charge,  
Division for Sustainable Development Goals,  
Director, UN Permanent Forum on Forest  
UNDESA

The 2<sup>nd</sup> *United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference* took place from 14 to 16 October 2021 in Beijing, China. It underscored the importance of sustainable transport for the achievement of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It build on the [first Global Sustainable Transport Conference](#), held on 26 and 27 November 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, which resulted in the [“Ashgabat Statement on Commitments and Policy Recommendations”](#). The second Global Sustainable Transport Conference brought together key stakeholders from Governments, UN system and other international organizations, the private sector, and civil society to discuss the integrated and cross-cutting nature of sustainable transport and its multiple roles in supporting the achievement of [the 2030 Agenda](#). All modes of transport—road, rail, aviation and waterborne were be addressed, and recent scientific and technological advances were deliberated. The concerns of vulnerable groups, such as women, the youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the poor, and of many developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, also received particular focus. Key transport objectives, such as access for all while leaving no one behind, green mobility, efficiency and safety was also discussed.

## COVID-19 & Connectivity in SIDS (10 minutes)

The adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the particular and unique vulnerabilities of SIDS, in particular those related to connectivity; including their high level of dependence on external trade; remoteness and prohibitive transport costs; food security; infrastructure gaps; resilience; sustainability; and access to finance. UNCTAD's Policy Brief No: 85 entitled: "*Small island developing states: Maritime transport in the era of a disruptive pandemic - empower states to fend against disruptions to maritime transportation systems, their lifeline to the world*", highlights key priority actions and policy recommendations to support SIDS in strengthening their ability to respond to shocks and disruptions that undermine their maritime transportation systems and to future proof their maritime supply chains through sustainability and resilience-building efforts.

### *Presentation on Unique Opportunities of Island States to Transition to a Low-Carbon Mobility System*



Ms Zakia Soomaaroo

Doctoral Candidate

Chair of Sustainability Economics of Human Settlements, Technische Universität Berlin.

SIDS contribute minuscule proportions to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption, but are highly exposed to climate change impacts, in particular to extreme weather events and sea-level rise. However, there has been little research on potential decarbonization trajectories unique to SIDS. *Insular topology, scale, and economy are distinctive characteristics of SIDS that facilitate overcoming carbon lock-in. These dimensions have been investigated for the three islands; namely, Barbados, Fiji, and Mauritius.* It was found that insular topologies and small scale offer an opportunity for both public transit corridors and rapid electrification of car fleets. The tourism sector enables local decision-makers and investors to experiment with shared mobility and to induce spillover effects by educating tourists about new mobility options. Targeted investments into SIDS to transition insular mobility systems towards zero carbon in 2040 will assist. The decarbonization of SIDS is not only needed as a mitigation effort, but also as a strong signal to the global community underlining that a zero-carbon future is possible.

*Empowering SIDS to fend against disruptions to maritime transportation systems, their lifeline to the world*



**Luisa Antonia Rodriguez Ortega**  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Transport Section @ Trade Logistics  
Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics (DTL)

## SIDS transition to insular mobility

## Respondents (15 Minutes)



Ms. Nehali Anupriya

SIDS, Climate Change and Blue Economy Specialist  
(A Fiji Youth Voice)



Ambassador Dr Spencer Thomas

Special Envoy for Climate and Multi Lateral Environmental Agreements—Grenada



H.E. Mr. Jagdish Koonjul,

Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations  
UNHQ, New York