

Achieving Sustainability in the Face of Vulnerability

You are invited to attend a
Seminar and High-Level Roundtable
to mark 2014 as the United Nations designated International
Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS),
June 20, 2014, Room XXVI, Building E, *Palais des Nations*

The year 2014 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the SIDS. As part of their contribution to marking this important year, SIDS representatives in Geneva will be hosting a seminar and High level Round Table discussion on Friday 20th June 2014.

The events will be held in Room XXVI, Building E of the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva and will open with a video message from the President of the UN General Assembly H. E. Mr. John Ashe and an opening statement from Senator the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados. The proceedings will be chaired by H. E. Dr. Marion Williams.

Seminar

The theme of the Seminar is “*Achieving Sustainability in the Face of Vulnerability*”. Small size and vulnerability, high levels of sovereign debt and challenges to the sustainability of tourism are some of the challenges facing SIDS. The promise of an Ocean Economy will offer both challenges and opportunities.

Though the topics will be presented from a SIDS perspective, the issues of vulnerability, debt, tourism sustainability and ocean economy will be of general interest to all Members.

These are the topics which will be covered in the morning session, which starts at 10.00 a.m. We are honoured to have as presenters:

- Professor Lino Pascal Briguglio, Professor of Economics of the University of Malta to speak on vulnerability,
- Dr Kevin Greenidge, Senior Economist, International Monetary Fund to speak on debt,
- Dr. Ulric Trotz, Deputy Director & Science Adviser, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre to speak on SIDS, Tourism and Climate Change: Opportunities for partnerships in responding to the challenges
- Professor Hans Pötner, of the Alfred Wegener Institute and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to speak on the Ocean and SIDS

High Level Round Table

On the afternoon of the 20 June, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. SIDS are honoured to have a High Level Round table which will look at the future prospects of small states and possible approaches on the way forward.

The High Level Round Table includes:



- Senator, the Hon Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados
- Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of UNCTAD
- Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Director General of the WTO
- Mrs. Arancha González, Director General of the International Trade Centre
- H.E. Dr. Len Ishmael, Ambassador, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Belgium
- Mr. Deodat Maharaj, Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat

We hope to also confirm the participation of the Honourable Clay Forau Soaloi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands.

Registration

The seminar is open to representatives of Member States, delegates, government officials, NGOs, United Nations Agencies, the private sector, academics and the Media. Registration may be completed on-line by using the following link: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=569>.

Logistics

Simultaneous translation will be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Holders of UN badges can use their existing badges to obtain entry. Participants who do not hold a United Nations badge are requested to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate, 14 avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9:00 a.m. to complete their entry procedures in good time. Passports or equivalent national identity cards will be required.

Further information and contact details

Enquiries regarding the programme may be addressed the Permanent Mission of Barbados at Geneva by telephone: +41 22 791 8500, facsimile: +41 22 791 8509 or e-mail: sgriffith@foreign.gov.bb and geneva@foreign.gov.bb.

This event is hosted by the Group of SIDS in UNCTAD and with the kind assistance of:

