



UNCTAD XV Pre-event
**Enhancing Economic Resilience in Small Island Developing States:
Perspective from South-South Cooperation**
Webinar (July 28th, 2021)

Concept Note and Programme

Background Information

COVID-19 shock has negatively impacted global economic growth scenario. According to UNCTAD estimates, the global output loss might be as much as 10 trillion USD by the end of 2021. Due to the vulnerable economic structure, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) may even suffer more, not only from a series of concomitant crisis, but also from double-squeezed financial and policy space, which may cause further concerns on their efforts in achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To reach sustained recovery and get SDGs attainment back on track, it is widely recognized that governments must adopt effective and targeted policy measures to enhance economic resilience and diversification. Apart from the actions and policy strategies at national level, reviving multilateralism and strengthening South-South Cooperation can facilitate such efforts significantly.

UNCTAD has launched a project titled “Promoting Economic Diversification and Resilience in Barbados for a Sustained Recovery from Covid-19 Shock”, which aims to assist Barbados, through policy research and analysis, capacity building and promoting South-South Cooperation, to strengthen its economic diversification and resilience to reach sustained recovery and advance progress to 2030 Agenda.

Barbados will host the upcoming UNCTAD XV in October, which will provide a great opportunity for the international community to pay more attention on the special needs of SIDS and support their efforts in reaching 2030 Agenda.

Objectives of the webinar

The webinar brings together policy makers and researchers from various developing countries and UN agencies and address a wide audience. The discussion focuses on the vulnerabilities of SIDS and the possible policy strategies to enhance their economic resilience, particularly the role of South-South Cooperation, which is also highly relevant to the theme of UNCTAD XV, namely “**From Vulnerabilities and Inequalities to Prosperity for All**”.

The webinar will therefore address the below main questions:

- What are the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States in the globalized world? What are the key lessons and experience in responding to the recent Covid-19 Shock?
- At national level, how could the government formulate targeted policy to address the challenges and enhance economic resilience of SIDS? How would the digital revolution and climate change impact the policy strategies?
- At regional and international level, how could South-South Cooperation better contribute to the SIDS in their efforts of enhancing economic resilience and reaching 2030 Agenda?

Registration for the webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-JcixHvzT-ajg6Vx_6c84Q

Programme

(Central European Summer Time)

July 28, 2021

Moderator: Mr. Igor Paunovic, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

14:00–14:05

Opening remarks

Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright,

Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

14:05–15:25

Panel discussion

Ms. Tishka Hope Francis, Head of SIDS Subprogramme, UN-OHRLLS (confirmed)

Mr. Chris Sinckler, Former Minister of Finance, Barbados (confirmed)

Ms. B.F. Abdool Raman Ahmed,

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mauritius (confirmed)

Ms. Gladys HUAN, Deputy Director, Industry Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (confirmed)

Mr. Susiri Kumararatne, Former Ambassador to the WTO, Sri Lanka (confirmed)

Mr. Winston Moore, Deputy Principal, University of West Indies, Barbados (confirmed)

15:25-15:45

Open discussion

15:45-16:00

Wrap up and closing

Mr. Dawei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD