

NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

SIDS LIGHTHOUSES INITIATIVE 2.0: INCREASING AMBITION TO ACCELERATE ENERGY TRANSFORMATION IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

High-Level Roundtable
28 September 2018, 13:15 – 14.30
ECOSOC Chamber – United Nations – New York

BACKGROUND

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) remain heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels for their energy needs. For reasons of scale and isolation, energy costs are high, and the severe impact of oil price and supply volatility is exacerbated by the small size of local markets. In this context, the accelerated deployment of renewable energy can dramatically boost socio-economic development, increase energy access, reduce costs, and improve security of supply. Renewables are also increasingly recognised as a central pathway to strengthening resilience against the impact of climate change and play a central role in the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI) was launched at the 2014 UN Climate Summit to support SIDS energy system transformation and facilitate co-ordinated support through partnerships with public, private, intergovernmental, and non-governmental stakeholder organisations. The Initiative, co-ordinated by International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), brings together 36 SIDS and 21 development partners, and takes a holistic approach that considers all relevant elements from policy and market frameworks, through technology options to capacity building.

Through the LHI, SIDS partners have gained, among other things, access to funding and advisory services in support of renewable energy roadmaps, policy and grid stability analyses. Furthermore, local policy makers, utilities, and other relevant actors have benefitted from capacity building and training programmes on renewable energy technology, regulation, project development and finance.

Since the launch of the LHI, the renewable energy uptake in SIDS has been impressive. The strong political commitment of SIDS, and the remarkable cost reductions in technologies such as photovoltaics (PV) and onshore wind, coupled with the support of a wide range of partners, have made renewables an affordable solution for countries with limited financing and technical capabilities. The initial LHI targets for 2020 in terms of installed capacity (100 megawatts of solar PV, 20 megawatts of wind power) and mobilised funding (USD 500 million) have been met and exceeded three years ahead of schedule.

The LHI has been instrumental in supporting the uptake of renewable energy in SIDS to date. However, the emerging challenges and opportunities, the strong ambition set by NDCs, and the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals call for a renewed compact and a new phase of the Initiative, to further strengthen international co-operation in support of the energy transformation in SIDS.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ROUNDTABLE

Building on the success of the LHI and following the consultative process undertaken with all LHI partners, this event will be instrumental in drawing together political leadership and launch a more ambitious phase of the Initiative, LHI 2.0, which aims to enable SIDS energy systems' transformation, leverage investment support, strengthen climate resilience, and contribute to the attainment of the sustainable development goals in SIDS.

FORMAT

The event will feature a high-level roundtable offering a discussion platform among SIDS LHI partners and other key stakeholders on the priority areas of the next phase of the Initiative.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The high-level roundtable will gather Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers and high-level representatives from SIDS LHI partners and key stakeholders.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

13:15 - 13:25	Opening remarks
13:25 - 13:45	Keynote remarks
13:45 - 14:25	Roundtable discussion on priorities to accelerate energy transformation in SIDS through SIDS Lighthouses 2.0
14:25 - 14:30	Concluding remarks

For further information on the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, please visit: www.irena.org/islands