



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 June 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fifth session

Observer status for the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK)

Letter dated 9 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an item entitled “Observer status for the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) in the General Assembly” in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

SIDS DOCK is designed to connect the energy sector in small island developing States with global markets for finance and sustainable energy technologies.

In accordance with the provisions of rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the following are annexed to the present letter: an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) and a draft resolution (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Lois M. Young
Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations



Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

Observer status for the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK)

The present document explains why the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) should be granted observer status by the United Nations.

1. Nature of the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK)

The Statute establishing the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) was deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 1 February 2016, with registration number 53471.¹

2. Membership

SIDS DOCK has 17 members, of which 16 are States Members of the United Nations:

- Ten States of the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Three States of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans: Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles.
- Three States of the Pacific: Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu.
- One non-member State of the United Nations: Cook Islands.

3. Operating structure

The Assembly is the supreme organ and takes decisions by simple majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise specified in the Statute. The Assembly is presided over by a President and two Vice-Presidents, who are representatives of a member State and are elected by the Assembly at the beginning of each regular session. The President and Vice-Presidents are elected to serve for a one-year term. The Assembly elects the members of the Executive Council and appoints the Secretary-General.

Governance is entrusted to an Executive Council of no less than three and no more than nine member government representatives who shall serve in their official capacities for three-year terms. The Executive Council is responsible for the overall direction, operation and functioning of SIDS DOCK and its Secretariat, including its activities, work programmes and projects and discharges its responsibilities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner as fiduciaries.

The Secretary-General oversees the work of the Secretariat and is responsible for its functioning and for the implementation and execution of the decisions, directives and policies of the Assembly. The Secretary-General is responsible to the Executive Council and is responsible for the appointment of staff members, the organization and functioning of the Secretariat and securing the highest standards of professionalism, efficiency, competence and integrity.

¹ Available at <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/No%20Volume/53471/Part/I-53471-080000028044d840.pdf>.

The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of SIDS DOCK and its affiliated services and carries out other functions entrusted to it or specifically delegated to it by the Assembly or the Executive Council. The Secretariat assists the Assembly, the Executive Council and subsidiary organs in the performance of their respective duties, responsibilities and functions.

4. Headquarters agreement

In 2017, the headquarters agreement on immunities, exemptions and privileges of the organization was signed by the Secretary-General of SIDS DOCK and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belize, and the city of Belmopan in Belize was designated as its headquarters.

5. Functions

SIDS DOCK is so named because it is designed as a “docking station” to connect the energy sector in small island developing States with the global markets for finance, sustainable energy technologies and carbon. SIDS DOCK was established to provide small island developing States with a mechanism:

- (a) Through which small island developing States can access investment financing from the global markets and from entities such as pension funds, labour unions and socially responsible investment funds wanting to support sustainable energy development;
- (b) For coordinating the development of technical capacity, the sharing of technical expertise and the provision of technical support for adaptation and mitigation activities and sustainable development;
- (c) To assist the transition by small island developing States to a sustainable energy sector through the acquisition and transfer of sustainable energy technologies and by increasing energy efficiency and conservation and the development of renewable energy;
- (d) For participating in the global carbon market and to conduct advocacy and develop cooperative agreements with parties that wish to assist with financial resources.

6. Spheres of action

SIDS DOCK is unique in that it is the only United Nations-recognized international platform with all the rights and privileges representing small island developing States. SIDS DOCK is a unique mechanism, as its leadership is represented by high-level officials, including Heads of State and Government and Ambassadors to the United Nations, with the SIDS DOCK portfolio coming under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is expected that, in any given year, SIDS DOCK will deal with representatives of all 37 small island developing States that are States Members of the United Nations.

The expertise of SIDS DOCK in addressing the vulnerabilities and aspirations of small island developing States with regard to achieving the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals relies on years of research conducted by the SIDS DOCK Secretariat and its partner island organizations, including the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Research centred specifically on small island developing States has allowed an intimate understanding of the economies of those States, ascribing a unique and organic strength to SIDS DOCK, like no other organization. For example, SIDS DOCK oversees the promotion of energy sector diversification, innovation and sector synergy in small island

developing States through the coordination of technology transfer, capacity-building and the promotion of and support for small and medium-sized enterprises in small island developing States.

7. SIDS DOCK: an observer of sustainable energy and climate resilience

SIDS DOCK is a centre of excellence and advocacy for the development of renewable energy technology for small island developing States and acts as a facilitator and catalyst providing experience for practical applications, long-term policies and capacity-building on all matters relating to renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. SIDS DOCK is the only international platform led by small island developing States that addresses energy security in the context of climate change and resilience for small island developing States.

8. Alignment with the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

SIDS DOCK was established, in 2009, at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen and launched, in 2015, on the margins of the general debate at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly in New York. The Statute and the rules and procedures of SIDS DOCK are built upon the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations. SIDS DOCK shares with the United Nations the centrality of multilateralism, collaboration and cooperation to effectively respond to transboundary challenges with comprehensive solutions.

The goals of SIDS DOCK are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other international legal frameworks. SIDS DOCK is focused on supporting member States and helping them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). Through the SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network, the organization aims to address Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

In particular, SIDS DOCK aims to increase energy efficiency by 25 per cent (2005 baseline), to generate a minimum of 50 per cent of electric power from renewable sources and to achieve a decrease of 25 per cent in conventional transportation fuel use by 2033: “Island Energy for Island Life: 25-50-25 by 2033”. In this way, it will support and complement the efforts of small island developing States to achieve the highest ambitions in relation to energy transformation, including 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

SIDS DOCK aims to be innovative by applying a small island developing States lens to energy transformation. Small island developing States are custodians of the world’s oceans, with responsibility for vast areas of exclusive economic zones. Through the Blue Guardians Programme, SIDS DOCK will support small island developing States in protecting and preserving the oceans, seas and marine resources, while combining those efforts with efforts to harness oceans as the largest renewable energy resource of small island developing States.

Through the transformation of the energy sector, SIDS DOCK also aims to be financially innovative. Achieving low-carbon economies in small island developing States is a unique way of helping those States to mobilize financing for climate change adaptation.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK),

1. *Decides* to invite the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
 2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.
-