



# General Assembly

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## Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Apia, 1-4 September 2014

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Organization of work, including the establishment of  
subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters**

### Organizational and procedural matters

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. The proposals set out in the present note have been prepared on the basis of General Assembly resolution [68/238](#), including through close consultations with the host country and the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

#### I. Election of officers

2. The Conference shall elect a President and other officers in accordance with its rules of procedure. As stipulated in rule 6, the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President from the host country, an ex officio Vice-President from the host country and 14 Vice-Presidents,<sup>1</sup> including a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chair for the Main Committee if established in accordance with rule 46. These officers shall be elected with a view to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

3. Pursuant to rules 6 and 11, the Conference would thus have a General Committee composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chair of the Main Committee.

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\* [A/CONF.223/1](#).

<sup>1</sup> Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the President will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the region from which the President is elected.



## **II. Adoption of the rules of procedure**

4. The Conference shall adopt its rules of procedure. The provisional rules of procedure recommended by the Preparatory Committee are contained in document [A/CONF.223/2](#).

## **III. Adoption of the agenda**

5. The Conference will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda ([A/CONF.223/1](#)), as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [68/238](#).

## **IV. Organization of work**

### **A. Dates and venue**

6. The Conference will be held at the Faleata Sports Complex in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014. The overarching theme of the Conference shall be “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”. The Conference will be convened at the highest possible level.

### **B. Plenary meetings**

7. It is proposed that the Conference consist of eight plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 1 September: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 2 September: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 3 September: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 4 September: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

8. All plenary meetings will be held in the Upolu Plenary Hall.

9. At the formal opening of the Conference, to take place during the plenary meeting to be held in the morning of Monday, 1 September, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the election of the President of the Conference, the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of officers, the establishment of a Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. At the opening, statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States and the Secretary-General of the Conference. It is recommended that the President of the Economic and Social Council and a representative of the nine major groups as defined in Agenda 21,<sup>2</sup> on behalf of all the nine major groups, also make statements at the opening.

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<sup>2</sup> Agenda 21 defined major groups as comprising women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers.

10. The list of speakers for the general debate will be established on a first-come, first-served basis, under the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union, in its capacity as observer, will be included in the list of speakers. It is proposed that a time limit of five minutes be established for each oral statement. The list of speakers will be announced in the daily Journal of the Conference.

11. In addition to the representatives of States participating in the Conference and the representative of the European Union, representatives of the following organizations may, time permitting and without setting a precedent, make a statement during the general debate: (a) intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices (rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure); (b) associate members of regional commissions (rule 61); (c) specialized agencies and related organizations (rule 62); (d) other intergovernmental organizations (rule 63); and (e) interested United Nations organs (rule 63). The representatives of the non-governmental organizations and other major groups may also be added to the list of speakers (rule 65).

12. The closing plenary meeting, to be held in the afternoon of Thursday, 4 September, is expected to conclude with reporting on multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, to be followed by the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

### **C. Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues**

13. The Conference will include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 1 September, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the topic “Sustainable economic development”

Tuesday, 2 September, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the topic “Climate change and disaster risk management”

Tuesday, 2 September, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the topic “Social development in small island developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women”

Wednesday, 3 September, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the topic “Sustainable energy”

Wednesday, 3 September, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the topic “Oceans, seas and biodiversity”

Thursday, 4 September, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the topic “Water and sanitation, food security, and waste management”

14. All multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues will be held in the Savaii Partnerships Hall.

15. The six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues will provide an opportunity for:

(a) Recognizing successful partnerships and initiatives in support of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action with a potential for replication in other small island developing States;

(b) Launching innovative and concrete partnerships specific to small island developing States to support the advancement of the sustainable development of those States;

(c) Interactive and focused discussions on key priorities of small island developing States.

The Chair or Chairs of the partnership dialogues will be appointed by the President of the Conference. The partnership dialogues will be interactive and open to all conference participants. There will be no prepared list of speakers. At the discretion of the Chair or Chairs, priority in the order of speakers will be given to those speaking at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by those announcing partnerships and high-level representatives of other stakeholders. The dialogues will aim to achieve a balance among speakers from all stakeholders. In order to provide for maximum participation, interventions should not exceed three minutes. Representatives of States are invited to indicate to the Secretariat by e-mail (to [ochalik@un.org](mailto:ochalik@un.org) and [sharma7@un.org](mailto:sharma7@un.org)) if they will be represented in a partnership dialogue at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level. Concept notes on the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues will be made available on the Conference website.<sup>3</sup>

16. The outcomes of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues should be reported to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and be included in the final report of the Conference.

#### **D. Establishment of a Main Committee**

17. A Main Committee, if established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet as necessary.

#### **E. Timetable for the work of the Conference**

18. A proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. Updated information will be posted on the Conference website<sup>3</sup> and announced in the daily Journal of the Conference.

#### **F. Organization of meetings**

19. The resources available to the Conference allow for a maximum of two simultaneous meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon with interpretation facilities, including meetings of the Main Committee, other committees, subcommittees, working groups and informal consultations. It should be noted that

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sids2014.org/>.

the holding of such meetings is subject to the availability of conference-servicing facilities at the Conference site.

20. Meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient utilization of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly as scheduled.

## **V. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee**

21. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-eighth session. At the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of the following States: Belgium, China, Colombia, Gabon, Guyana, the Russian Federation, Singapore, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

## **VI. Participants**

22. States, the European Union, other intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organs, non-governmental organizations and other major groups will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

## **VII. Secretariat**

23. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the host country authorities. In October 2012, the Secretary-General of the United Nations nominated the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the Secretary-General of the Conference.

## **VIII. Documentation**

24. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, official documents of the Conference will be issued before, during and after the Conference.

25. Also in accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences and as set out in annex II to General Assembly resolution [68/238](#), it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference; a brief account of the proceedings; the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder

partnership dialogues; and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

26. Summaries of the plenary meetings and multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues should also be included in the report of the Conference.

27. All Conference documentation will be available on the Conference website.<sup>3</sup>

## Annex

### Proposed timetable for the work of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, 1-4 September 2014

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
<b>Monday, 1 September</b>	
<b>1st plenary meeting</b>	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1 Opening of the Conference
	2 Election of the President
	3 Adoption of the rules of procedure
	4 Adoption of the agenda of the Conference
	5 Election of officers other than the President
	6 Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters
	7 (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
	1 Opening statements
	8 General debate
<b>2nd plenary meeting</b>	
3-6 p.m.	8 General debate
<b>Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue</b>	
3-6 p.m.	Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue 1: Sustainable economic development
<b>Tuesday, 2 September</b>	
<b>3rd plenary meeting</b>	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8 General debate
<b>Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue</b>	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue 2: Climate change and disaster risk management
<b>4th plenary meeting</b>	
3-6 p.m.	8 General debate

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
<b>Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue</b>		
3-6 p.m.		Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue 3: Social development in small island developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women
<b>Wednesday, 3 September</b>		
<b>5th plenary meeting</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	General debate
<b>Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue 4: Sustainable energy
<b>6th plenary meeting</b>		
3-6 p.m.	8	General debate
<b>Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue</b>		
3-6 p.m.		Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue 5: Oceans, seas and biodiversity
<b>Thursday, 4 September</b>		
<b>7th plenary meeting</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	General debate
<b>Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue 6: Water and sanitation, food security and waste management
<b>8th plenary meeting</b>		
3-6 p.m.	8	General debate
	9	Report of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues
	10	Outcome of the Conference
	11	Adoption of the report of the Conference
	12	Closure of the Conference