High-Level Dialogue

Charting a Resilient Future for African Island States and SIDS

Accelerating Climate Finance and Blue Economy

Date: *19th November 2025 13h30-15h*
Venue: *African Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP30, Belém, Brazil*

1. Introduction

African Island States are among the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world. Despite their rich ecological assets and strong political commitment to climate action, they continue to face systemic challenges in accessing climate finance, implementing resilience strategies, and developing sustainable blue economies.

The African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC)—established by the African Union and chaired by the Republic of Seychelles—provides a strategic platform to advance island-specific climate action and ensure African Island States speak with a unified voice in global climate governance. The current AISCC vice-chair is Guinea-Bissau.

In support of this mandate, UNECA is implementing the RESIslands Initiative, a flagship project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities of AISCC Member States to manage climate risks and implement resilience-building actions.

This High-Level Dialogue, jointly organized AISCC Governments and UNECA, is convened to reinforce the outcomes of the Guinea-Bissau Pathway for African Island States, adopted in October 2025, and to present the Regional Co-Investment Platform for Climate Finance and Blue Economy—the AISCC's next regional flagship initiative.

The event will build on the momentum from recent strategic engagements at:

- UNFCCC COP29 (Baku) – High-Level Dialogue on Climate Finance and Resilience for SIDS

• 4th International SIDS Conference (Antigua and Barbuda) – Partnership Dialogues
• 3rd UN Ocean Conference (France) – SDG14 and Blue Economy Partnerships
• 4th Finance for Development Conference (Spain) – Resilience Financing for AIS SIDS
• 2nd Africa Climate Summit (Addis Ababa) – Innovations in African Islands

2. Objectives

This high-level event aims to:

- Present the Regional Co-Investment Platform for Climate Finance and Blue Economy
- Highlight the progress of the RESIslands Initiative, which supports institutional development and risk governance across AISCC Member States.
- Advance the implementation of the Guinea-Bissau Pathway, including commitments to coordination, finance, and resilience.
- Promote political dialogue and cross-regional cooperation between African Island States and global SIDS on climate finance, institutional strengthening, and the blue economy.

3. Focus Areas

- Institutional readiness and coordination for managing climate risks
- Scaling access to climate and blue economy finance
- Strengthening regional frameworks and policy coherence through the AISCC
- Interlinkages between resilience, blue economy, and sustainable development
- African Island States as leaders in ocean and climate diplomacy

4. Alignment with COP30 Themes

This High-Level Dialogue is fully aligned with these priorities, particularly in relation to:

- Adaptation and Institutional Capacity, through the RESIslands Initiative and regional coordination via the AISCC;
- Climate Finance and Project Pipelines, through the upcoming AISCC Regional Co-Investment Platform for Climate Finance and Blue Economy;
- Ocean Governance and Blue Economy, which intersect with biodiversity, marine resilience, and small island priorities.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Presentation of the Regional Co-Investment Platform to international stakeholders and donors
- Increased visibility for the RESIslands Initiative and its institutional impact
- Strengthened political support for the implementation of the Guinea-Bissau Pathway
- Enhanced cooperation between African Island States, SIDS, and partners on finance, resilience, and ocean governance
- Strategic inputs into COP30 negotiations and post-2025 implementation frameworks

6. Organizers and Partners

Lead Organizers:

- Governments of Guinea Bissau and Seychelles,
- African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Key Partners:

- African Union Commission (AUC)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- AUDA-NEPAD
- Afreximbank
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Audience:
African Island States and SIDS Delegations, youth and civil society networks, UN entities, MDBs, climate finance entities, technical agencies, donors, development partners, wider COP30 participants.

7. Background documentation

- African Island States and SIDS Call for a New Social Compact for Resilience at the World Social Summit
- African and Asian Island States Issue Bold Call for Financing Reform
- African Island States Advance Ocean Partnerships and Finance Innovation at 3rd UN Ocean Conference

- Island States commit to improve coordination at High-Level Dialogue at 4th International SIDS Conference
- COP29: High Level Dialogue on Climate Finance and Resilience for SIDS
- African Island States at the center of a new partnership between ECA and Green Climate Fund announced at the 37th African Union Summit
- COP 28: African Small Island Developing States press for adaptation finance to fight climate change
- Port Louis Recommendations
- Beau-Vallon Outcome Document
- Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa
- Blue Future Conference
- Santa Maria Call to Action
- Antigua and Barbuda Plan of Action for SIDS (ABAS)

8. Contacts

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