



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



African Island States Climate Commission AIS High-Level Dialogue on SDG14

Strengthening Ocean Partnerships for Resilience and Sustainable Finance: Charting a Blue Future for African Island States and AIS SIDS

Side event of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference

13 June 2025, 8h45 – 10 am – Room 1, Blue Zone, Nice, France

Concept Note

Summary

This event aims to consolidate ocean partnerships and promote sustainable finance solutions for resilience and achievement of the SDG14 targets in African Island States and AIS SIDS. It will explore innovative strategies, share experiences, and address the challenges the region faces in managing their ocean resources. The Dialogue seeks to identify actionable priorities for a sustainable blue future, fostering collaboration and a unified approach to ocean conservation and climate resilience. It builds on the outcomes from previous AISCC high-level events and it will bring together Ministers, Ambassadors, and leaders from the SIDS, as well as senior representatives of key stakeholders.

Topics

1. Harnessing all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional level
2. Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in support of Goal 14

Description

The AIS region consists of particularly vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS) spread across vast territories in the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea. The populations of these islands face significant challenges due to climate change. The African Island States





Climate Commission (AISCC) and its partners are working to support SIDS in the African and AIS regions, addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change while fostering coordination within the AIS region and with other SIDS regions: the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The AISCC, with the support of its partners, plays a leading role in advancing SDG 14 and facilitating the transition of island states to a climate- and ocean-resilient future. This is achieved through several high-level meetings and initiatives, including the RESIslands project, which is funded by the GCF and implemented by UNECA on behalf of the AISCC member states.

This High-Level Dialogue will build on the outcomes of previous meetings held during the UNFCCC COP 29 and 28, the 4th International SIDS Conference, the African Climate Summit, the 37th African Union Summit, the Blue Future Conference, and others, with the goal of accelerating effective partnerships for climate and ocean resilience in the AIS Region and SDG14. The Dialogue will bring together Ministers, Ambassadors, and senior representatives from the African Island States and AIS Region, as well as leaders from other member States, development partners, civil society, youth organizations, and key stakeholders involved in the SIDS.

Speakers will share their vision for the AIS Region, contributing to a common approach to ocean and climate resilience across the region. This will help shape future actions of the AISCC and its partners in advancing SDG 14. Ongoing initiatives, such as the reform of the Global Financial Architecture, the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index, and the Sustainable Debt Coalition, will also be discussed. Panellists will address innovations in ocean and climate finance, including blue bonds and debt-for-ocean swaps, while facilitating reflections on the status, challenges, and lessons learned from access to finance for the African Island States and AIS SIDS, as well as the sustainability of public debt.

Background documentation

- [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](#)
- [AISCC High-Level Meeting at the 37th African Union Summit](#)
- [COP 28: African Small Island Developing States press for adaptation finance to fight climate change](#)
- Port Louis Recommendations





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- [Beau-Vallon Outcome Document](#)
- [Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa](#)
- [Blue Future Conference](#)
- [Santa Maria Call to Action](#)

Organizers

Lead: Sao Tome and Principe (member state national government)

Organizing Partners: Seychelles, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Tanzania, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Indian Ocean Commission, United Nations Office of Special Advisor for Africa, Green Climate Fund, Sustainable Debt Coalition, SYAH Seychelles, SYAH Cabo Verde

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Voluntary Ocean Commitments

The commitments registered in the database by the organizing partners can be found here:
<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments>

