

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (FFD4)

SIDE EVENT

Building Resilient Financing Pathways for SIDS: Country Experiences under the Financing for SIDS (FINS) Initiative

Wednesday, 2 July 2025, 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Side Event Room 3, FIBES Sevilla Exhibition and Conference Centre

Background

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face persistent financing challenges. SIDS are uniquely vulnerable to external economic, social and environmental shocks – most notably the rapidly accelerating impacts of climate change - due to their small size, geographic remoteness, small and undiversified economies and limited domestic revenue. Accessing concessional finance is often difficult for SIDS, and many struggle with high levels of debt and limited fiscal space. These structural vulnerabilities hinder progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, adopted at the Fourth International Conference on SIDS in 2024, recognized the importance of strengthening the synergy between public policy planning and financing in SIDS through integrated national financing frameworks (INFF). A tool to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Seville outcome at the country level, INFFs help countries design financing strategies that integrate public and private, domestic and international sources in support of sustainable development.

The FINS initiative, led by UN DESA, is a pilot program supporting selected SIDS to align financial resources with national priorities through the INFF approach. FINS is supporting the Dominican Republic, Seychelles, Fiji and Vanuatu to enhance the link between planning and financing, improve transparency, and build momentum for reform. This Side Event offers a timely opportunity to reflect on lessons from the pilot phase and explore pathways to scale up integrated financing across SIDS.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Co-organized by the Governments of the Dominican Republic, Seychelles, and UNDESA, this Side Event aims to showcase country-led efforts in strengthening financing strategies

through INFFs under the FINS initiative. Drawing from the experiences of the Dominican Republic, Seychelles, Fiji, and Vanuatu, the Side Event will:

- Highlight practical country experiences in developing and implementing financing strategies aligned with national development plans through INFFs.
- Promote a deeper understanding of integrated financing approaches that connect policy priorities with public and private financing decisions.
- Share insights on the use of financing for development tools in diverse SIDS contexts, including the enabling conditions and challenges faced.
- Increase awareness of the role of international support, with reflections from Denmark, one of the development partners, in advancing national efforts.
- Recognize best practices and lessons learned, offering a foundation for other SIDS and developing countries to consider similar integrated approaches.

Format

The moderated session will be organized as follows:

Moderator: Mr. Oliver Schwank, Chief of Policy Analysis and Development, Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO), UN DESA

Time	Agenda	Speakers	Details
12:30 – 12:35 PM (5 min)	Opening Remarks	Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant-Secretary-General (ASG) for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA	Welcoming remarks and introduction on the relevance of integrated financing strategies for SIDS in the context of sustainable development and international cooperation.
12:35 – 1:15 PM (40 min)	Country Experience from the FINS Initiative	Mr. Martin Francos Rodríguez, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, the Dominican Republic Mrs. Elizabeth Agathine, Principal Secretary for National Planning, Ministry of Finance, Seychelles	Four SIDS participating in the FINS initiative will highlight their experiences, progress, and lessons learned in aligning financing strategies with development priorities. Each speaker is allocated 10 minutes.

Time	Agenda	Speakers	Details
		<p>H.E. Mr. Filipo Tarakinikini, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations</p> <p>Mr. Noah Patrick Kouback, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, Vanuatu</p>	
1:15 – 1:35 PM (20 min)	Partner Perspectives	Mr. Jesper Hilsted Andersen, Chief Counsellor for Development Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark	Denmark, one of the development partners, reflect on the support for FINS and the importance of tailored financing support for vulnerable economies. The speaker is allocated 20 minutes.
1:35 – 1:55 PM (20 min)	Open Discussion	All participants	Open floor for questions, comments, and exchange of experiences with participants.
1:55 – 2:00 PM (5 min)	Closing Remarks	Mr. Oliver Schwank, Chief of Policy Analysis and Development, FSDO, UN DESA	Summary of key insights from the discussion and outlining the way forward for FINS, including in the context of the FFD4 outcome.