

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (FFD4)

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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

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 development partners such as Italy and Denmark, 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 90-minute in-person side event will be structured to facilitate the exchange of experiences and perspectives among representatives of SIDS and development partners engaged in the FINS initiative. The moderated session will be organized as follows:

- **Opening Remarks (5 minutes):** The event will commence with welcoming remarks delivered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Under-Secretary-General (USG), providing introductory reflections on the relevance of integrated financing strategies for SIDS within the broader context of sustainable development and international cooperation.
- **Country Experiences from the FINS Initiative (40 minutes):** Four SIDS participating in the FINS initiative, Dominican Republic (Mr. Martin Francos Rodríguez, Deputy Minister of Productive Sectors of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development), Seychelles (TBC), Fiji (TBC), and Vanuatu (TBC), will be allocated 10 minutes each to highlight their experiences, progress, and lessons learned in aligning financing strategies with development priorities.
- **Partner Perspectives (20 minutes):** Development partners supporting the FINS initiative, Italy and Denmark, will provide reflections on their support for FINS and the importance of tailored financing support for vulnerable economies. Each partner will have 10 minutes to share their insights.
- **Open Discussion (20 minutes):** The floor will be open for questions, comments, and exchange of experiences with participants.
- **Closing Remarks (5 minutes):** The session will conclude with remarks from UN DESA Financing for Sustainable Development Office Director, Shari Spiegel, summarizing the key insights from the discussion and outlining the way forward for continued engagement and scaling of the initiative, including in the context of FFD4 outcome.