SIDS Platform at the Seventh Regional Committee Meeting in Sri Lanka 16th & 17th July 2025

16 July 2025

Background & Rationale

The global energy transition is a critical enabler of sustainable development, but its implementation must align with the geographical and economic realities of different regions. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face distinct challenges, necessitating tailored approaches rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

SIDS remain highly dependent on imported fossil fuels, lack the land for large-scale renewable projects and grapple with limited private investment. The geographic isolation and dispersed populations of SIDS make grid expansion difficult, requiring distributed solar solutions. Addressing these challenges requires customized strategies to unlock renewable energy's full potential while ensuring equitable progress toward global climate goals.

Renewable energy features prominently in most NDCs under the Paris Agreement, with nearly 80% of the 195 Parties committing to RE targets, primarily for 2030. However, translating commitments into reality requires overcoming financing gaps, private sector connectivity, technological access barriers, grid reliability concerns, and institutional capacity deficits - each varying across the SIDS.

The SIDS Platform, anchored by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and The World Bank, is a transformative digital and financial ecosystem envisioned to accelerate solar deployment in these nations. It offers a full-stack solution—combining a digital e-marketplace, standardized procurement, plug-and-play financing, project pipeline development, and training modules. These tools empower governments, utilities, and SMEs to lower solar costs, crowd in blended finance, and replace costly diesel systems. For example, the Maldives has already demonstrated the viability of this approach, awarding solar PPAs at record-low tariffs of $0.0982/kWh under the ASPIRE program and unlocking $30 million in annual savings. Scaling such solutions across SIDS could free up fiscal space, create local green jobs, and significantly reduce emissions.

Highlighting the SIDS Platform at this year's Sri Lanka RCM is both timely and strategic. It offers a critical opportunity to secure political endorsements from island nations and mobilize support from development partners ahead of the global spotlight at COP 30, Brazil. The session will also serve as a forum to share successful models (like in the Maldives), identify priority projects, and align on country-level pathways for platform adoption. As the region prepares for significant energy transitions, the SIDS Platform session will ensure that island voices, priorities, and leadership are front and centre.

This session aims to generate momentum for initial rollouts in 2025, finalize initial country-level buy-ins, and consolidate support for the platform's next phase of implementation. With the RCM serving as a convening point for both political and technical stakeholders, it is the ideal venue to cement the SIDS Platform as a flagship ISA initiative driving equity, innovation, and resilience in the global energy transition.

Programs & Partnerships Supporting the Initiative:

- **ESMAP**: The Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) is a partnership between the World Bank and over 20 partners to help low- and middle-income countries reduce poverty and boost growth through sustainable energy solutions. ESMAP's analytical and advisory services are fully integrated within the World Bank's country financing and policy dialogue in the energy sector. Through the World Bank, ESMAP works to accelerate the energy transition required to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7), which ensures access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. It helps shape World Bank strategies and programs to achieve the World Bank Climate Change Action Plan targets

- **The SIDS DOCK Support Program**: The program was launched by the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) with funding from the governments of Denmark (US$7 million) and

Japan (US$15 million). The US$22 million program is designed to help the transform the energy sectors in SIDS by focusing on two principal outcomes:

- Creation of an enabling operational, legal, and institutional environment to implement renewable energy and energy efficiency policy reforms based on international best practices, and
- Implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives for potential scale-up through climate finance and other sources of funding. To achieve these outcomes, ESMAP provides grants to SIDS DOCK member states to support analytical and advisory activities, as well as some investments, for renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

Tentative Schedule of the SIDS Platform Discussions at the Seventh Regional Committee Meeting in Sri Lanka

Wednesday, 16 July 2025	
Time	**Particulars**
10:45 – 12:10 hours	**Session 1: Driving political ownership for the SIDS Platform**
10:45 – 10:50 hours	Opening address by ISA Director General, Mr. Ashish Khanna
10:50 – 10:55 hours	Special address by Mr. Imad Fakhoury, Regional Director, South Asia, International Finance Corporation
Global Energy Scenario and Guarantees	
10:55 – 10:59 hours	Address by Mr. Rahul Kitchlu, Practice Manager, The World Bank
10:59 – 11:03 hours	Address by Mr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Vice President, Operations, MIGA (virtual)
11:03 – 11:07 hours	Address by Dr. Priyantha Wijayatunga, Senior Director, Energy Sector Office, Asian Development Bank
11:07 – 11:11 hours	Address by Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, COP 30 Special Envoy Founder-CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water
High Level Addresses	
11:11 – 11:21 hours	Presentation on Maldives Case Study: Amit Jain Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank Discussions and Q&A
11:21 – 12:10 hours	Address by Country Representatives Pacific Island Nations and SIDS from APAC and Africa **Republic of Fiji** H.E Ro Filipe Tuisawai, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services / H.E. Jagannath Sami, Fiji's High Commissioner to the Republic of India **Republic of Kiribati** H.E. Tekeeua Tarati, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy

	Republic of Maldives H.E. Muaviyath Mohamed, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism and Environment **Republic of Marshall Islands** H.E. Bremity Lakjohn, Hon'ble Minister, Minister in Assistance to the President & Environment **Republic of Mauritius** H.E. Patrick Gervais Assirvaden, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities* **Republic of Nauru** H.E. Asterio Appi, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry for Climate Change and National Resilience **Solomon Islands** H.E. Derrick Rawcliff Manu'ari, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
12:10 – 12:15 hours	Signing of support letter for the SIDS Platform
12:15 hours	Vote of Thanks

Thursday, 17 July 2025	
08:30 – 10:00 hours	**Session 2: Operationalisation of the SIDS Platform**
08:30 – 08:35 hours	Context setting by ISA
08:35 – 08:45 hours	Keynote Address by H.E. Flavien Joubert, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change and Energy, Republic of Seychelles
Moderated Panel Discussion on the SIDS Platform	
08:45 – 09:55 hours	**Invited discussants:** • Dr. Chris Vahe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, Solomon Islands • Mr. Mikaele Belana, Director for Energy Division, Ministry of Public Works and Meteorological Services, Fiji • Ms. Phaedora Harris, Director of Energy, Department of Climate Change and National Resilience, Nauru • Mr. Tony S. Alik, Deputy Director, National Energy Office, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Marshall Islands • Ms. Rensie Panda, International Affairs & Community Outreach, Papua New Guinea • Mr. Sanjiva De Silva, Counsellor, Australian High Commission • Ms. Lisa Whanstall, Deputy HC to Sri Lanka, FCDO

	• Ms. Shalu Agarwal, CEEW • Mr. Gianni Chianetta, Greening the Islands Foundation • Mr. Ximing Peng, The World Bank • Ms. Juliet Pumpuni, The World Bank • Dr. Ajeet Kumar Singh, TERI • Ms. Sandeep Singh, ISA • Mr. Amit Jain, The World Bank (co-moderator) • Mr. Karan Mangotra, ISA (co-moderator)
09:55 – 10:00 hours	Discussions and Q&A

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