
SIDS Platform
Ministerial Session on amplifying energy transition in small islands powered by digital transformation
at

The Seventh Regional Committee Meeting in Santiago, Chile, 5 August 2025

04 August 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) in the Caribbean face distinct challenges, necessitating tailored approaches rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

Caribbean SIDS remain highly dependent on imported fossil fuels, contend with hurricane exposure and sea-level rise, lack the land for large-scale renewable projects, and grapple with limited private investment. Their geographic isolation and dispersed island grids make conventional expansion difficult, requiring distributed solar and storage solutions. Addressing these challenges demands customized strategies to unlock renewable energy's full potential while ensuring equitable progress toward global climate goals.

Renewable energy features prominently in most Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, with nearly 80 percent of the 195 Parties committing to RE targets 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 Caribbean 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, mobilize blended finance, and replace costly diesel systems. Jamaica's 51 MW Paradise Park solar farm, for instance, delivers power at just USD 0.085 per kWh, the country's cheapest electricity to date, demonstrating the kind of savings and scalability the Platform seeks to replicate across the region.

Highlighting the SIDS Platform at this year's Latin America & Caribbean Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) in Santiago de Chile is both timely and strategic. It offers a critical opportunity to secure political endorsements from Caribbean Island nations and mobilize support from development partners ahead of the global spotlight at COP 30 in Belém, Brazil. The session will also serve as a forum to share successful regional models, identify priority projects, and align country-level pathways for Platform adoption.

This session aims to generate momentum for initial rollouts in 2025, finalize country buy-ins, and consolidate support for the Platform's next implementation phase. With the LAC RCM convening 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 Caribbean's 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
Santiago Marriott Hotel, Chile**

Tuesday, 05 August 2025	
Time	Particulars
10:05 – 11:45 hours	High Level Session on the SIDS Platform Initiative
10:05 – 10:10 hours	Context Setting of the SIDS Platform Initiative by Mr. Karan Mangotra, ISA
10:10 – 10:15 hours	Opening Address by Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director General, ISA
10:15 – 10:20 hours	Special Address by Ms. Lucia Spinelli, Senior Energy Specialist, The World Bank
10:20 – 10:25 hours	Special Address by Ms. Ronke-Amoni Ogunsulire, Regional Manager for Caribbean, IFC (virtual)
10:25 – 10:30 hours	Special Address by Mr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Vice President, Operations, MIGA (virtual)
10:30 – 10:38 hours	Keynote Address by Mr. Tulio Andrade, Head of Strategy & Alignment, COP 30 Presidency (virtual)
10:38 – 10:45 hours	Floating PV Framework Report – Preview and LAC relevance by Mr. Felipe Saliba, ISA
High Level Addresses	
10:45 – 10:52 hours	Antigua and Barbuda H.E. Mr. Melford Nicholas, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Information Communications Technologies (ICTs), Utilities & Energies
10:53 – 11:00 hours	Commonwealth of Dominica H.E. Dr. Vince Henderson, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy
11:00 – 11:07 hours	Grenada H.E. Mrs. Kerryne Zennelle James, Hon'ble Minister, Minister for Climate Resilience, The Environment and Renewable Energy

11:07 – 11:14 hours	Saint Kitts and Nevis H.E. Mr. Konris Maynard, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities, Domestic Transport, Information, Communication and Technology and Posts
11:14 – 11:21 hours	Trinidad and Tobago H.E. Mr. Ernesto Raymond Kesar, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
11:21 – 11:27 hours	Belize H.E Mr. Leroy Almendarez, Vice Minister, Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics
11:27 – 11:32 hours	Republic of Suriname H.E Mrs. Valerie Lalji, Permanent Secretary for Energy/National Focal Point, Ministry of Natural Resources
11:32 – 11:37 hours	Dominican Republic Dr. Maximiliano Puig Miller, Vice President Executive of the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism
11:37 – 11:42 hours	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Ms. Judith Ephraim-Schmidt, Programme Director, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
11:42 – 11:47 hours	Saint Lucia Representative
11:47 hours	Signing of Support Letter for the SIDS Platform
Vote of Thanks	