

Side-Event UN 2023 Water Conference

Draft Concept Note & Programme

SIDS Resilience to Climate Change through Water Security:

Towards SDGs and SAMOA Pathway Achievement

Thematic focus: ID 3: Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea,

Extended Session Description

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of countries that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. They were recognized as a special case for their environment and development at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

Ensuring Water Security in SIDS is an existential issue because of the role of water as the connector of the Sustainable Development Goals. 71% of SIDS face the risk of water shortage which increases to 91% in the lowest altitude. SIDS are vulnerable to the depletion of freshwater aquifers and saltwater intrusion of aquifers.

SIDS resilience to climate change is another existential issue due to devastating effects of extreme events and water-related disasters. Water security and climate change are inextricably linked. SIDS are at forefront of climate change impact and these impacts have far reaching effects on their populations, economies and ecosystems. In addition, climate change poses significant threats to water security in SIDS. Ensuring water security—the reliability of a clean and available water supply— is critical for SIDS' resilience to climate change. Improved water security will furthermore reduce unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS to climate change impacts.

Water is at the core of sustainable development. Therefore, sustainable development of SIDS depends on the quality and quantity of their surface and groundwater resources. In order to achieve the SDGs, especially the SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, it is necessary to act urgently and decisively to prioritize action to ensure water security in SIDS. Clean water is also crucial to the SDG 14 achievement and protecting the unique coastal ecosystems in SIDS.

Partnerships, knowledge sharing, early warning systems, and science-based policy advice are key mechanisms for building and strengthening the resilience of societies. Some of the ways inkey mechanisr

