



News Release

U.N. AND WOC COLLABORATE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK FORUM DURING SOS 2020

Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) Special Business and Islands Webinar: “Partnerships For Sustainable Blue Economy Transition And Pandemic Recovery In SIDS” on 11 December

8 December 2020

The World Ocean Council (WOC) and the U.N. are working together to develop the SIDS Global Business Network (GBN) Forum as a key platform to attract interest and investments into SIDS by the private sector, to increase the engagement and the role of the private sector in promoting sustainable development through durable partnerships.

The webinar is part of the WOC 2020 Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) and will address:

- Interlinkages between SIDS and ocean economy
- Impact of COVID on ocean industries such as fishing, shipping and tourism
- Underscore SIDS are hardest hit as a result of these disruptions
- Emphasize the potential benefits from investment in sustainable ocean solutions

[Click here](#) to register for the SIDS GBN event (11 Dec, 1100-1230, Est).

The webinar will focus on partnership opportunities with the business community to accelerate the blue economy transition and support post-pandemic economic recovery, including:

- Challenges posed by the pandemic towards a sustainable blue economy in SIDS
- Share best practices of ocean-based solutions to catalyze economic recovery
- New opportunities for SIDS to open up the blue economy with innovative investment
- Present and discuss strategic partnerships and actions needed for long-term sustainable blue economy growth in SIDS

The webinar will be opened by the SIDS Partnership Co-Chairs Antigua and Barbuda, U.N. Under Secretary General, Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu and with a keynote presentation by World Ocean Council CEO, Paul Holthus.

The webinar will primarily consist of a roundtable including representatives of SIDS Member States and international organizations, and a diverse range of ocean industry leaders with experience and operations on the SIDS regions:

- Ocean Energy/Cabo Verde: Bill Staby, CEO, Resolute Marine Energy
- Shipping/Caribbean: Milaika Capella Ras, Deputy Director, Caribbean Shipping Association
- Aquaculture/Pacific: Neil Sims, Founder/CEO, Ocean Era
- Tourism/Caribbean: Heidi Clarke, Executive Director, Sandals Foundation
- Fishing: TBD

The U.N. Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) is the co-organizer of the webinar.

Blue Economy by the Numbers

Gross revenues of ocean use in the Caribbean region, mostly from shipping, mineral resources, tourism, and fisheries: **At least USD 407 billion**

Source: Patil, P.G., Virdin, J., Diez, S.M., Roberts, J., Singh, A. (2016). Toward A Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean; An Overview. The World Bank, Washington D.C.

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

5 December, Online event

South Africa Sustainability Week: (Speaker: Panel on “Creating a Sustainable BLUE Economy”)

15-16 December, Online Event

EU International Ocean Governance Forum 2020 Setting the Course for a Sustainable Blue Planet (Participant)

World Ocean Council (WOC) – The Global Blue Economy Business Organization

The WOC is the international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership, collaboration and action on ocean sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology and investment.

WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US, UK and France.

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