

Concept Note & Agenda

SIDS DOCK Side Event

On the Margins of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties 2021 (COP26) on the *Call To Action!* for the Establishment of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GOEA)

Date: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (UK Time), Thursday, 11 November 2021

Venue: Wood House, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Organized by the Secretariat of SIDS DOCK, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Stimson Center Alliance for a Climate Resilient Earth (ACRE), in partnership with the Governments of the Kingdom of Tonga, Belize, the Republic of Seychelles, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 crisis has reemphasized the urgent need for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to diversify their economies, reactivate or strengthen traditional sectors and tap into the value chains of emerging ones. Increasingly, SIDS and coastal LDCs are embracing the expanding Blue Economy as a mechanism for realizing sustainable growth and mitigating local pollution and climate change, simultaneously. Endowed with vast ocean territories and exclusive economic zones (EEZs), these countries and territories have the opportunity to create new income streams and to diversify their economies. Therefore, as part of their blue economy aspirations, SIDS and coastal LDCs demonstrate an increasing interest to harness the opportunities of ocean energy technologies in the near future. Ocean energy is the largest renewable energy resource endowment for SIDS and does not require conversion of limited land area to install PV and on-grid wind infrastructure. SIDS are blessed with many renewable energy resources, and most of them are already competitive with fossil fuel-based generation (e.g., diesel, heavy fuel oil [HFO]). The decreasing technology costs for some ocean energy technologies is a powerful consideration.

Ocean energy can help SIDS with the goal of reducing long term energy cost, generating employment, reducing trade imbalances resulting from the more than USD 25 billion plus payment for fuel imports, and challenges arising from climate change (reduction in freshwater, reduction on fish catch due to warming oceans and bleaching of coral). In some SIDS, the import cost of petroleum fuels is greater than the total export earnings of the country. The use of ocean energy can reduce fossil fuel import dependency and free up scarce foreign exchange reserves for key sectors such as education, health, economic diversification or climate change adaptation. In addition, it lowers high energy costs for industries and households, representing often a high burden for poorer communities. However, due to certain limitations, SIDS and coastal LDCs are currently not taking advantage of ocean energy technologies and there is limited capacity and awareness about the practical application of ocean energy. There are significant barriers in the areas of planning, policy and regulation, knowledge, awareness, human and entrepreneurial capacity, as well as access to technology and finance. There is need to make a business case for ocean energy and to familiarize SIDS experts and policy makers with the latest industry trends.

SIDS DOCK, UNIDO and Stimson-ACRE, will cooperate to establish the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GOEA), mobilize resources, facilitate partnerships with the private sector aimed at the effective transfer of ocean energy knowledge, technology and investments, and to put the appropriate institutional framework in place for an Ocean Energy Industry. The GOEA is an initiative focused on accelerating the development of ocean energy projects through partnerships that mobilize technical, human and financial resources and aims to establish a global community of vested interest with the capacity to develop a pipeline of bankable ocean energy projects to serve islands, cities and coastal nations. The partners will also introduce the “*Ocean Energy For Blue Economies Platform*,” powered by SustainChain™, to facilitate science and technology exchanges necessary for advancing ocean energy technologies and in particular, the commercial-scale deployment of ocean-based energy technologies that are appropriate to the demands in

Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Platform is scheduled to be launched at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, on 4th November 2021.

The “Blue Economy” concept seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion, and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the oceans, coastal areas and global climate. A blue economy is low-carbon, efficient, and clean. It is also an economy that is based on sharing, circularity, collaboration, solidarity, resilience, opportunity, and interdependence. The ocean makes a significant contribution to the global economy – over USD 1.5 trillion in value added in 2010. The projections suggest that by 2030, the ocean economy could more than double its contribution to global value added, reaching over USD 3 trillion, and creating approximately 40 million jobs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

The Side Event is intended to provide an overview and rationale for the establishment and launch of a Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GOEA), beginning with a *Call to Action!* led by Heads of State and Government from SIDS and LDCs, on the margins of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP26), scheduled for 1 to 11 November 2021, in Glasgow, Scotland. This Side Event, scheduled for Thursday, 11 November, will include a dynamic presentation of how Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) is the best suited ocean energy technology for SIDS and coastal cities, and how the new SIDS DOCK, UNIDO, Stimson-ACRE partnership will lead to the identification of Public-Private funding to support the design, financing and implementation of the project pipeline development across small islands, where more than ten thousand megawatts (10,000 MWs) of installed fossil fuel capacity needs to be replaced in the coming decade. Many of these islands also have wider opportunities for seawater desalination, district cooling, aquaculture and mariculture and mineral extraction, which can generate additional revenues to further catalyse the Blue Economy and contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and build climate resilience among its 32 countries that are part of the SIDS DOCK organization.

Specific Objectives include:

- (a) Identification of new Development Partners to join the Global Ocean Energy Alliance;
- (b) Announcement of new Private Sector Partners in the Global Ocean Energy Alliance;
- (c) Announcement of the Launch of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance at the UN Ocean Conference, scheduled for 27 June to 1 July 2022, in Lisbon, Portugal.
- (d) Announcement of the Launch of the “*Ocean Energy For Blue Economies Platform*,” powered by SustainChain™ to facilitate science and technology exchanges necessary for advancing ocean energy technologies and in particular, the commercial-scale deployment of ocean-based energy technologies that are appropriate to the demands in SIDS and LDCs.

PARTICIPANTS

The side event will gather country representatives, government officials, policymakers, experts, and stakeholders who are attending the SIDS DOCK Side Event on Establishment of the Ocean Energy Global Alliance, at Wood House, on the margins of COP26, on 11 November 2021, in Glasgow, United Kingdom. The event will also be live streamed online to engage more participants in a hybrid format.

AGENDA

Agenda (Tentative)	
Date: Thursday, 11 November 2021	
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm (UK Time)	
Venue: Wood House, St. Vincent Plaza, 319 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5LP	
Time	Content
4:30 – 5:30	Registration & Security Checkpoint Aperitif Served From 4:30 – 5:30

5:30 – 5:45	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador and former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles, and Chair of the Executive Council of SIDS DOCK <p>Video Presentation: Ocean Energy in Action – Model to Replicate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Kumejima OTEC Model</u>: Mr. Benjamin Martin, Secretary General, Ocean Thermal Energy Association (OTEA), Kumejima, Japan
5:45 – 6:00	<p>Call To Action! for the Establishment of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GOEA)</p> <p>Keynote Address (Pre-recorded Video)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onea, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, President of the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK (Pacific Region) <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Mr. Flavien Joubert, Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, Republic of Seychelles, on behalf of Hon. Rev. Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles, Vice-President (AIS Region) of the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK <p>Speaker (Pre-recorded Video):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Mr. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize, Vice-President (Caribbean Region) of the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK
6:00 – 6:15	<p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, former Vice-President (Caribbean Region) of the third session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Ms. Nawal Al-Hosany, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Permanent Mission of the UAE to the United Nations • Mr. Stephan Sicars, Managing Director of the Environment and Energy Directorate, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
6:15 – 6:45	<p>Main Presentation: Ocean Energy for Climate Resilient Economies: The Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Floating Platform</p> <p>Speaker & Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Daniel Grech, Chief Executive Officer, Global OTEC <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Mr. Osvaldo C.V. Abreu, Minister for Public Works Infrastructure Natural Resources and Environment, Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, on behalf of the Hon. Dr. Jorge Lopes Bom Jesus, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe
6:45 – 6:50	<p>Launch of the Ocean Energy For Blue Economies Platform,” Powered by SustainChain™</p> <p>Speaker (Pre-recorded Video):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanna Hall, Executive Director and Head of Product, US Coalition on Sustainability
6:50 – 7:00	<p>Closing of Event</p>

ORGANIZERS

This event is organized by the Secretariat of SIDS DOCK, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Stimson Center Alliance for a Climate Resilient Earth (ACRE), in

partnership with the Governments of the Kingdom of Tonga, Belize, the Republic of Seychelles, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

FORMALITY

The Side Event is an Invite Only event, and is being held in-person, at Wood House in Glasgow, Scotland, and hosted by our kind and generous supporter, Wood¹, one of the world's leading consulting and engineering companies operating across energy and the built environment. Instructions to attend the Side Event are attached.

The side event will be held in a hybrid format. Invited participants can attend online, via ZOOM, and the public will be able to view the proceeding via live streaming service, on the SIDS DOCK Youtube channel. The Secretariat of SIDS DOCK will provide information to access these platforms.

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¹ <https://www.woodplc.com/cop26/home>