



**Forum:** ECOSOC

**Issue:** Building a Sustainable Development Framework for Island Nations

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## Overview

In the current millennia of competition, countries live off of trade, business, politics, relations and the legacy that their predecessors made. The citizens of economically developed countries are able to live in a society of stable economy and well-built infrastructures while the citizens of developing countries are still partially suffering from poverty, hunger and corrupted government. Within the countries under development, there are the ones who suffer more than others; island countries being part of that list. Island countries need to cope with climate change and rising sea levels more than other countries, and because of its geographical disadvantage, they will need to confront the problem. However, due to the lack of economic and political power, they are not able go through every situation that they face. Because of its location, it is isolated from countries that might potentially be able to help them. The United Nations are there to make sure that the small countries are able to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals that was set by the organization for promoting peace and prosperity, by the year 2030. The committee of Economic and Social will focus on the sustainable development goals that are related to the committee's initial value. ECOSOC will focus on Goal 1, 4, 5 and 8. The goals consists of No Poverty, Equality Education, Gender Equality and Decent Work and Economic Growth. These four goals out of the 17 were chosen because it is related to economic and social aspect of the problems that the island nations are facing.

## Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals are eight goals fully agreed by all nations in United Nations to achieve by the year 2015. The eight goals are goals that a country should try to achieve for the nation to be a well running structure. The eight goals are listed as follows:

- To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- To achieve universal and primary education
- To promote gender equality and empower women
- To reduce child mortality
- To improve maternal health



- To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- To ensure sustainable development
- To develop a global partnership for development

The Millennium Development Goals soon relates to the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be used as the framework of committee's discussion on sustainable development of Island Nations.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

Sustainable Development Goals are goals that has been set by the United Nations to create a hopeful and sustainable future for everyone in the world. It addresses the global challenges we face; which includes problems such as poverty, climate change, hunger, famine, prosperity, justice, peace and environmental degradation. As our committee is the Economic-Social Committee, we will mainly focus on social and economic challenges that the small island nations face. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are listed as follows:

1. No Poverty
2. No Hunger
3. Good Health
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Renewable Energy
8. Good Jobs and Economic Growth
9. Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice
17. Partnerships for the Goals



## **Introduction to SIDS - List of SIDS Nations**

The Small Island Developing States were first recognized in the United Nations conference on Environment and Development. The Barbados Program of Action was then produced for the assistance of the SIDS. The Small Island Developing States are divided into three regions, which are the Caribbean Region, Pacific Region and the AIMS Region, which stands for (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea). Islands that are part of the SIDS. Countries that are part of SIDS are countries such as Barbados, Cuba, Belize, Dominican Republic, Kiribati, Fiji, Cook Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Maldives, etc.

### **Barbados Program of Action**

The Barbados Program of Action was put into act in 1994, during the conference that was held in Barbados. It proposed actions against the vulnerable island nations that has limited resources and power for their country to become stable and fair. The conference identified specific areas and actions, which addressed the challenges that the SIDS faced. Some of the problems includes human resource development, regional institutions and technical cooperation, national institutions and administrative capacity, climate change and rising sea-levels, natural and environmental disasters, etc. The Economic and Social Committee needs to make sure that the problems of SIDS, including some of the problems listed above, to be addressed and solved.

### **LEDCs and MEDCs**

Small Island Developing Nations can be categorized as an LEDC because of all the disadvantages they get by living in a small island. Huge impacts of climate change, natural disaster, rising sea level and others can affect twice as much as it does in other bigger countries. Less Economically Developed Countries are already struggling with their own problems, meaning they do not have the need to help the island nations. However, it can still provide ideas and opinions about building a sustainable framework for the island nations. More Economically Developed Countries have more options in helping these island nations. One of the ways that More Economically Developed Countries know is by financially aiding the island countries to recover from hardships so they can focus on developing their country. Factors such as tourism and trade can allow the island nations to gain basic economic structure before nations go on their own.



## Important events/ timelines

<b>Small Island Developing Nations</b>	<b>First recognized in June 1992 at the conference of Environment and Development.</b>
<b>Barbados Program of Action</b>	<b>Implemented in 1994 April to May, which happened in Barbados.</b>
<b>Mauritius Strategy of Implementation</b>	<b>It was held in 2005, January. Meeting served as a review of the ten-year progress of the Barbados Program. Ended up in demanding further implementation.</b>

## Major nations/ Organizations

### United Nations General Assembly

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the major sectors of the United Nations, which gives every country equal representation while dealing with policy making and representation. The General Assembly is quite important as this is where the small island nations had the chance to speak up and discuss the problems that island nations were facing.

### United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (UN-OHRLLS)

Founded in 1991, the UN-OHRLLS is an office of the United Nations Secretariat that deals with least developing countries, island states and land-locked developing states.

### Commission on Sustainable Development



The Commission on Sustainable Development was given the responsibility by the United Nations to make sure that the Barbados Program of Action and the work of sustainable development and creating a hopeful future for the SIDS is kept in action and control.

### **Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organizations (PIANGO)**

The organization was formally established in 1991 to help and assist the non-governmental organizations in the Pacific to amplify their voices for concerns and work together for sustainable human development.

## **Possible Solutions**

It is crucial for the island countries to have their poverty rates decreased down to a certain level. ESMAP has:

1. Supported technical assistance activities in 19 SIDS across the Caribbean, Pacific and Africa Regions
2. Provide more than US\$30million to support SIDS' transition to low-emission, climate resilient development and demonstrate a pathway to limiting temperature rise in pro-poor manner.
3. Help mobilize additional investment of US\$30 million and foundation for US\$100 million for geothermal development in the Caribbean in the coming years.

For possible solutions, there are several ways to create sustainable education framework:

1. Systems thinking competence
2. Futures thinking competence
3. Value thinking competence
4. Strategic thinking competence
5. Collaboration competence

These competencies are rarely operationalized as specific learning objectives for different educational levels. The majority of proposals remain generic, with few exceptions that attempt to specify different levels of competence for graduate and undergraduate programs. This lag behind conceptualization offers one explanation for why incorporation of sustainability competencies into curricula and courses has been slow.



Presenting a consolidated and integrated set of operationalized competencies in sustainability. Differentiate the competencies into novice, intermediate and advanced levels which in turn can translate to high school, undergraduate and graduate levels of sustainability education.

## Key Terms

**Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** – Categorized list of small island countries that needs help, especially in terms of the economy.

**Financial Aid** – To lent other countries money in exchange for later repayment. Financial aid is needed as the SIDS do not have a strong base monetarily to start developing internally.

**Infrastructure** – Infrastructure is the basic structures that countries need for the society to operate. It is important to note and think about which infrastructures should be built first and others later because every island country have different needs.

**Commission** – Group of people that are officially charged with particular functions.

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