

## **Side Event 11: "Existing Plastic Pollution: Challenges of SIDS and Remote Communities" at the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3)**

Concept note

**Date:** Friday, 17 November 2023, 75 min, 13:30 EAT

### **Context:**

Plastic pollution poses a severe threat to our environment and the well-being of communities worldwide. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and remote communities face unique challenges in addressing plastic pollution. They are often affected disproportionately by plastic pollution due to their geographical isolation, limited resources, and compounded exposure to other planetary crises. INC-3 offers a timely platform to address these pressing concerns and seek collaborative solutions to address the challenges, needs, and leadership role of SIDS and remote communities for an ambitious, inclusive, and equitable international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution. This side event at INC-3 aims to shed light on the existing plastic pollution issues in vulnerable regions and explore practical strategies to mitigate its impact. It seeks to engage diverse stakeholders, including representatives from SIDS, academia, NGOs, and grassroots organizations, in a constructive dialogue that can lead to meaningful action and global cooperation.

### **Objectives:**

1. **Raise Awareness:** To enhance understanding about the specific challenges faced by SIDS and remote communities in tackling plastic pollution.
2. **Knowledge Sharing:** Share innovative approaches and success stories from around the world, to address plastic pollution from land and sea-based sources.
3. **Community Perspectives:** Highlight the experiences and insights of community-led organizations and leaders from SIDS and remote contexts.
4. **Identify Solutions:** Foster dialogue among key stakeholders to identify effective strategies and best practices for addressing plastic pollution in these disadvantaged regions, including equitable finance and technical assistance.

**Format:** Interactive moderated panel discussion with no/minimal use of presentation slides.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

- What are the unique challenges that SIDS and remote communities face regarding plastic pollution and what are solutions that can be replicated?
- What does a holistic and equitable approach look like in SIDS and remote communities and what does this mean for an effective ILBI that leaves no one behind?
- What role do local and grassroots organizations play in addressing plastic pollution, and how can their efforts be further supported?
- How can we mobilize international cooperation and resources to combat plastic pollution effectively in these regions?

**Agenda:**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and opening</li> <li>Setting the context for the discussion</li> </ul>	Nancy Soi, UNEP Regional Seas Programme Coordinator
13.40	<p>What are the unique challenges and existing priorities and solutions in SIDS and remote communities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perspectives from AOSIS and the Pacific</li> <li>Perspectives from the Caribbean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tiare Marumatakimanu, Government of Samoa, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)</li> <li>Indira James-Henry, Government of Antigua and Barbuda</li> </ul>
13.55	How can a holistic approach be adapted and implemented? Lessons learned from Mauritius	Kishore Boodhoo, University of Mauritius & International Science Council
14.05	<p>What role can community-led initiatives, grassroots organizations, and youth play to address plastic pollution equitably and effectively?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perspectives from Asia</li> <li><i>Voices of children and youth in islands</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prem Singh Tharu, Asia Indigenous People Pact</li> <li>Christianne Zakour, Trinidad and Tobago, Regional Facilitator for SIDS, Major Group for Children and Youth (<i>tbc</i>)</li> </ul>
14.20	Identifying equitable solutions: What are priorities for INC and practical steps to combat plastic pollution in SIDS and remote communities?	Moderated discussion with the audience and panel
14.40	<p>Summary and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap of key insights and takeaways</li> <li>Call for continued collaboration and commitment to addressing plastic pollution in SIDS and remote communities</li> </ul>	Nancy Soi, UNEP Regional Seas Programme Coordinator

**Lead organizer:**

Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), UNEP (Natalie Harms, Programme Lead on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter, COBSEA Secretariat), [natalie.harms@un.org](mailto:natalie.harms@un.org))

**Moderator:** Nancy Soi, Regional Seas Programme, UNEP ([nancy.soi@un.org](mailto:nancy.soi@un.org)),

**Co-organizers**

- AOSIS (Samoa), Tiare Marumatakimanu ([tiare.marumatakimanu@mfat.gov.ws](mailto:tiare.marumatakimanu@mfat.gov.ws))
- International Science Council / University of Mauritius, Kishore Boodhoo ([kishore.boodhoo@uom.ac.mu](mailto:kishore.boodhoo@uom.ac.mu))
- Asia Indigenous People Pact, Prem Singh Tharu, ([premsinghtharu@gmail.com](mailto:premsinghtharu@gmail.com))