



Public-Private Partnerships Vital for Small Islands

Press Release

Aruba, 22 March 2016 - A high-level event supporting public-private partnerships in small island developing States (SIDS) opened today in Aruba, highlighting the importance of strengthening national and international cooperation for the future sustainable development of small islands. Organised by the United Nations Office for The High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), together with the Government of Aruba in collaboration with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Public- Private Partnerships event (P3a) provides a platform to mobilize efforts in the pursuit of achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The three-day P3a event brings together SIDS and public-private partnership (PPP) leaders to provide governments, private companies, financial institutions and knowledge centers with the opportunity to showcase PPPs in SIDS. P3a will explore mechanisms and areas where success stories can be scaled-up and replicated in other SIDS, at the regional and global levels and provide the opportunity for governments to present PPP project that are in the pipeline through networking and match making. The event will focus on SIDS priority areas and themes of: oceans, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, connectivity, finance, and infrastructure.

"The purpose of this conference is to create an international platform between both the public and private sector for SIDS in which public-private partnerships are the perfect vehicle for this cooperation. Also they offer infinite and untapped opportunities that can provide crucial solutions to the development needs of SIDS." said Mike Eman, Prime Minister of Aruba.

P3a is a follow up event to the Samoa Private Sector Partnership Forum organised by UN-OHRLLS and will look to consolidate and advance the outcomes of the Samoa Forum which took place in Samoa in August 2014. The event's focus on Public-Private-Partnership is timely in the wake of the role that the private sector will need to play in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

"Public-Private-Partnerships present opportunities as well as challenges. For SIDS, due to their smallness and other related constraints, including limited financial and human resources, these challenges are magnified" said Gyan Chandra Acharya, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. "While there is no one-size-fits-all on the issue of Public-Private-Partnerships there are already lessons learned and good practices that can be shared among SIDS to strengthen their institutional knowledge and capacities. We hope that the event will provide a platform for these experiences on Publication-Private-Partnership to be shared."

Small Island Developing States are small in terms of population, and in most cases also in land mass. Due to their small size, small islands find it difficult to benefit from economies of

scale. As many of them are remote and isolated from the world's major markets, transport costs to and from and within the SIDS are among the highest in the world. Therefore, many SIDS have geared their economic activities towards tourism, promotion of cultural and natural heritage, fishing and marine resources, financing, and information and communication technology.

www.sidsgbn.org, www.unohrls.org, www.p3a.org

Media contact: Malwina Buldys (Aruba) – buldys@un.org - Louise Stoddard (New York) stoddard@un.org