



Global business network launched for small islands

Press Release

Aruba, 22 March 2016 – A global business network for small island developing states was launched at a public private partnerships event (P3a) starting today in Aruba. The network, an initiative of the UN Office for the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), will link up Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by connecting the SIDS private sector, global business and other national and international stakeholders.

The Small Island Developing States Global Business Network (SIDS GBN) will act as a resource hub to complement the work done by governments, civil society and local communities on strengthening private sector partnerships in areas including oceans, connectivity, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy and finance. Members can interact with one another, connect with different SIDS regions, update on news and share business ideas and plans.

“In addition to supporting the private sector to interact and promote collaboration among SIDS, SIDS GBN e-platform will build a bridge between the private sector from small islands and their development partners from the North and the South” said Gyan Chandra Acharya, UN Under- Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States “It is fitting that we launch SIDS GBN at the P3a. This event acts as an important platform to strengthen international cooperation, mobilizing efforts in the pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting small islands.”

SIDS-GBN and the P3a emanated from a Private Sector Partnerships Forum organised by UN-OHRLLS on the sidelines of the 2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa

“The purpose of this conference is to create an international platform and propagate the UN’s Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)” Said Mike Eman, Prime Minister of Aruba. “It is clear that the UN considers the SDGs crucial instruments towards a sunnier future for Small Island Developing States”.

The P3a in Aruba is a collaboration between the United Nations and the Government of Aruba with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The three-day event brings together SIDS and public-private partnership leaders to provide governments, private companies, financial institutions and knowledge centers the opportunity to showcase upcoming and ongoing projects.

SIDS 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.sidsqbn.org, www.unohrls.org, www.p3a.org

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