



**SIDS
GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK FORUM**
21 - 22 MAY 2018 / MAURITIUS
*STRENGTHENING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS
FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT*

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and the Government of Mauritius are organising the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network Forum from 21-22 May 2018. The Forum will be held in Balaclava, Mauritius.

This will be the third in a series of SIDS private sector fora organised by UN-OHRLLS and its partners. The SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) was announced at the first forum held in Apia, Samoa in 2014. In 2016 a forum focusing on Public-Private-Partnerships was held in Aruba.

In 2018, the SIDS-GBN will focus on the theme of *Strengthening Private Sector Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism Development*.

WHERE: Maritim Resort and Spa, Balaclava, Mauritius

WHEN: 21-22 May 2018

WHY: Tourism accounts for a significant proportion of the GDP of many SIDS, with tourism accounting for more than 50 per cent of exports in the case of St. Lucia, the Maldives and Samoa. Tourism is often one of the few activities for which their location, coupled with exceptional natural and cultural resources, is a strong competitive advantage for SIDS.

For SIDS, there is a strong connection between sustained tourism and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 8 “to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. The Forum will also delve

into Goal 8 target 8.9 to “by 2030 to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products” and the role of the private sector in achieving this target.

WHO: The Forum will convene stakeholders from: governments, inter-governmental and regional organisations, private sector, research institutions, UN system entities and other major actors to exchange best practices and lessons learned; strengthen efforts by all stakeholders to have impact at country-level; attract greater interest and investment in SIDS by the private sector to support sustainable tourism and the achievement of the SDGs in SIDS.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRESS:



Monday 21 May 2018

- 9.00 – 10.30 : Opening Ceremony
- 10:30 – 11:00 : Press Conference

FURTHER INFORMATION

Meeting Web Page: <https://sidsgbn.org/sids-gbn-forum/>

Social Media:

-  @SIDSGBN
-  #SAMOAPathway #PartnerSIDS

MEDIA CONTACT

UN-OHRLS

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