



General Assembly

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Preparatory Committee for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States

30 May 2023 and 22–26 January and 1–5 and [] April 2024

Agenda item 6

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes (Latvia)

I. Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the sessions

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/245](#) of 30 December 2022, the Preparatory Committee for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States held its organizational session on 30 May 2023, its first session from 22 to 26 January 2024 and its second session from 1 to 5 and [] April 2024.

2. During the organizational session, one plenary meeting was held. The organizational session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference. Upon their election, the Co-Chairs of the Committee (Maldives and New Zealand) made opening statements. A statement was also made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference.

3. During the first session, three plenary meetings, as well as one informal meeting, were held. The first session was opened on 22 January 2024 by the Co-Chair (New Zealand). At the 1st plenary meeting of the first session, on 22 January, the Co-Chairs made opening statements. Statements were also made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference and the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Special Adviser for the Conference. At the 3rd plenary meeting of the first session, on 26 January, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference made a statement. The Co-Chairs made closing statements.

4. Intersessional informal meetings were held from 12 to 14 February 2024, from 28 February to 1 March and on 5, 21, 22, 25 and 27 March to continue consultations on the outcome of the Conference.



5. During the second session, two plenary meetings (including the resumed 2nd plenary meeting), as well as [] informal meetings on the draft outcome of the Conference, were held. The second session was opened on 1 April 2024 by the Co-Chairs. Statements were also made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference and the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Special Adviser for the Conference and the representative of the host country of the Conference (Antigua and Barbuda).

[To be completed]

B. Election of officers

6. At the 1st plenary meeting of its organizational session, on 30 May 2023, the Preparatory Committee elected Thilmeeza Hussain (Maldives) and Carolyn Schwalger (New Zealand) as Co-Chairs.

7. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected Barbados, Cabo Verde, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Italy, Latvia, Romania and Seychelles as Vice-Chairs and Andrejs Pildegovičs of Latvia as Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee was thus established, along with its ex officio members from Antigua and Barbuda as the host country and Samoa as the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/245](#).

8. At the 1st plenary meeting of its first session, on 22 January 2024, the Preparatory Committee elected Ali Naseer Mohamed (Maldives) as Co-Chair to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office of Thilmeeza Hussain (Maldives), whose tour of duty in New York had ended in 2023.

9. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes (Latvia) as Rapporteur to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office of Andrejs Pildegovičs (Latvia), whose tour of duty in New York had ended in 2023.

C. Agenda and organization of work

10. At the 1st plenary meeting of its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda for its organizational, first and second sessions as contained in document [A/CONF.223/2024/PC/1](#). The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference.
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

11. At the same meeting, general statements were made by representatives of the European Union, Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Cabo Verde (on behalf of African small island developing States), Barbados (on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)), Antigua and Barbuda, Italy, the United States of America, Malta, Australia, the Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Seychelles,

Latvia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Israel, Denmark, Austria, Romania, Indonesia, Morocco, Portugal, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bulgaria and El Salvador and the observer of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

12. At the 1st plenary meeting of its first session, on 22 January 2024, the Preparatory Committee approved its proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in an informal paper (see annex II.A), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made as necessary, and decided that consultations on the draft outcome document would take place in informal plenary meetings presided over by the Co-Chairs or their representatives.

13. At the 1st plenary meeting of its second session, on 1 April 2024, the Preparatory Committee approved its proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in an informal paper (see annex II.B), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made as necessary, and decided that consultations on the draft outcome document would take place in informal plenary meetings presided over by the Co-Chairs or their representatives.

D. Attendance

14. The first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee were attended by representatives of [] States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of regional commissions, representatives of United Nations organs and representatives of non-governmental organizations also attended. A preliminary list of delegations is contained in document [A/CONF.223/2024/PC/INF/1](#).

[To be completed]

E. Documentation

15. The list of documents before the Preparatory Committee is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference

16. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 4 at the 1st to 3rd plenary meetings of its first session, on 22 and 26 January 2024. The Committee held a general discussion on the item at the 1st and 2nd plenary meetings.

17. At the 1st plenary meeting of its first session, upon the proposal of the Co-Chairs, the Preparatory Committee decided, without setting a precedent for future sessions, that civil society organizations could submit a pre-recorded statement, which would be played in the conference room during the general discussion of agenda item 4 at the first session.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Cuba (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the European Union, Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand), Barbados (on behalf of CARICOM), Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Botswana (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries), Antigua and Barbuda, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa,

Bangladesh, the United States, Malta, Ireland, Singapore, Austria, Romania, the United Kingdom, Micronesia (Federated States of), France, the Dominican Republic, Morocco, Pakistan, Germany, Indonesia, Jamaica, Poland, China, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Greece, Cabo Verde, Maldives and Portugal.

19. At the 2nd plenary meeting of the first session, on 22 January 2024, statements were made by the representatives of Latvia, Spain, India, Japan and Tonga, as well as by the observers for the International Organization for Migration, the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the International Development Law Organization.

20. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the World Health Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme and by the representatives of the following accredited non-governmental organizations: International Council for Science (on behalf of the scientific and technological communities major group); Children and Youth International; International Disability Alliance (on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities) (pre-recorded); International Women's Development Agency Inc. (on behalf of the Women's Major Group) (pre-recorded); Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (on behalf of the non-governmental organizations major group) (pre-recorded); Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (pre-recorded); Small Island Developing States Youth Hub for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea region Seychelles (on behalf of the children and youth major group) (pre-recorded); and Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping (pre-recorded).

21. At the 3rd plenary meeting of its first session, on 26 January 2024, the Preparatory Committee heard a statement by the Co-Chair (New Zealand), followed by a general statement by the representative of Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States).

22. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 4 at the 1st and 2nd plenary meetings of its second session, on 1, 5 and [] April 2024. The Committee held a general discussion on the item at the 1st plenary meeting.

23. At the 1st plenary meeting of its second session, on 1 April 2024, the Preparatory Committee heard statements by Uganda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Australia (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Nepal (on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries), Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic Countries (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland)), Haiti (on behalf of CARICOM), Bulgaria, Singapore, Latvia, Seychelles, South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Cabo Verde, Maldives, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Madagascar, the United Kingdom, Tonga, the United States and Timor-Leste.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and by the representatives of

the following accredited non-governmental organizations: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, Peace Boat and Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

25. At the 2nd plenary meeting of its second session, on 5 April 2024, the Preparatory Committee continued its consideration of agenda item 4. The Co-Chairs made statements.

[To be completed]

III. Other matters

26. At the 2nd plenary meeting of its second session, on 5 April 2024, the Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 5. The representative of the host country of the Conference (Antigua and Barbuda) made a statement during which he provided an update on the Conference preparations by the host country. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Conference also made a statement.

IV. Actions taken by the Preparatory Committee

27. At the 1st plenary meeting of its organizational session, on 30 May 2023, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Additional modalities and format of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States” ([A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.1](#)), submitted under agenda item 2. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. The Committee adopted the draft resolution (resolution 1).

28. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Provisional rules of procedure of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States” ([A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.2](#)), submitted under agenda item 3. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. The Committee adopted the draft resolution (resolution 2).

29. At the 1st plenary meeting of its first session, on 22 January 2024, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Accreditation of non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States” ([A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.3](#)), submitted by the Co-Chairs on the basis of informal consultations. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision (decision 101).

30. At the 1st plenary meeting of its second session, on 1 April 2024, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Additional modalities and format of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States” ([A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.4](#)), submitted under agenda item 2. The Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (decision 102).

[To be completed]

V. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

31. At the [] plenary meeting of its second session, on [] April 2024, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft report of the Committee as contained in document A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.5 and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report in conformity with the practice of the United Nations.

[To be completed]

Annex I

List of documents before the Preparatory Committee

Annotated provisional agenda	A/CONF.223/2024/PC/1
Additional modalities and format of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States: draft resolution	A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.1
Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference: draft resolution	A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.2
Accreditation of non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States	A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.3
Additional modalities and format of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States: draft decision	A/CONF.223/2024/PC/L.4
Provisional list of delegations for the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee	A/CONF.223/2024/PC/INF/1

[To be completed]

Annex II*

A. Proposed organization of work of the first session of the Preparatory Committee¹

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Monday, 22 January 2024		<i>First plenary meeting</i>
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1	<p>Election of officers²</p> <p>Opening statements:</p> <p>Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee</p> <p>Representative of the host country of the Conference (Antigua and Barbuda)</p> <p>Secretary-General of the Conference (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs)</p> <p>Special Adviser for the Conference (High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States)</p>
	2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters³
	4	<p>Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference</p> <p>General discussion⁴</p> <p><i>Second plenary meeting</i></p>
3–6 p.m.	4	General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
Tuesday, 23 January		<i>No meetings</i>
Wednesday, 24 January		<i>First and second informal meetings</i>
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.		Consideration of the draft outcome document
Thursday, 25 January		<i>Third and fourth informal meetings</i>
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.		Consideration of the draft outcome document

* Circulated in English only.

¹ Issued as A/CONF.223/2024/PC/CRP.1.

² To replace the Co-Chair (H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Maldives) and the Rapporteur (H.E. Mr. Andrejs Pildegovičs, Latvia) on the conclusion of their respective tours of duty. The nominations of H.E. Mr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Maldives, for Co-Chair, and H.E. Ms. Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes, Latvia, for Rapporteur, have been received.

³ The annotated agenda for the organizational, first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee was adopted during the organizational session on 30 May 2023 (contained in document [A/CONF.223/2024/PC/1](#)). Under this item, the Committee is expected to have before it the proposed organization of work for the first session (present document) for adoption, as well as a draft decision on the accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the Conference and the preparatory meetings.

⁴ The list of speakers opens on e-delegate on 9 January 2024. The time limits for States of five minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States and three minutes for individual statements will be observed. The time limit for observers is two minutes. The Conference secretariat will establish a list of speakers of accredited non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders based on the expressions of interest received.

Date/time

Agenda item

Programme

Friday, 26 January

Third plenary meeting

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

4

Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference

5

Other matters

Closing statements

Secretary-General of the Conference

Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee

B. Proposed organization of work of the second session of the Preparatory Committee¹

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Monday, 1 April 2024		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.		<i>First plenary meeting</i> Opening statements: – Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee – Permanent Representative of the host country of the Conference (Antigua and Barbuda) – Secretary-General of the Conference (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) – Special Adviser for the Conference (High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States)
	2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters²
	4	Consideration of the outcome³ of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference General discussion ⁴
3–6 p.m.		<i>Second plenary meeting</i>
	4	Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Tuesday, 2 April		
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.		<i>First and second informal meetings</i> Consideration of the draft outcome document
Wednesday, 3 April		
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.		<i>Third and fourth informal meetings</i> Consideration of the draft outcome document
Thursday, 4 April		
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.		<i>Fifth and sixth informal meetings</i> Consideration of the draft outcome document

¹ Issued as A/CONF.223/2024/PC/CRP.2.

² The annotated agenda for the organizational, first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee was adopted during the organizational session on 30 May 2023 (contained in document A/CONF.223/2024/PC/1). Under this item, the Committee is expected to have before it for adoption the proposed organization of work for the second session (present document) and a draft decision for postponing the time for the closing segment of the Conference by 30 minutes.

³ Latest draft available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/smallislands/documentation>.

⁴ The list of speakers opens on e-deleGATE on 25 March 2024. The time limits for States of five minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States and three minutes for individual statements will be observed. The time limit for observers is two minutes. The Conference secretariat will establish a list of speakers of accredited non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders based on the expressions of interest received.

Date/time

Agenda item

Programme

Friday, 5 April

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Seventh informal meeting

Consideration of the draft outcome document

3–6 p.m.

Third plenary meeting

4 Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference

5 Other matters

Update on the Conference preparations by the Permanent Representative of the host country of the Conference (Antigua and Barbuda)

6 Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

Closing statements

– Secretary-General of the Conference

– Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee
