



## INVITATION



***H.E. Dr Patrick I. GOMES***

*Secretary-General of the ACP Group of States*

*cordially invites the Head of Delegation to*

***A High-Level Breakfast Dialogue on***

***Unlocking the potential of the Blue Economy for the  
Sustainable Development of SIDS***

***on Tuesday 6 June 2017, 8:30-10:00***

*at UN Headquarters, Talanoa Room [Express Bar], New York*

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R.S.V.P. ACP Secretariat  
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*In the event that the Head of Delegation is unable to attend, this invitation is transferable.*





**PROGRAM OF THE HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DIALOGUE  
HOSTED BY THE ACP SECRETARIAT**

*on Tuesday 6 June 2017, 8:30-10:00*

*UN Headquarters, Talanoa Room {Express Bar}, New York*

**Moderator:**

*Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS)*

**Welcome Remarks:**

*Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States*

**Key Note Speakers:**

*Prime Minister of Fiji*

*Prime Minister of Grenada (tbc)*

**High Level Exchanges on Experiences, Question and Answers**

*Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and  
Aquaculture Department*

*Hon. José da Silva Goncalves; Minister of Economy and Employment, Cabo Verde  
Representative European Investment Bank (EIB) tbc*

*Amb. Dessima Williams Special Adviser: Office of the President of the  
UN General Assembly*

*Craig Hawke Principal SIDS Advisor UNDP, New York*

*Amb. Haymandoyal. Dillum, Coordinator ACP SIDS Forum*

*Amb. Johnson Weru Chair ACP Subcommittee of Sustainable Development*

*Mr. Milton Haughton: Executive Director Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism  
Mussie Delelegn UNCTAD*

*David Frulla: Partner Kelley Drye & Warren LLP*

**Closing Remarks:**

*Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States*

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## **Concept Note for ACP Secretariat Breakfast Meeting**

### **“Unlocking the potential of the blue economy for the Sustainable Development of SIDS”**

#### **Introduction**

The persistent development challenges and the unique vulnerabilities facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including, inter alia, their small size, narrow resource base, high levels of poverty and indebtedness, remoteness, increased exposure to global environmental challenges, make SIDS a special case for sustainable development.

Although SIDS have a small land mass, the territory which is owned including the exclusive economic zone, can be millions of square kilometres. These Big Ocean Island States therefore have great potential for economic development. However, overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution and climate change are having negative effects on ocean resources and the potential for development of the Blue Economy.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, being one of the largest structured groups of developing countries in the world, with 79 Member States including 37 Small Island Developing States, recognises that, the challenges of SIDS are cross-cutting, transboundary in nature and have direct and indirect linkages, therefore integrated approaches must be used to address the challenges of SIDS in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

The exploration and exploitation of the great potential in ACP SIDS must, therefore, be unlocked taking into consideration the need to ensure that the coastal, marine and ocean resources are used and managed in a sustainable manner, while at the same time contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Blue Economy covers a wide range of areas including, inter alia, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, deep sea mining, maritime transport, shipping and port development, biotechnology and renewable energy. A World Wildlife Fund recent study of the total Value of Ocean Ecosystem for Melanesia was estimated at about USD\$548 billion, Fiji’s total ocean area is about 1/8 of the total ocean area for Melanesia which estimates the total value of Fiji’s ocean Ecosystem as USD\$68 billion. These figures shows that there is the potential to make millions, if not billions of dollars from oceans resources, which is a considerable amount of money that can contribute to socio economic development of ACP SIDS.

The “Breakfast Meeting” will provide the opportunity for high-level representatives to share their experiences on “Unlocking the potential of the blue economy for the sustainable development of SIDS”. It is expected that the panellist will focus also on the challenges encountered, opportunities for replication and collaboration as well as possible areas where additional support may be needed. The information from the meeting will be used to publish a report as well is identify areas where possible support is need for the development of the blue economy in ACP SIDS

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**Objectives**

To share country level and regional experiences on the sustainable management and use of the coastal and marine resources in SIDS, in order to contribute to socio-economic development.

**Organisation**

The Secretary General of the ACP Group of States will deliver the welcoming remarks. High-level representatives from ACP Small Island Developing States, will share experience from their respective regions.

**Outputs**

A report highlighting the experiences in ACP regions and countries in using the blue economy to contribute to sustainable development. Where possible, identification of initiatives, which can be replicated among ACP SIDS, and funded through the ACP SIDS Support Programme or the Intra-ACP GCCA+ programme.

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