



**United Nations**



**4th International Conference on SIDS**  
27-30 MAY, 2024 - ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

SIDS4 Virtual Side Event

# **Leveraging Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience**

**29 May 2024**

**08:00 – 09:30am (Eastern Daylight Time)**

**Convened by**



**UN-GGIM**  
UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

**UN-GGIM Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience**

*in collaboration with*

Lands and Surveys Department, Barbados

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Kingdom of Tonga

Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom

### **Event Objective**

The primary objective of the side event is to build awareness and explore innovative applications of geospatial information for climate resilience. By fostering knowledge sharing, collaboration, and dialogue, we seek to identify best practices, lessons learned, and opportunities for integrating geospatial solutions into climate resilience initiatives for Small Island Developing States.



## **Background**

Our changing climate is increasing the fragility of the most vulnerable countries, making adaptation and mitigation even more difficult, leaving those that are already the furthest behind in terms of development further behind still. Although strengthening climate resilience is essential for all countries, it is especially crucial for SIDS hampered by their unique vulnerability to exogenous shocks due to their small size, geographical remoteness and the limited scale and undiversified nature of their economies. Moreover, the intensification of extreme weather events caused by climate change can severely damage infrastructure, agriculture, and public health systems, resulting in high economic and social costs. Bluntly, while SIDS contribute less than one per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, they disproportionately suffer from climate change impacts. Around 75 per cent of their coral reefs are threatened by climate change. The cost for environmental adaptation is estimated between USD 22 billion and USD 26 billion yearly, underscoring the need for urgent global cooperation and support.

As the basis for understanding what is happening when, where, and why, geospatial information is crucial towards identifying how communities are, and could, be impacted by climate change. With this knowledge, we can take action. Whether it's assessing the impact of climate change, determining loss and damages, or developing effective mitigation strategies, all these efforts are intrinsically tied to a geographic location. In this respect, geospatial information will be crucial in assisting decision-makers in SIDS to make suitable decisions that align with government priorities and support national resilience, adaptation, and mitigation policies. By harnessing the power of geospatial data, we can enhance resilience, promote sustainability, and create more efficient and equitable societies.

## **Objectives**

The primary objective of the side event is to build awareness and explore innovative applications of geospatial information for climate resilience, showcase the UN-GGIM discussion paper *Applying Geospatial Information to Climate Challenges*, and shares national examples of the use of geospatial information for climate resilience. In particular, participants at the side event will be informed of the following:

- High-level statements and perspectives on the importance of geospatial information for climate resilience by global leaders from Member States.
- How Member States are leveraging geospatial information for climate resilience
- Highlighting national good practices of integrated geospatial information management in SIDS

## **Target Audience**

Policymakers, environmentalists, academia, researchers, technologists, and other key stakeholders involved in climate resilience and policy formulation for Small Island Developing States.


**Provisional Agenda**

Time	Topic	Potential speakers
5	Welcome and introduction	H.E Ambassador Francois Jackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, <b>Barbados</b>
15	High-level keynotes setting the context for SIDS and the relevance of geospatial information for climate resilience	H.E. Elizabeth Thompson, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary with Responsibility for Climate Change, Small Island Developing States and Law of the Sea, <b>Barbados</b>  Ms Rebecca Fabrizi, SIDS Envoy, <b>United Kingdom</b>
10	The role of geospatial information for climate resilience	TT-GICR Convenors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr David McCollin, Lands and Survey Department, <b>Barbados</b></li> <li>• Mr David Henderson, Ordnance Survey, <b>United Kingdom</b></li> </ul>
20	Showcasing how geospatial information fosters climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Victor Khoo, Singapore Land Authority, <b>Singapore</b></li> <li>• Dr Mark Bynoe, <b>Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre</b></li> </ul>
20	Panel discussion	TT-GICR Convenors
	Exploring the changing global context.	Case Study presenters
	What geospatial information can provide.	
5	Wrap up and concluding thoughts.	TT-GICR Convenors