

GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Making your own contribution to the sustainability of the SIDS conference

The United Nations and the Host Government of Samoa¹ are committed to organizing a sustainable International Conference on Small Island Developing States. To this end, a number of measures are being implemented to minimize environmental impact and maximize social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Conference. Among other initiatives, the Office of the Chief Executive Officer/National Coordinator of the SIDS Conference has approached the design and construction of conference premises and related facilities guided by sustainability considerations and aimed at long-term usage. The Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology (MNREM) is working with community organizations to provide environment-friendly services to the Conference.

Meeting the objectives of a sustainable Conference, however, will require the cooperative action of individual meeting participants. It takes the collective commitment of both the organizers and individual participants to advance the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Conference. Therefore, all participants are advised to follow the guidelines set forth below.

¹ The guide is prepared in consultation with the Host Government of Samoa with technical advice from the United Nations Environment Programme.



Transportation

Using shuttle buses/vans

The Host Government will make available shuttle buses/vans between the Faleolo International Airport, hotels in the downtown area, the Port of Apia and the Conference venue (Faleata Sports Complex). ✈️

Participants are encouraged to use shuttle buses/vans for attending meetings, side events, exhibits and parallel activities. Information on the routes and timetables of the shuttle buses will be published and updated on the Conference website (www.sids2014.org). 🚌



Accommodation

Reducing water and electricity consumption

Participants and guests are urged to support the initiatives of the Samoa Hotel Association in keeping with its responsible travel practices, by respecting the environmental, cultural, social and historical values of the local community. Among other specific actions, we recommend that participants:

- Reduce water consumption, including by offering to re-use towels/linens. 🧻
- Save electricity by turning off any air conditioners, lights and TV when leaving the hotel room. 💡



Dining and catering

Using locally-grown produce

Participants and guests are encouraged to support local communities and reduce carbon footprint by using local vendors for their catering and dining needs and by procuring certified green and sustainable products and services. 🌱

Local community organization will provide locally grown organic food for the Namu'a Food Court inside the Conference venue, working closely with the Office of the Chief Executive Officer/National Coordinator of the SIDS Conference and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology (MNREM). 🍎



Conference facilities

Reducing paper consumption

Conference services will make one hard-copy set of official documents available per delegation. Participants should consider electronic access before further printing documents. 📧

Participants are urged to use their tablets and portable devices as the main way to access Conference documentation, including the daily journal, side event schedule, electronic brochures, information note for participants, and electronic Conference documentation, to limit demand for print materials and reduce paper consumption. All pre-Conference and in session documentation will be uploaded on the Conference website (www.sids2014.org) in a timely manner. 📄

There will be no circulation of statements in hard copy. Instead, participants are encouraged to share their statements with the UN secretariat for posting on the Conference website. Delegations are encouraged to bring 20 hard copies of their statements to facilitate the work of interpreters etc. 📖

Participants are strongly urged to limit the amount of print materials to be shipped to the Conference venue and to make arrangements for donating remaining publications, books and other print materials to relevant local institutions. 📚

Reducing resource consumption and waste generation

Participants are urged to reduce resource consumption and minimize waste generation by sharing print copies, using recycled products, and separate wastes to facilitate recycling and reuse. 📦

Participants are urged to minimize the amount of promotional print materials at exhibition stands. They should recycle or reuse promotional materials; and, when relevant, donate books and publications to local institutions. Participants should, if possible, use biodegradable materials for any necessary exhibit material. ♻️

Participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles. Water fountains will be made available throughout the Conference venue. The Namu'a Food Court will supply biodegradable cups and plates. 🍵

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Health and the Samoa Tourism Authority, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have launched a campaign to help address the foreseen increase in waste generated during the SIDS Conference, in line with the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), while aiming to improve waste management practices beyond the Conference. 👥



Supporting local livelihoods

Using local businesses

Participants are invited to make use of local businesses for various service requirements and to shop for local products. 🌸



Climate neutrality

Climate-neutrality and carbon offsetting

Participants are urged to identify and minimize GHG emissions relating to their travel and participation in the meeting activities. In this regard, we recommend to:

- Use public transportation for travelling to airports, hotels and the meeting venues. 🚆
- Use as much as possible re-usable and recycled products. ♻️

Offset GHG emissions by financing local sustainable development projects, including afforestation and reforestation projects. 🌱

• Plant trees at the nature reserve adjacent to the Conference venue. Details will be made available on the Conference website (www.sids2014.org). 🌳

• Support “The Offset Islands 2014” campaign led by Women in Business Development (a Samoan NGO), together with SPREP and the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology.

For more information, visit the NGO's website:

<http://www.womeninbusiness.ws/webapps/site/94714/283182/news/news.html>