

## **Fourteenth session of the IRENA Assembly**

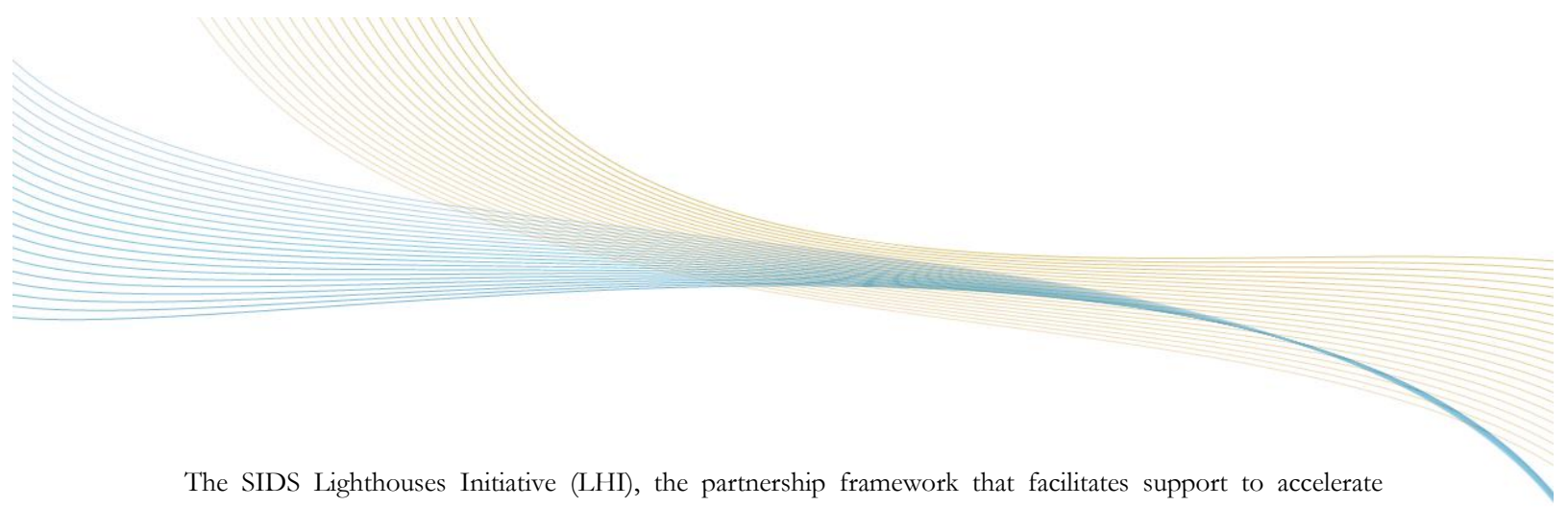
### **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Ministerial Charting a Resilient and Sustainable Energy Future for Small Island Developing States**

16 April 2024, 14:00 – 15:30 GST  
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

#### ***Background***

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have been recognised as the global voice and leaders of energy transition and climate action as reflected in their global, regional and national commitments and action-oriented decarbonisation strategies for the energy sector. Whilst most SIDS have managed to decarbonise their respective electricity sector, there is still a long way to go for the transport, industry, tourism and service sectors. Despite these challenges, coupled with their unique circumstances relating to climate change, geography and small size economies, the island states continue to speak with one voice to mobilise the finance, streamline investment access and garner the support from the international community for tailored solutions that will also provide socio-economic benefits such as jobs, gender and entrepreneurship.

SIDS' commitment to accelerating their energy transition efforts is reflected in the total renewable energy capacity, which was approximately 7.6 GW by the end of 2022, doubling its capacity for the last ten years, which consist of bioenergy, hydro, solar and wind and some geothermal and ocean energy, largely accounted for in the electricity sector. The island states' commitments to the achievement of the Paris Agreement through their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) dictates the need to move beyond the electricity sector, to decarbonise the transport and other end-use sectors. Furthermore, SIDS focused initiatives and development partners need to adapt its mandate to move beyond assessment to implementing energy transition solutions inclusive of appropriate renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Additionally, targeted solutions need to be developed that will enhance and facilitate SIDS' access to appropriate financing to implement renewable energy projects, and channel the conventional energy investments to energy transition efforts in SIDS. This will also help SIDS in managing their high debt profiles and channel investments to upgrading the aging infrastructure in the islands to facilitate the integration of renewables and innovative solutions into the electricity grid without compromising its stability.



The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI), the partnership framework that facilitates support to accelerate decarbonisation efforts in the island states, provides a unique platform to prioritise efforts to overcome the constraints caused by limited human, technical and financial capacity that is needed to pursue comprehensive transformation of energy systems and facilitate just, fair and accessible financing mechanisms, inclusive of a gender-balanced approach to support mitigation and adaptation interventions that will contribute to strengthening SIDS climate resilience.

### ***Objective***

IRENA, as the facilitator of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, will convene a Ministerial that aims to chart a forward course towards the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference for SIDS, addressing sustainable development and climate priorities. The discussion will focus on changing the status quo for development partners so that SIDS focused initiatives, such as the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, remain relevant to facilitate mobilising the much-needed financing as well as accelerating decarbonisation efforts in SIDS, ensuring that no one is left behind, and whilst fostering strong partnerships and genuine commitments towards the realisation of their national, regional and global goals.

Additionally, the SIDS Ministerial will be an opportunity to identify SIDS champions for the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative Priority Areas, which have been clustered into seven main areas (1) Renewable Energy Applications & Technology Solutions, (2) Financing, (3) Capacity Building, (4) Disaster Recovery and Climate Resilience, (5) Policy and Socioeconomics including Gender, (6) Information, Data and Statistics and (7) Partnerships, Geopolitics and Strategic Engagements.

### ***Associated Publications***

SIDS Lighthouses Initiative: Progress and way forward (Forthcoming, 2024)

### ***For more information please contact***

Arieta Gonelevu Rakai, Regional Programme Officer, Islands, CEP ([arakai@irena.org](mailto:arakai@irena.org))

Nadia Mohammed, Programme Officer, SIDS Lighthouses, CEP ([nmohammed@irena.org](mailto:nmohammed@irena.org))