



TRANSFORMING ENERGY: SPOTLIGHT ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

EVENT DETAILS

TITLE: Transforming Energy: Spotlight on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

DATE: Tuesday 5 October 2021

TIME: 10:00 – 15:00 GST

VENUE: The Nexus for People & Planet

IAW PARTNERS: UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, DP World

CO-CURATE PARTNERS: IRENA, ADFD, Masdar, Office of the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change



EVENT SUMMARY

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and Masdar are hosting this event focused on improving access to finance in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). SIDS are among the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change and yet are often dependent on imported fossil fuels for their energy needs.

The event will be a moment of recognition for the clean energy transition efforts in SIDS so far and a catalyst for action when it comes to project financing. In particular, the event will celebrate SIDS for making firm climate commitments as well as funders, including the UAE, for the many initiatives that have supported the clean energy transition in SIDS.

In addition to SIDS representatives, who will be given the centre stage, the event will bring together key stakeholders who have championed the clean energy transition by developing renewable energy solutions in SIDS.

TIME

ACTIVITY

10:00 – 10:30

Registration

10:30 – 10:45

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The introduces the key themes in the transition to renewable energy by Small Island Developing States (SIDs). It will frame the event as a moment of recognition for the clean energy transition efforts in SIDS so far and a catalyst for action when it comes to project financing.

H.E. **Francesco La Camera** will provide opening remarks, followed by keynote speeches by:

- H.E. **Abdulla Shahid**, President of the 76th United Nations General Assembly and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maldives.
- H.E. **Everly Paul Chet Greene**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration, Antigua and Barbuda.

The role of the MC for the Transforming Energy in Small Island Developing States section of the day will be played by **Ms. Arieta Gonelevu Rakai**, Programme Officer (Lead), Lighthouses Initiative, IRENA.

TIME	ACTIVITY
10:45 – 11:30	Country Interventions & Videos
11:30 – 11:35	IRENA and ADFD Video on Supporting Energy Transition in SIDS Short video showcasing successes from the previous IRENA – ADFD facility by the event co-curators.
11:35 – 12:35	Advancing the Renewable Energy Transition in SIDS: Challenges, Opportunities and COP26 The session will gather the following high-level leaders from SIDS to discuss the state of the renewable energy transformation, including the biggest challenges and opportunities. Speakers will also discuss the hopes and expectations of SIDS ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, UK. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness & The Environment, Antigua and Barbuda.• H.E. Aminath Shauna, Minister of Environment, Climate Change & Technology, Maldives.• H.E. Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sustainable Energy for All.• H.E. Georges Pierre Lesjongard, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, Mauritius.• H.E. Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer, Masdar. The session will be moderated by Ms. Gauri Singh , Deputy Director-General, IRENA.

12:35 – 13:20 **Renewable Energy Project Financing in SIDS**

This panel discussion will focus on project financing, private sector investments and the role of governments in creating an enabling environment for renewable energy projects. It aims to facilitate pivotal conversations on cross-sector collaboration when it comes to the clean energy transition in SIDS, with a special focus on project financing and engagement between investors and implementers.

The participating panelists include:

- **Dr. Rhianna Neely-Murphy**, Director of the Environmental Protection Department, The Bahamas
- **Dr. D. Jagatheesa Pandian**, Vice President, Investment Operations, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- **Dr. Mike Allen**, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand, and Executive Director, Geothermal.
- **Mr. Ahmed Badr**, Director of Project Facilitation & Support, IRENA.
- **Mr. Paul Makumbe**, CEO, Sunergise
- **Mr. Ahmed Alturbak**, Chief Economist, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
- **Ms. Andreia Carrero**, Advisor to the Deputy Minister and Secretary of State for Energy, Portugal.

The session will be moderated by **H.E. Diann Black-Layne**, Director of the Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda.

13:20 – 13:30 **Closing Remarks**

Finally, closing remarks will be delivered by **H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri**, the UAE Minister of Climate Change & Environment.

13:30 – 15:00 **Lunch & Networking**

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



H.E Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of Climate Change & Environment
UAE

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri is appointed as the Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE. In this capacity, she leads the Ministry's mission of spearheading the UAE's drive to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, protect the country's ecosystems, and enhance its food and water security through developing and implementing effective measures, policies, and initiatives.

Prior to her current role, Her Excellency Mariam Almheiri was appointed as Minister of State for Food and Water Security. Her responsibilities included monitoring national food stocks and water supply, channeling investments in food and water technology innovation, and building international partnerships in this area.

Previously, Her Excellency Mariam Almheiri held the post of Minister of State for Food Security, where she oversaw the development of the necessary infrastructure to achieve the country's food security objectives in line with the UAE Centennial 2071.



H.E. FRANCESCO LA CAMERA
Director-General, The International
Renewable Energy Agency

Mr. Francesco La Camera is the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He has more than thirty years of experience in the fields of climate, sustainability, and international cooperation. He formerly served as Director-General of Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, EU and International Affairs at the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea. In this capacity, he developed cooperation and partnerships agreements with a wide range of countries, particularly developing countries.

Mr. La Camera is widely credited with having spearheaded international cooperation on issues related to climate change and the environment. He played a key role in bringing together multilateral organisations to develop joint initiatives designed to implement the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. He has also coordinated a number of national strategies including on sustainable development, green finance and fossil fuel subsidies among other things.



H.E. ABDULLA SHAHID
President, United Nations General Assembly and Minister of
Foreign Affairs for the Maldives

Abdulla Shahid has served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Maldives since 2018. He is currently the President of the United Nations General Assembly. Shahid is the first Maldivian politician to become the President of the General Assembly.

Shahid served as the Speaker of the People's Majlis of the Maldives from 2009 to 2014 and played a key role in the Maldives' transition to democracy in 2008. Abdulla Shahid is a member of MDP and is the parliament member for Henveiru Uthuru.

Prior to his role as an MP, Shahid served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1984, eventually becoming Director. In this capacity, he also headed the International Organizations and Conferences Department, representing the Maldives at meetings and international gatherings including the United Nations, the Commonwealth, Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Conference.



The Hon. E. P. Chet Greene MP

Hails from the village of Liberta in the Island of Antigua us married and the father of 5 children. He has served extensively in various capacities.

Representative - Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean State (OECS)
- Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)
- CUBA – CARICOM Summit
- CARICOM – CHINA Summit
- UNITED NATIONS

Positions held:

- Member of several commissions and committees at the local, regional and international levels in sport:
- Commissioner of Sports, Government of Antigua and Barbuda,
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Futsal Commission
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Beach Football Commission
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Match Commissioner
- Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean association football Administration Commission (CONCACAF)
- Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football Futsal Commission (CONCACAF)
- On federation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Disciplinary Committee
- Colony Forming Unit (CFU) Vice President v Colony Forming Unit (CFU) Administration Commission
- Colony Forming Unit (CFU) Match Commissioner



Ms. Arieta Gonelevu Rakai
Programme Officer (Lead) - SIDS Lighthouses at
International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Arieta is currently the Programme Officer and manages the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative at IRENA. She has been working in the energy sector for over 18 years, particularly in the uptake of renewable energy in Fiji, the Pacific region and with global SIDS in her current capacity. She holds a Bachelor of Technology (Electrical/Electronics Engineering) from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji and Master of Science (Renewable Energy) from Murdoch University, Australia.



Honorable Molwyn Joseph
Minister of Health, Wellness & The Environment,
Antigua and Barbuda

Molwyn Joseph was born in the picturesque village of Jennings to the late Robert (Bobsie) Joseph and Mabel Joseph. Molwyn began his education at the Cedar Hill Moravian School in Jennings, and obtained a Primary School Certificate from the Ottos Primary School after being identified as one of the top three scholars in the nation. He graduated from Princess Margaret School and went to the USA in 1969 in pursuit of tertiary education. As someone who has always been concerned about people and an activist for positive social changes, in 1984 he entered politics as Junior Minister in the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism and Energy under the leadership of Lester Bird.

He later served as Minister for Planning, Implementation and Environment, Minister of Health and Social Improvement, and Minister of Tourism. As Minister, Joseph worked to attract new visitors and investments to Antigua, increasing the number of hotel rooms, bringing new air carriers to the island and succeeding in expanding the cruise ship facilities through additional building of the Nevis Street Pier.

As a local change advocate and an international Antiguan ambassador he also led a delegation to the Heads of Government meeting in Grenada in 1985, spoke on behalf of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States in Bangkok, Thailand and in 1995 addressed the United Nation General Assembly on the issue of climate change on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda.



H.E. Aminath Shauna
Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology
Republic of Maldives

H.E. Aminath Shauna was sworn in as the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology on May 5, 2021. Her portfolio includes, protecting the natural environment, action and advocacy on climate change, science and technology development, and the implementation of policies on energy, telecommunications, water, and waste management. She also provides policy direction to the Ministry's affiliated agencies, namely, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Biosphere Reserve Office. Prior to her appointment Shauna served as the Policy Secretary to H.E President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Previously, Shauna served as Under Secretary at the Policy Office of the President's Office from 2008-2012, where she was responsible for the coordination of all government policy matters, including climate change. She oversaw the secretariat of the Climate Change Advisory Council, the expert body providing climate change policy advice to the President



Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi
CEO and Special Representative of the UN
Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All,
and Co-Chair for UN Energy

Damilola Ogunbiyi is the CEO of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy. She is also a Commissioner for the Global Commission to End Energy Poverty and the Co-Chair of the COP26 Energy Transition Council. She is a global leader and advocate for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7), which calls for access to reliable, affordable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change.



Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi
Chief Executive Officer, Masdar

Mohamed is the Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar. He spearheads the company's development and strategic direction as it plays a prominent role in the renewable energy and clean technology sector.

Before becoming CEO, Mohamed held a number of senior management roles within Masdar, including Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining the company, he was head of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Office at GASCO, a leading oil and gas company based in Abu Dhabi. Board Positions: Member of the Masdar's Board of Directors; Chairman of Masdar Investment Committee; Board Member of Shuaa Energy 2 PSC, the company developing phase 3 of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Dubai; Board Member of National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed); Board Member of Mubadala Health; Board Member of Emirates Waste to Energy Company. He is also a Board Member of the Catalyst.



Ms. Gauri Singh
Deputy Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Gauri Singh is the Deputy Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency. Ms. Singh brings more than 30 years of experience in policy, advocacy and project implementation within the field of renewable energy and sustainable development from India and the international system. Prior to joining IRENA, Ms. Singh worked within India's federal government and at the apex level within provincial government. Federally, she was responsible for leading the development of the National Solar Mission of India policy in 2010, an early policy framework designed to drive solar power development across the country.

At the Madhya Pradesh provincial Government, Ms. Singh steered rural development providing strategic planning and implementation guidance across the state for large initiatives. Her work involved poverty reduction and sustainable development within rural communities. She was also responsible for spearheading initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods for nearly two million poor women across the state.

In Madhya Pradesh, Ms. Singh led livelihood projects based on decentralised renewable energy solutions to support rural artisans and ran an ambitious intervention to restore the flow of 40 rivers across the state, based on the use of remote sensing maps. She also played a key role in drafting the framework for the state Right to Water Act. Prior to that, Ms. Singh was Director, Country support and Partnerships at IRENA where she was responsible for regional and country level initiatives and for spearheading partnerships with regional energy and economic organisations.



Diann Black-Layne
Ambassador for Climate Change
Antigua & Barbuda

Mrs. Diann Black-Layne has been in the field of Environment management for over 20 years and has worked in all areas of the field such as protected areas, development of legislation and policy, preparing project documents and seeking international funding as well as designing national financial mechanisms for environmental management in SIDS. She is currently the director of the Department of the Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, and Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador for Climate Change.

Working in a small country, Mrs. Black-Layne had to understand and implement policies and plans in all areas of Environmental Management particularly in the area of Finance. Over the past five years Mrs. Layne's focus shifted from national implementation of plans and policies to include international negotiations. Since then she has served in the capacity as lead Environmental negotiator at the regional and International levels and in this regard has served on in several capacities on behalf of the region. In 2008, Ambassador Black-Layne was appointed as a lead negotiator in MEAs for Antigua and Barbuda as the country assumed the role as Chair of G77 and China as subsequently as the Chair of AWG Kyoto Protocol under the UNFCCC.



Rhianna Neely-Murphy, PhD

Dr. Rhianna Neely is a passionate ambassador for a better tomorrow. She began her tertiary level education at the College of The Bahamas and onto Florida A&M University (FAMU), where she was the first student in the history of the Environmental Sciences Institute (now the School of the Environment) to complete a degree with a focus in Environmental Education. She was also among the first to be chosen as a Doris Duke Conservation Fellow and a Clinton Global Initiative Ambassador from FAMU.

She is presently, Head of the Climate Change Unit in the Ministry of the Environment. Where she and her all woman team managed the installation of two award winning solar and energy efficiency installations in Nassau and implemented a nationwide ban on selected single-use plastic items. She also led the technical team in the drafting of a suite of landmark environmental legislation.

Dr. Rhianna believes that it is the responsibility of each generation to open doors of greater opportunity for the next generation, and this can only be accomplished if we are willing to invest our time and resources in them. She is married to Samuel Murphy and they have two children, Shannon and Ryan.



Dr. D. J. Pandian

Vice President, Investment Operations (Region 1)

Pandian oversees all sovereign and nonsovereign lending in South Asia, the Pacific Islands and South East Asia. He is also responsible for the end-to-end management of AIIB's project pipeline in these regions, from identification to implementation. From 2016 to 2019, Pandian served as AIIB's Chief Investment Officer. During this time, he successfully delivered investments in 21 members, amounting to more than USD12 billion, and built a strong foundation for the future growth of AIIB. Before joining AIIB in March 2016, he had an extensive career spanning 30 years with the Indian Administrative Service, holding key positions at the state, national and international levels in the energy, infrastructure and finance sectors. He received his PhD in energy security and MBA from the University of Madras, India. Pandian is from India.



Dr Mike Allen

Special Envoy for Renewable Energy, New Zealand
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

With a background in engineering and project financing, Dr Allen has been involved in the renewable, clean energy industry for more than 40 years and has extensive international experience. From 1995 to 2001 he headed a renewable energy focused programme, E+Co, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and other US based entities, enabling the funding of smaller scale, clean energy enterprises internationally. Since 2012, as a special advisor, he has represented New Zealand at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) through its council activities, and the IRENA/ADFD (Abu Dhabi Fund for Development) facility in particular.

He has maintained an active association with programmes directed at the SIDS, an area in which New Zealand development assistance has a particular focus in the Pacific, with more recent engagement within the Caribbean and Comoros Islands in East Africa. He has provided independent geothermal advisory support and has been engaged by the IFC (World Bank) to support with evaluations and executing due diligence on a range of geothermal opportunities globally.



Mr. Ahmed Badr

Director, Project Facilitation & Support
International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Ahmed Badr is the Director of the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) Project Facilitation and Support division (PFS). The division offers member countries dedicated project implementation support. Mr. Badr joined the Agency in April 2020 and brings more than 30 years of international experience in the field of banking and finance.

In his role, Mr. Badr is tasked with leading the development of the division by building strong lines of cooperation with development banks and international financial institutions. He also spearheads the Agency's implementation of the Climate Investment Platform, a multi-stakeholder platform established in partnership with SE4All, the UNDP and in coordination with Green Climate Fund, and manages IRENA's ongoing relationship with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

Prior to joining IRENA, Mr. Badr held several senior operational positions in the field of climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, water and infrastructure projects in a number of multinational financial institutions, including the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Commission (EuropeAid), and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Mr. Badr is certified a project infrastructure project manager, with a B.Sc in Civil Engineering and Master's Degree in Infrastructure Economics from the Université de Nantes, France.



Paul Makumbe

Founder: Sunergise International Limited

Paul is the Founder of Sunergise International limited and GM of Todd Solar NZ. Paul is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Todd Solar t/a Sunergise New Zealand and sits on the Sunergise International Limited Board. Prior to establishing Sunergise, Paul was CEO of Oceanic Communications a handset distribution company servicing Telcos in New Zealand and the Pacific. Paul is passionate about enabling energy access in emerging markets.



Ahmed Alturbak

Chief Economist, Operations department, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

Ahmed Alturbak is a Saudi economist who started his professional career as an Economist for the Supreme Economic Council of Saudi Arabia, advising the Council on macroeconomic issues and cross-cutting Government policies. Mr. Alturbak also worked for a number of global management consulting firms, before transitioning to the World Bank Group, where he spent nearly 3 years working at the Bank's HQ in Washington DC, focusing on the Bank's portfolio with Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Oman. He contributed to various projects from governments national development strategies to policy papers and reports relating to FDI and private sector growth policies, economic diversification, education and labor market, and others.

In 2019, Ahmed joined Abu Dhabi Fund for Development as a chief economist for the operations department, where he serves to date. He leads the department's work in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region managing the Fund's public financing portfolio which exceeds \$400m. He also supports ADFD's financing operations in the Eastern Europe, Central & South Asia regions. He also leads and supports various analytical and research functions within the department and the wider Fund.



Andreia M. Carreiro

Energy Advisor to the Deputy Minister and Secretary of State for Energy, Portuguese Government

PhD in Sustainable Energy Systems (MIT Portugal), master's degree in Energy for Sustainability and in Biomedical Engineering, both carried at the University of Coimbra, Certified Measurement and Verification Professional and currently MBA candidate.

Program and Project Manager, with experience on international project based upon R&D, technology and solutions applied to the sustainable development paradigms. Innovation and Strategy enthusiastic, towards positioning and competitiveness, promoting cooperation between public and private sectors. Energy Professional, Former Regional Director for Energy at Azores Government and Energy Advisor to the Deputy Minister and Secretary of State for Energy at Government of Portugal.



HE Georges Pierre Lesjongard
Minister Energy and Public Utilities
Mauritius

Elected Member of Constituency No. 4, Port Louis North and Montagne Longue – September 2000
President MSM Party and Minister of Local Government and Rodrigues – September 2000
Minister of Local Government and Rodrigues and Minister of Housing & Lands – 24 January 2003 to December 2003
Minister of Housing & Lands ,Small & Medium Enterprises,Handicraft & the Informal Sector – December 2003 to 16 December 2004
Minister of Housing and Lands and Minister of Fisheries – 16 December 2004
Elected 2nd Member for Constituency No. 4, Port Louis North and Montagne Longue – 3rd July 2005
Member of Parliament – 12 July 2005
Elected 2nd Member for Constituency No. 4, Port Louis North and Montagne Longue – 6th May 2010
Member of Parliament –18 May 2010 to 06 October 2014
Elected 2nd Member for Constituency No. 14, Savanne and Black River – 11 December 2014
Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee set up under the Prevention of Corruption Act –16 November 2017 to 06 October 2019
Deputy Speaker –16 October 2018 to 11 November 2019
Member of House Committee
Member of Standing Orders Committee as from 28 March 2017 to 06 October 2019
Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus –16 October 2018 to 06 October 2019
Elected first Member for Constituency No.4, Port Louis North and Montagne Longue and Member of Parliament – 08 November 2019
Minister of Tourism – 12 November 2019 to 24 June 2020
Chairperson of the Broadcasting Committee – 02 December 2019
Minister of Energy and Public Utilities – 25 June 2020