

Four speakers & participants' interventions:



Short lead presentations (6-8 min.):

1. Ms. Rubina Boodhoo (Mauritius)
2. Mr. Uchita de Zoysa (Sri Lanka)
3. Ms. Marion Barthélemy (UN DESA, DPADM)
4. Mr. Raymond Saner (Paris, Geneva)

Interventions by participants (2-3 min.)

Four questions:



- 1. Challenges for SIDS in readying their institutions to SDG implementation?**
- 2. Institutional mechanisms are SIDS putting in place; benefits & trade-offs?**
- 3. Who is in charge (e.g. Head of state?), engagement of other actors? Policy integration?**
- 4. Constraints & opportunities from SIDS specific conditions on institution-building? Good practices in overcoming the constraints?**

Some thoughts before we start

1. With “institutions” we often mean organizational arrangements (formal or informal) only – but also rules, procedures & processes can be institutions. Best to keep it open today.
2. Our institutions express not only our needs, but also the culture & traditions of our countries:
 - Some countries prefer formal, other informal institutions
 - Some prefer market-based institutional arrangements, others prefer law-based, and others consensus-based arrangements
 - -> There is no one-size-fits-all, not one ‘best practice’ to institutional arrangements for the SDGs;
 - -> We need ‘Common But Differentiated Governance’ (CBDG)
 - -> We can be inspired by good examples but should translate them into what works at home



Some thoughts before we start

Learning from non-SIDS countries with some similar characteristics:

Some part of the Netherlands are 14 meter below current sea level...

Fighting against water since many centuries has resulted in a common *culture of working together and a consensus type of democracy*

However, building higher dikes is not the only solution: *working with water* is the new paradigm – e.g. new flood plains with nature development.



Some thoughts before we start

3. **Mobilizing institutions** = making existing institutional arrangements fit-for-purpose
- **Breaking down existing institutional ‘silos’ may seem efficient but is often not effective: it risks destroying structure, reliability, accountability and transparency.**
 - **Therefore the challenge is to ‘teach silos to dance’: make them work together, by e.g.**
 - Formulating common challenges (e.g. clean water & food production),
 - Thinking out of the box
 - Respecting each other’s expertise
 - Reframing issues to make them interesting for ‘opponents’



Some thoughts before we start



4. SIDS have special geographical conditions which influence institutional arrangements, e.g. small, fragmented & isolated.

This has advantages and disadvantages:

- People know each other: Short lines between decision-makers – but also: difficult to enforce laws upon you friends/family...
- Upscaling expertise often impossible (e.g. waste recycling & incineration; specialist knowledge on chemicals etc.)
- Heavy administrative burden caused by donor fragmentation

Some thoughts before we start



5. SIDS may have historical conditions which influence institutional arrangements, such as British or French - inspired majoritarian political systems, which are known for:
- Strong polarisation,
 - Institutional 'flip-flop' effect after elections,
 - Lack of consensus culture across parties
 - -> Difficulties to develop institutions for long-term objectives

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Interventions by participants (2-3 min.):

Please share with us your not only the what? (success) but also how you overcame a key obstacle on the 'road to success'!