



**HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL
BARBADOS, 7-8 MAY 2012**

Sustainable Energy for All

Achieving Sustainable Energy for All is essential for addressing two of the most pressing challenges of our time – reducing poverty and minimizing the risks of climate change impacts. Without access to sustainable energy, there can be no sustainable development. The upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20), presents the international community with an opportunity to establish a global response for making sustainable energy for all a reality on the ground in every community and every country.

To that end, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The Secretary-General has launched his *Sustainable Energy for All* (SEFA) initiative to identify and mobilize action by stakeholders from across government, business, civil society, academia and the development community. Three interlinked objectives underpin the goal of achieving sustainable energy for all by 2030:

- Ensuring universal access to modern energy services;
- Doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency;
- Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

A High-level Group has been established by the Secretary-General to draw up an Action Agenda, to be launched ahead of Rio+20, on the basis of which all stakeholders can make concrete commitments to move the world toward sustainable energy for all by 2030.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a member of the High-level Group and partner to the Secretary General's initiative. UNDP also facilitates the implementation of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All at national level, by supporting awareness-raising and advocacy and the articulation of plans of action towards the SEFA objectives, at country level.

UNDP is committed to supporting countries' efforts to translate the SEFA objectives into actions on the ground and recognizes the importance of coordinated efforts between the public sector, the private sector and civil society on energy issues.

Addressing the development challenges of sustainable energy access is a key concern of Small Island Developing States. To elucidate the SIDS perspective on sustainable energy for all, UNDP and the Government of Barbados are co-hosting a conference to examine how to achieve the three inter-related Sustainable Energy for All objectives in the SIDS context.

Conference Objectives

The conference will pursue four interlinked objectives:

1. Establish awareness and understanding of SIDS conditions and perspectives on sustainable energy for all (SEFA);
2. Articulate SIDS commitment to support SEFA and convey SIDS support of SEFA as a core element of the three pillars of sustainable development;
3. Build awareness in governments and their institutions for the formulation of required policies and their enforcement in order to regulate the market and to attract investments into affordable and sustainable energy services;
4. Foster recognition by governments and their institutions of the importance of identifying potential areas for doubling energy efficiencies, as well as development of alternative energy sources.

As the SEFA initiative is closely linked to the Rio+20 process, the SIDS conference will also provide an opportunity to discuss support to the SEFA targets and commitments as one outcome of Rio+20, and contribute to the discussion on the potential establishment of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and related global monitoring mechanisms. The Barbados conference will also be an opportunity to showcase the work of the SIDS DOCK partnership – a sustainable energy initiative of SIDS in collaboration with the UNDP, World Bank, and donors. A meeting of SIDS DOCK national coordinators will be held in Barbados, in concert with a SIDS DOCK Programme Coordination Group meeting, to elaborate and define national and regional priorities for transformational activities in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation, as well as to conduct consultations to strengthen the institutional component of SIDS DOCK.

Conference Results

The concluding expected output of the Barbados SIDS conference is a declaration which would describe the realities and opportunities of SEFA from the SIDS perspective. It would seek to provide a clear statement of the unique circumstances, vulnerabilities and needs of SIDS, and articulate SIDS support and commitments towards the three SEFA objectives, in the lead up to and at the Rio+20 conference. The declaration could call on the various actors - development partners, private sector, and civil society - to commit to supporting actions, and invite support of SIDS DOCK as one mechanism to deliver support.

The conference will also raise awareness on SIDS approaches to sustainable energy access and its impacts on people's lives. It will provide a networking opportunity to share successful experiences and exchange information on sustainable energy initiatives between regions (Caribbean, Pacific, and AIMS region), countries, private sector, and civil society.