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The Commonwealth



Taking Action to Advance Urban Resilience in SIDS and Vulnerable Coastal Cities

When: Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 1-2pm GMT

Where: Commonwealth Secretariat Pavilion, UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

Who:

- Representative from the Government of Kenya (TBC)
- Ms. Sharon Rattan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Cooperatives, St. Kitts and Nevis
- Ms. Karen Sack, Executive Director and Co-Chair, ORRAA
- Mr. Nicholas Hardman Mountford, Head of Oceans & Natural Resources, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Ms. Sally Yozell, Senior Fellow and Director, Environmental Security Program, Stimson Center (moderator)

Background:

The world is facing a climate catastrophe. The UN estimates that two-thirds of the global population will live in cities by 2050. As cities continue to expand, the climate risks faced by these communities are multiplying. Rising temperatures, extreme storms, and sea-level rise threaten physical infrastructure, the natural environment, and the economic security of city residents.

Cities are also vital to the prosperity of coastal nations. Yet urbanization and high reliance on the blue economy leave coastal urban areas vulnerable to climate impacts. With the climate crisis accelerating, cities must assess the climate risks they face to target investment and build a sustainable future. In response, a new decision support tool - CORVI - has been developed to assist leaders in targeting resilience action where it matters most.

This event will showcase innovative tools, approaches, and new announcements focusing on building resilience in vulnerable coastal cities. It will include opening remarks by Stimson's Environmental Security Director, Sally Yozell, who will introduce CORVI, launch the new CORVI data portal, and discuss findings and recommendations from recently completed CORVI assessments in the East African cities of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. Government representatives from Kenya and St. Kitts and Nevis will highlight how climate change is impacting their coastal cities and blue economies and showcase how their countries are advancing climate resilience strategies. Further discussion will focus on the importance of regional collaboration and how to unlock investment for nature-based solutions and additional financial resources to safeguard the future of vulnerable coastal cities.