

Title of the Official Side Event (50 words max)	Access to energy from renewables in small islands
Side Event Theme / Description (300 words max)	<p>In many small island fossil fuel dependency is 100% and import of fossil energy is one of their main expense and this expense is increasing in time, sudden increase of prices of fossil fuels will be difficult to absorb. On the other hand, supply from sun and wind will be for free and there are new technologies able to deal with the variable condition of sun and wind to assure the quality of supply.</p> <p>Renewables also minimize the environmental impact of energy generation and use. Being islands especially sensible to environmental damages, RE is a solution that minimizes environmental risks.</p> <p>Based in the experience of Tonga, this side event will focus in the need on an integrated approach, not looking only in renewable energy but in the whole energy system, trying to identify the best technical solutions to supply RE in islands and its integration in the energy system.</p> <p>Regarding renewable energy technology, the experience shows that one solution doesn't fits all and depending in the RE resources and the energy needs different technologies and/or technological approach (mini-grids) are suitable to supply the demand with clean energy.</p> <p>An integrated assessment is needed to identify capacity building needs for instance on: institutional or financial gaps, training needs, infrastructure etc, This capacity building assessment will be addressed as well as the role of the consumer as auto-producer and the role of ESCOS as new and clean entrepreneurs in islands.</p>
Potential speakers and panelists	Government of Tonga, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Solar for All Initiative, Chairman of Bright Energy Foundation.