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*Panel Overview*

**Panel 1.2: Contemporary Development Challenges in the Pacific Islands and Beyond**

In September the United Nations will adopt the 17 New Sustainable Development Goals, launching a new Sustainable Development Agenda underscoring the imperative for equitable and just sustainable development. Small island states, and the archipelagic nations of Southeast Asia, face some shared challenges related to geological, geographic, economic and environmental factors as well as a changing climate. The panelists will discuss some of these pressing issues with a view to enhancing understanding and sharing best practices for the future.