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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2021

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/76/533/Add.2, para. 8)*]

76/203. Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹ is a stand-alone, overarching framework setting out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States that builds on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States² and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ and recognizing that the Samoa Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁵ and is in line with the

¹ Resolution 69/15, annex.

² *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

⁵ Resolution 69/313, annex.



Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁶ the New Urban Agenda⁷ and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁸

Reaffirming also that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, renewing thus our solidarity with them, as they continue to face the combined challenges arising, in particular, from their geographical remoteness, the small scale of their economies, high costs and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and remaining particularly concerned that many small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Acknowledging the severe consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the sustainable development of small island developing States envisioned in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including the far-reaching and enduring consequences for poverty eradication, employment, growth and social welfare as a result of the unprecedented contraction of their economies, and noting with concern that the external debt stocks of small island developing States have increased by 70 percentage points since 2009, resulting in the average rate of external debt to gross domestic product in those States rising by 11 percentage points to 61.7 per cent in 2019, while the ability of those States to self-insure against exogenous shocks continues to deteriorate further, highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks,

Acknowledging also the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

Taking note with concern of the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the special reports entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

⁶ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

⁸ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Recalling the Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September 2019, recalling also its multi-partner initiatives and commitments, recalling further the Youth Climate Summit, held on 21 September 2019, and stressing the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in small island developing States,

Noting the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, acknowledging their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the call made in the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”,⁹ encouraging the fulfilment of voluntary commitments pledged in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recalling the decision to postpone the 2020 conference,¹⁰

Noting with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, recalling the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020, at the level of Heads of State and Government, and looking forward to the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Underscoring the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and noting that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for small island developing States and other developing countries,

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation, and paragraph 22 of the Samoa Pathway, which underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to address the major challenges facing small island developing States,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹¹
2. *Recalls* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration,¹² in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening cooperation with and support to small island developing States in the context of sustainable development, in line with their national development strategies and priorities, and looks forward to the implementation of the calls made in the political declaration;
3. *Reiterates* the call to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the

⁹ Resolution 71/312, annex.

¹⁰ Decision 74/548 of 13 April 2020.

¹¹ A/76/211 and A/76/211/Corr.1.

¹² Resolution 74/3.

Declaration of Barbados¹³ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalls the discussion during the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;

4. *Recalls* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States have significantly expanded;¹⁴

5. *Recalls with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

6. *Calls for* urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the Paris Agreement, to address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

7. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek new solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

8. *Calls for* immediate and substantial actions to facilitate the responses of small island developing States to recover from the unfolding crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and address the unprecedented health and economic crisis unfolding in such States, while preserving their sustainable development achievements and commitments, and reinforce their resilience to climate change in line with the Samoa Pathway and the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, notes with appreciation the recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the round-table process entitled “SIDS access to finance – identifying solutions for resilient COVID-19 recovery”, and welcomes the commitments made by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in the communiqué of its high-level meeting of 2020, to improve policies and programmes to address the particular needs of small island developing States, and in this regard:

(a) Welcomes the Secretary-General’s recommendations on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use, and in this regard decides to establish a representative high-level panel of experts co-chaired by two eminent persons, one of whom shall be from a small island developing State, calls upon the President of the

¹³ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

¹⁴ See [A/71/324](#), [A/71/324/Corr.1](#) and [A/71/324/Add.1](#).

General Assembly to appoint the members of the panel and to task them with carrying forward work to finalize the multidimensional vulnerability index by December 2022, invites inputs from all countries to contribute to the work of the panel, also decides that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative, within their respective mandates, shall support the work of the panel by acting as secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an update report on the progress of work to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session;

(b) Reiterates its call for the Secretary-General to continue to use his convening powers with the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to work on devising solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term;

9. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;

10. *Reiterates* that many small island developing States continue to face the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and in this regard recognizes the economic challenges, including unsustainable debt levels, arising in part from extreme weather events and slow-onset events;

11. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's findings regarding the limited capacity of small island developing States, including upper-middle-income and high-income small island developing States, to gain access to disaster-related funding owing to differing eligibility criteria and the quantum of resources required to gain access thereto, as well as the need for an enabling environment at all levels, invites international financial institutions to revise eligibility criteria and modalities that prevent access to resources, taking into consideration multidimensional vulnerabilities, and urges the international community to enhance the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for disaster risk reduction, including for associated plans and strategies devised by small island developing States;

12. *Reaffirms* that official development assistance, both technical and financial, can foster resilient societies and economies, and calls upon the international community to mobilize additional development finance from all sources and at all levels to support small island developing States' efforts;

13. *Calls upon* relevant institutions to learn from one another's efforts to address the diverse circumstances of countries, to better manage transitions and graduation, recognizes that official development assistance should continue to focus on countries most in need, and takes note of a willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to invite the World Bank to consider reviving the high-level working group among the development banks and its partners to review the rules governing access for small island developing States to concessional finance;

15. *Underlines* the need to take targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

16. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States is not possible without private investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be facilitated and attracted through the creation of an enabling environment and capacity support for small island developing States;

17. *Recalls* the comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria by the Committee for Development Policy, which was concluded at the plenary of the Committee, in 2020;

18. *Recognizes with concern* the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, remains mindful that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multiannual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, inter alia, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macrofinancial stability;

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2020, within existing resources, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States;

20. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard:

(a) Calls for the convening in 2024 of a fourth international conference on small island developing States, and invites the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session to determine the modalities of the conference, which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Decides to establish an awards programme, to be named the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards, to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, consistent with the Samoa Pathway and in line with the Small Island Developing States Partnerships criteria and norms, adopts the regulations that will govern the awards, as annexed to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements, under the regulations, for the launch of the awards in 2022 and their operation, in consultation with the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes

of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, convened in September 2019, and on the efforts to assist small island developing States to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic;

22. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, in this regard welcomes the progress on the development of a monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, looks forward to its finalization and adoption, and further encourages small island developing States to utilize the framework for reporting ahead of the fourth international conference on small island developing States, reiterates the call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist with strengthening their statistical offices and to provide enhanced support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis, including high-quality and disaggregated data, and further calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to update the General Assembly on this matter;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.

*54th plenary meeting
17 December 2021*

Annex

Regulations governing the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards

Article 1

Aim

The aim of the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards is to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States consistent with the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹⁵ and in line with the Small Island Developing States Partnerships criteria and norms.¹⁶

Article 2

Award

1. The award shall be presented to three partnerships in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, in each of the three pillars of sustainable development: the environmental, economic and social categories.

2. The award shall consist of a certificate; the title “Small Island Developing States Partnerships’ Most Distinguished Laureate”; the right to use the Small Island

¹⁵ Resolution 69/15, annex.

¹⁶ Available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21018Clean_version_SIDS_Partnership_Norms_final.pdf.

Developing States Partnerships laureate logo; and any other reward agreed to by the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States.

3. The names of the laureates shall be announced, and the awards shall be presented at the annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue.

Article 3

Financial matters

All costs related to the awards shall be financed by, and all financial resources composed of, voluntary contributions made specifically for the awards.

Article 4

Selection of laureates

1. Recipients of the awards shall be selected by a judging panel from among the partnerships nominated under the terms of article 5.

2. The President of the General Assembly shall select the members of the judging panel, pursuant to nominations received from the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee, for a period of two years. The panel shall comprise the following:

(a) One representative from the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee, who shall chair;

(b) One representative from each of the three regions of small island developing States;

(c) Two representatives from the major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

3. The United Nations Secretariat shall have two ex officio members on the panel, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States shall serve as the secretariat of the judging panel.

4. The judging panel shall meet at appropriate intervals, in line with the work programme of the Steering Committee, to select the laureates.

Article 5

Nomination and eligibility of candidates

1. The awards shall be open to all small island developing States partnerships at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels.

2. Self-nominations and nominations by third parties are both acceptable. Nominations can also be submitted by the following:

(a) Governments of Member States;

(b) Intergovernmental organizations;

(c) United Nations system organizations;

(d) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

3. All partnerships that strive to follow and are in line with the Small Island Developing States Partnerships criteria and norms and whose goals, objectives, outputs and outcomes are clearly linked to the achievement of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States under the Samoa Pathway and/or the Sustainable Development Goals are eligible to be nominated.

4. The modalities for nomination, including documentation required, administrative matters, other requirements and judging criteria, including measures to prevent conflicts of interest among the judging panel and the nominees, shall be set forth in writing by the Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States.
