

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> and <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states> under reports.

#### PART A

#### VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN SIDS

##### 1. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Vulnerability is one of the most crucial challenges faced by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any ex-ante interventions or proactive/preventive strategies that have been or are being implemented at national and/or sub-regional levels that aim specifically at reducing exposure to external shocks and improving resilience in SIDS. Please include information on any financial resources expended in this regard, if available (750 words).

One of the main proactive strategies that OHRLLS utilises in helping to address vulnerabilities at the national level is continuing to develop the SIDS National Focal Points Network (NFP). The NFP Network was established and inaugurated in 2018, in line with OHRLLS' mandate "to ensure the mainstreaming of SAMOA Pathway and issues related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the United Nations (UN) system and to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels". Through the NFP network, OHRLLS supports national entities to achieve their sustainable development goals, including through sharing experiences with other SIDS. OHRLLS also helps SIDS access regional and global sustainable development platforms, through this Network, ultimately strengthening coherence and coordination of support at all levels.

Throughout the COVID-19 period, OHRLLS has engaged the Network by organizing virtual regional NFP meetings, with the participation of the Resident Coordinator network, and other UN system organizations including UNDESA, FAO, UNDRR and regional commissions: ESCAP, UNECLAC and UNECA. These meetings were convened specifically to deal with issues related to the unique impact of COVID-19 on SIDS and their recovery efforts. In 2021, for example, NFP meetings of the Pacific, Caribbean and the AIS region, were held under the theme "Enhancing coherence in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and SDGs: Focus on COVID-19 recovery and building back better in SIDS –

lessons from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)".

During these meetings, the UN system and NFPs shared experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs into national development processes as well their implementation and follow up, in the context of COVID-19 recovery. The meetings, especially with the participation of the UN resident coordinator network and regional commissions, have brought to the fore the unique ways different regions are impacted by COVID-19 and the attendant response undertaken at the regional and country levels. They also enabled different SIDS countries to share their individual experiences of COVID-19, their challenges and opportunities.

Recommendations from the meetings aim specifically at reducing exposure to external shocks and improving resilience at the national level in SIDS, including through enhanced coherence at all levels. The meetings have underscored that in order to reduce vulnerability and build resilience, the global community should support SIDS to implement innovative solutions fuelled by public and private investments, enhance access to development finance, scale up investments for economic growth and diversification, and support ocean-based economies. They have highlighted the urgent need for the development of a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI) for SIDS, to better capture the particular vulnerabilities of SIDS, in order to guide programmatic support, viable debt service payments and financing for sustainable development. The meetings also recommended a continued focus on climate change, and disaster risk reduction; and highlighted the importance of digitalization, economic diversification/transformation, and capitalising on blue/green economy opportunities.

## **2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need to ensure that responses to vulnerability must be at the heart of international policy aimed at supporting SIDS, and that better tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS, are necessary. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (750 words)

**OHRLLS, under its mandate to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in alignment with the 2030 Agenda, has engaged in a number of approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. These include the development of a number of knowledge products and engagement in advocacy activities aimed at better defining the challenges of SIDS, and providing for more evidence-based, targeted policy tools, instruments and solutions:**

- **OHRLLS, together with UN-DESA, have provided focused support to advance the**

development of a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI) for SIDS, including through the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions. OHRLLS and DESA have coordinated the UN system in a series of technical webinars on the development of an MVI. In addition, OHRLLS organized Member State meetings as part of the preparatory work of the SG's report on the SAMOA Pathway Implementation. OHRLLS also published an assessment report analysing the existing indices and their potential uses to develop recommendations on the finalization of the MVI. This process culminated in the recommendations of the SG in his report (A/76/211 paragraph 81 (a) – (e)) for the development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index). The recommendations were noted in General Assembly resolution 76/203 , and provided guidance on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a MVI for SIDS, including on its potential finalization and use.

Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly, Paragraph 8(a) of Resolution A/RES/76/203, OHRLLS, together with DESA, also supported the establishment of the High-level Panel on the MVI in March 2022, and serve as the Panel's Secretariat, within their respective mandates. The Secretariat is supporting the substantive work, providing technical and political experts as well as organizing panel meetings and coordinating the important contributions from across the UN system. OHRLLS is also leading on an advocacy strategy, which seeks to encourage the adoption and use of the MVI, including among International Financial Institutions.

- OHRLLS also publishes reports on trends in development finance to SIDS, including its 2020 report Financing for Development in SIDS. Another report in the series will be published in 2022, and it will focus on the changing financial trends for development finance to SIDS due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the opportunities for developing SIDS capital markets.
- OHRLLS and the Rocky Mountain Institute's Climate Finance Action Network (RMI/CFAN) are also developing a report on SIDS access to climate finance to be launched in 2022. The report will provide an overview of the main challenges faced by SIDS in accessing climate finance and puts forward realistic, concrete, and actionable recommendations that can support and inform policymakers, funders, and leaders as they prepare for the upcoming climate finance decision milestones at the UNFCCC and in the lead up to the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.
- The office supports AOSIS in their climate advocacy, particularly in the area of Loss and Damage from climate hazards. This work is underpinned by a strategic plan for 2022 and beyond, including elements on financing for loss and damage and planning for effective engagement in the Glasgow Dialogue.
- OHRLLS is collaborating with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to advance the implementation of a debt-for-climate-adaptation-swap initiative, to address Caribbean small island developing countries' high levels of indebtedness and vulnerability to climate hazards, through the creation

of a Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF) and 3 pilot swaps in Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The CRF will serve as the vehicle to operationalize the swaps. OHRLLS provides technical and organizational support for the initiative and mobilizes resources from donor institutions to enable debt for adaptation swaps. Furthermore, OHRLLS is also undertaking this work under its role of coordinating the UN system, to ensure experience in the Caribbean is shared with the Pacific and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS regions, including through cooperation with the respective regional economic commissions (ECA and ESCAP).

- OHRLLS has strengthened the engagement of the private sector in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and mobilised private sector partnerships, through the work of the SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN). The work of the SIDS-GBN includes an assessment of SIDS Partnerships in the ocean sector, which provides guidelines and tools for successful partnerships in SIDS, particularly in relation to SDG 14 and the SAMOA Pathway. It offers ten goals for better private sector collaboration in sustainable ocean development and shares case studies for successful partnerships in each of the SIDS regions. The work of the SIDS-GBN for 2020-2022 was funded by the Government of Denmark (US \$ 145,912.38).

**PART B**  
**QUANTIFYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY:  
TRENDS ANALYSIS OF ISSUE AREAS**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/217, a monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The framework is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Framework is available at **Attachment A** to this questionnaire.

The objective of the Framework is to quantify the progress made in each of the SIDS regions on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, in the lead up to the preparations for the 4th international conference on SIDS, scheduled for 2024.

Using the data available in the Global SDG Data Portal (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>) and, where appropriate, from the UN regional commissions, Member States, custodian agencies and other relevant stakeholders are kindly requested to provide a Thematic Area by Thematic Area status update on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, following the monitoring and evaluation Framework referenced above (Attachment A).

**PART C**  
**ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: ASSESSMENT  
OF POLICY PROGRESS**

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas that require policy formulation, programmes or projects to be implemented at national, subregional and/or regional levels. These have been identified as part of the monitoring Framework and are available at **Attachment B** to this questionnaire. By highlighting the changes in the national policies, their results and impact, the proposed analysis could further spotlight any progress in key priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway.

Using the framework referenced at Attachment B, Member States, relevant custodian agencies together with the Resident Coordinators/Offices in SIDS, are kindly requested to provide a brief status update for your country/region, under the overall coordination of the UN regional commissions, where appropriate.

**Please see responses at Attachment B.**