



UNECA

## **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).**

##### **UNECA supported the implementation of the**

At the sub-regional level, the nine member countries of the African Island State Climate Commission (AISCC<sup>1</sup>) produced in Seychelles in May 2023, the Beau Vallon Roadmap to

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<sup>1</sup> AISCC comprises the following member states: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Equatorial New Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Republic of Seychelles is the Chair of the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC). Three climate commissions for Africa were established following the Marrakech COP- the other two being the Climate Commission for the Congo Basin and the Climate Commission for the Sahel.

accelerate the operationalization of the AISCC, with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Union Commission, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Climate Change Competencies Centre of Morocco (4C Morocco). Among its key priorities, the roadmap is establishing a governance structure and financial mechanisms that will be endorsed by the Ministers and Head of States and Governments of the nine country members of AISCC to facilitate, inter alia, access to sustainable finance, using such innovative instruments as the regional blue bond model proposed by ECA, to scale-up projects that reduce vulnerability and boost resilience of all SIDS against external shocks including climate and disaster impacts. AISCC endorsed the Great Blue Wall initiatives championed by IUCN and several member States of the AISCC to increase coherence in activities that reduce vulnerability to such challenges, including investment in marine protected areas, in all AISCC member countries, starting with the countries from the West Indian Ocean. The Great Blue Wall will further deepen integration of all AISCC into the African region including through the AfCFTA.

Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Príncipe that are party members of both the AISCC, and the Congo Basin Blue Fund and the Congo Basin Climate Commission (CBCC) have benefited from the capacity development initiatives implemented by UNECA, allowing the 16 member countries of CBCC to generate carbon credits following the creation of a harmonized protocol and regional registry established with the support of ECA<sup>2</sup>. The trade of such carbon credits will expand the revenue streams and contribute to the building of resilient communities and economies and climate mitigation plans.

Comoros, which assumes the 2023 AU Presidency, with the assistance of UNECA, the AUC, and other UN Agencies, is convening a high-level policy dialogue on blue economy, in June 2023, to further refine, the foregoing initiatives devoting to them additional political and

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In general, AISCC aims to enable African Island States to work together towards a shared, long-term vision to effectively take ownership of its available resources, namely its ocean spaces, by inspiring leadership and facilitating collaboration in mobilizing financial resources and technical expertise at national, regional, and international levels to combat the climate crisis.

<sup>2</sup> <https://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/49405>

operational supports to boost resilience and reduce vulnerability in SIDS to those external shocks.

At the national level, Seychelles has adopted the UNECA Blue Economy valuation toolkit, which improved socioeconomic and ecological valuation of blue resources for the purposes of facilitating investment and strategic decision-making. Seychelles has also made some progress in circular blue economy entrepreneurship capability development, including women and youth entrepreneurship, and establishment of business intelligence platforms that support exports. Comoros has improved the capacity to formulate its national African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) strategy, resulting in the ratification of the AfCFTA, and allowing the country to deepen its integration within the framework of AfCFTA for its growth.

## **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 cooperation 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 more tailored development support to SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (750 words)**

At the sub-regional level, the Sustainable Debt Coalition that was launched by the COP27 Presidency with a strategic guidance and support of UNECA and other parties, at COP27 held in November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, is an important framework designed to make it easier to the developing countries including all SIDS to access sustainable finance at reasonable and fair costs and scale-up progress on SDGs and the move towards climate-resilient economies, societies, and development. Among other important co-benefits, the coalition will allow the creditor to collaborate with the borrower nations and improve both the capacity in managing efficiently debts and channelling of investment in those actions that genuinely promote the best sustainable environmental and social outcomes in the developing countries. The Coalition has adopted bold objectives: 1) reducing considerably the cost of

debt in new issuances, 2) using sovereign debt guarantees, and other forms of blended finance to further reduce the prohibitive costs of capital for borrower nations, particularly in SIDS, and LDCs 3) advocate for systematic use of debt for climate swaps as instruments to improve fiscal space and increase flows of finance into climate adaptation and resilience and 4) facilitate the adoption of borrower defined Key Performance Indicators to simplify the management of debt instruments aligned to climate and SDGs..

In addition, the work of the coalition will improve significantly ongoing projects aimed at developing the human and institutional capabilities of all SIDS, such as the regional project piloted by UNECA and UNCTAD in 2022-2023 with a budget of approx.US\$ 160,000 (XB) to allow Comoros, and Cabo Verde, to increase access to ODA to reduce the financial gap that constrain transition toward green and climate-resilient growths, focusing on fisheries, agriculture, tourism, and wate management. The work will also supplement other innovative instruments, such as debt-for-nature swaps and issuance of blue and green bonds, successfully championed in Seychelles, and in the process of being applied by Cabo Verde with the support from Portugal, to accelerate the adoption of clean energy, conservation of land, and water ecosystems, support progress in youth and women employment plans, and build climate-resilient blue economies.

UNECA and GCF have started consultations to allow developing the capacities and capabilities of all AISCC members countries to accelerate access to finance for resilience, coastal conservation, and the development of the early warning systems needed to respond to climate-induced disasters.

At the national level, Comoros has improved the capacity to formulate its national African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) strategy, thanks to technical assistance of UNECA, resulting in the ratification of the AfCFTA, and allowing the country to deepen its integration within the framework of AfCFTA for its growth. Guinea Bissau has improved its capacity to 1) formulate its national AfCFTA strategy, thanks to the technical support provided by ECA with a budget of approximatively US\$70,000, and 2) access Bissau's access to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI). Cabo Verde has improved the capacity to formulate its National Development Plan, emphasizing the domestication of the pillars of ECOWAS Vision

2050 and the AfCFTA and 2) access to the DSSI.

Among the planned initiatives are the following. In Cabo Verde, the deployment of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) for monitoring and evaluating the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (PEDS II), with emphasis on alignment with the ECOWAS Vision 2050, which includes the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union Agenda 2063 has been planned. In Guinea Bissau, and Cabo Verde, capacity development for national experts and policy makers in the budgeting methodologies and roadmap development to address the demographic dividend.

## **PART B**

### **IDENTIFYING POLICY PRORITIES IN SIDS FOR THE NEW AGENDA**

**The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas which require policy formulation, programmes or projects to implemented at national, sub regional and/or regional levels. While SIDS have made a fair amount of progress with actioning these over the last decade, a number of gaps remain. As the international community prepares for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on SIDS, what are the key priority policies, programes and projects that are needed to further advance the SIDS development agenda and why? (750 words)**

The following issues remain priorities for African SIDS: Access sources of sustainable finance, recognising current limitations of the international financing architecture notably using GDP per capita as a determining factor,

- Generation of domestic sources of sustainable finance.
- Effectively engage and benefit from regional integration in the context of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, recognising the specificities of SIDS
- The development of their oceanic resources in a sustainable manner in alignment with the AU Blue Economy Strategy
- Rising levels of debt are limiting fiscal space for investment in climate resilience and the SDGs, and African SIDS would benefit from opportunities to undertake debt for climate investment swaps, with the need for regional and multilateral financing institutions to

provide support for such initiatives

- Access, develop, own/appropriate, and use the environmentally sound technologies defined in SDG 12, marine technologies defined in SDG 14, and digital technologies and infrastructure defined in SDG 6, 7, 9, et.
- Access, adapt, own, and use the early warning systems and respond efficiently to climate, natural and other disasters as outlined by UN-IPCC Special Reports.