



## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, 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 XXXX under reports.**

#### **PART A**

#### **VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS**

##### **1. Enhanced Support for a resilient Post COVID 19 Recovery in SIDS**

Vulnerability reduction and resilience building are critical issues that must be addressed by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that have been or are being implemented at national or regional levels that aim specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include financial resources expended in this regard, if available **(750 words)**.

##### **ASIA & THE PACIFIC**

- In 2022-23 Fiji, Kiribati, and Tonga improved their emergency telecommunication planning capability through ITU assistances on development of National Emergency Telecommunication Plan with support from partners including Government of Australia and Government of Japan.
- Tonga (2022) and Vanuatu (2023) were assisted in re-establishing communication post disasters in cooperation with the governments and satellite industry including Intelsat, Spark NZ and Starlink. [Disaster Connectivity Maps \(DCM\)](#) were used to provide critical near real-time information on communication network connectivity levels to Emergency Telecommunication Cluster during the disasters.

- Kiribati and Maldives enhanced their cybersecurity capability through assessment of cybersecurity and computer incident response team capability respectively.
- National capacity to improve the quality of telecom network was improved through policy and regulatory assistance to Papua New Guinea and Tonga.

## **THE AMERICAS**

**Project for the use of ICTs in emergency and disaster situations in the Caribbean region.** The project was finalized in 2022, benefiting the countries of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis. The project consisted of implementing a Regional Emergency Telecommunications Network in the beneficiary countries, providing the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) of 7 ITU Member States with the necessary equipment (RMS server and client function) to connect to the network Winlink 2000, under the characteristics of redundancy and autonomy. ITU procured the equipment, and donated it to each Administration, which is responsible for ensuring its proper use and maintenance by the nationally organized emergency/disaster response structure.

**The Commonwealth of Dominica** improved its emergency telecommunication planning capability with ITU assistances in developing and launching its National Emergency Telecommunication Plan

### **Post-Disaster Resilience Assessment in Haiti:**

This project is a joint effort between Connect2Recover and Emergency Telecommunications using both the Connect2Recover methodology and the Guideline on National Emergency Telecommunication Plans, with the support of Area Office for the Caribbean.

## **CYBERSECURITY**

- **CIRT Readiness Assessments for Bermudas and Guyana**

During 2022 three onsite capacity building were delivered to Bermudas and Guyana. The trainings, whose length is four days, are part of the CIRT Readiness Assessment implemented by ITU with the participation of the main national cybersecurity Stakeholders.

- **Implementation of the National CIRT for Bahamas**

During 2022, ITU delivered the CIRT Readiness Assessment plus onsite capacity building, the maturity model CMM Assessment, the delivery of the National Cybersecurity Strategy, and the design of the National CIRT. The project is ongoing for the deployment of the CIRT.

- **Voluntary Contribution Barbados:**

During 2022 the onsite capacity building was delivered to Barbados as part of the CIRT Readiness Assessment of Barbados, additional was deployed the installation of cybersecurity tools for the National CIRT, its fine tune, delivered the web portal, and the processes, workflows, policies, procedures, and related documentation for the National CIRT.

- **Policy Analysis on Child Online Protection for America Region 2022**

In 2022 a study was developed about the National Digital Policies on Child Online Protection counting with the participation of Argentina, Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Panamá, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.

## **SMART Seas in Trinidad and Tobago**

This project sets out to preserve the lives of highly vulnerable small-scale fishers in the Caribbean through improved emergency communications at sea. (This has a cross-cutting theme with Emergency Telecommunication).

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

Improved, tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS are necessary if SIDS are to effectively recover from the COVID Pandemic. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries. Please include indications of resource allocations if available (**850 words**)

## **ASIA & THE PACIFIC**

### **Smart Villages and Smart Islands (SVSI) - Digital transformation at community level**

The initiative, which is aimed at taking digital transformation to the community leaving no one behind, is being rolled out in a number of Asia-Pacific countries. By April 2023, Smart Villages and Smart Islands Initiative attracted expression of interest from around 10 countries in Small Islands Developing States of Asia and the Pacific. The initiative assisted in benefitting total of 7 communities in Vanuatu with broadband internet, digital skills and essential digital services in Vanuatu. Aiming to address the socio-economic challenges of those remotest communities, the initiative started first in Southern Malekula of Vanuatu in 2020, and in 2022 observed positive impacts on people's daily lives. The South Malekula Secondary School and their students have been reconnected with broadband connectivity through ITU provided VSAT<sup>1</sup>; 950 villagers were trained with fundamental digital skills, such as Online Safety and how to send/receive emails. Access to digital government (e-police certification), e-education and mobile money services have been strengthened. Needs assessment, skills improvement and awareness raising has been done in Samoa. In addition to Samoa and Vanuatu, SVSI is being scaled out to Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga. SVSI is being implemented in close collaboration with national governments, UN agencies (e.g., UN Resident Coordinator's Offices, UNESCO, FAO, ILO, UNOPS, UNICEF, UNCDF, UNODC, and OHCHR), the private sector and implementation partners, and has attracted support by a number of projects funded by the Joint SDG Fund, the government of Australia (DITRDCA), the government of Japan (MIC), Asian Development Bank, and the ITU. It has

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<sup>1</sup> Between 2014 – 2020, ITU along with partners provided over 90 satellite terminals in C, Ku and Ka band to enhance the Emergency telecommunication capacity in Pacific. The project beneficiaries were Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

also garnered support of G20 Members during their meeting in 2022. More partners continue to commit and join the initiative.

## **THE AMERICAS**

In 2022 and 2023, ITU completed a project on spectrum monitoring in Cuba which will allow to efficiently manage spectrum use in accordance with Article 44 of the ITU Constitution, enabling Cuba to effectively control spectrum use, and allowing the introduction of new services. Cuba allocated around 25% of the funds and ITU put the rest.

### **Regional Single ICT Regulatory Framework for the Caribbean**

Conducting research (Phase I) to provide the necessary information to inform the framework and components of a Single ICT Regulatory Framework for the Caribbean.

### **Digital ID (e-ID) Assessment and Draft Policy/Legislation in Trinidad and Tobago**

- A general assessment completed to inform the development of a Draft Framework, Digital ID Policy, legislation and Roadmap.

### **ITU/UNICEF GIGA Project in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Countries of the Caribbean**

Giga is a UNICEF-ITU initiative in collaboration with the OECS, to connect every school to the Internet and every young person to information, opportunity and choice and to map every school in the region, and to provide real-time monitoring data on the quality of internet connectivity. Giga also serves as a platform to create the infrastructure necessary to provide digital connectivity to an entire country, for every community, and for every citizen. The Giga initiative consists of four pillars: Map, Connect, Finance, and Empower. The project is ongoing.

## **AFRICA**

- Within the framework of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), ITU is providing support to Mauritius and Seychelles to develop models for national emergency telecommunications plans and capacity development of policy makers and national stakeholders. Additionally, Mauritius is one of the countries that is part of the planned programme for the Early Warning for All initiative to strengthen awareness, mitigation, preparedness and response in cases of natural disasters such as climate related disasters.
- Sao Tomé and Príncipe is one of the beneficiary countries of the Project on Benchmarking of ICTs in Central Africa that aims to improve the competitiveness of the countries' economies by strengthening the ICT infrastructure governance and implementation of their legal and regulatory framework. Following the kick-off of the project in March 2023, a mission is planned to collect data from the l'Autorité générale de réglementation (AGER) that relates to the Sao Tomé and Príncipe ICT ecosystem for analysis and benchmarking purposes to identify strengths and weaknesses, followed by a formulation of recommendations for improvement.
- Under the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) project, the annual gathering of the French speaking Telecommunication Regulation network (FRATEL) was hosted in Mauritius in November 2022 that aimed to review and discuss the progress, challenges and opportunities on spectrum management and regulation. Additionally, a

capacity building workshop on Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) will be delivered in Cape Verde from 16 to 18 May 2023 and will also support different French speaking countries in Africa. As part of its regular activities, the PRIDA project will have a meeting for focal points in Sao Tome and Principe from 31st May to 2nd June 2023 to review the project's implementation plan and areas of intervention.

## **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)**

#### **ASIA & THE PACIFIC**

During 2022 with support from ITU. the governments of Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu in developed / strengthened national frameworks through policies, strategy and advisory assistances. These assistances were supported by ITU- Government of Australia project. Two joint programmes, supported by Joint SDG fund were launched to assist identified Pacific islands countries in developing their national digital transformation strategies and building human and institutional capacity inter-alia. Countries in Pacific also increased awareness and capacity on technical framework to implement digital government using building block approach (GovStack project supported by GiZ, Government of Estonia, ITU and UNDIAL).

#### **THE AMERICAS**

ITU provided technical cooperation to the Telecom regulator in Dominican Republic to improve their regulatory environment, helping them to evolve from a 4<sup>th</sup> generation towards a 5<sup>th</sup> generation of regulation during 2022. The work was done with ITU own resources with a small complement from the beneficiary country. Dominican Republic became a giga country in early 2023 (ITU and UNICEF initiative), which will geo-localise schools and telecom infrastructure as one of the first results of the initiative.