



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)**.

OHCHR has engaged in field facing work and provided capacity building and country tailored responses to states and UNCT requests for support and technical assistance to integrate a human rights-based approach to address climate change impacts in country analysis, programs and strategies, towards rescuing the SDGs, with a focus on leaving no one behind.

On advancing the right to a healthy environment for real impact on the ground, in the Pacific, OHCHR works through the joint Pacific Climate Change, Migration and Human Security programme with IOM, ILO and ESCAP to develop a regional climate mobility framework. The framework aims to increase the human rights protection of people to stay or move through migration, planned relocation and/or displacement.

OHCHR is providing technical assistance and guidance on aligning climate action with

human rights and advocates for rights-based action within the context of the UNFCCC. It contributes to analysing climate change as a threat multiplier through its impacts on the effective enjoyment of human rights, and ensuring that responses to address climate-security risks are human rights-based, e.g. ensuring access to information, meaningful participation and effective remedies. For example, in the Caribbean, OHCHR works with States and civil society to promote the ratification and implementation of the Escazu Agreement (Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean).

OHCHR also supported in-country work focused on ensuring that OHCHR and the UN more broadly ensure strengthened interlinkages between human rights, economics and development practice. The aim is to accelerate the realization of economic and social rights and the right to development in countries by helping to create conditions to rebuild economies with people at the centre, and reduce inequalities. This was done by leveraging key entry points at the country level, notably the new generation of Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF)¹ and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)². Through the Surge Initiative, OHCHR provides seeding change funds for projects that reinforce analysis on groups left behind and build evidence to advise UNCTs and governments on human-rights-based socio-economic responses. The projects are designed and implemented with other UN entities, national partners and CSOs. For instance, in **Guinea Bissau**, in a context marked by high vulnerabilities suffered by large groups of the population, OHCHR worked with the rest of the UN system in supporting a leave no one behind approach to the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented by the govt in July 2022. OHCHR supported the organisation of 9 Government-led consultations in each of the 8 administrative regions of the country and the autonomous sector of Bissau. The consultations ensured representation of the most disadvantaged groups. A summary of the discussions was annexed to the State's VNR at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) (broadcast live in GB) and the findings of the consultations are now being used to inform the upcoming National Development Plan, the State's first report to the CESCR, as well as the UN's CCA. In **Timor Leste** the project – about to be concluded is undertaking an analysis of barriers to social security for women informal sector workers, with a focus on women in domestic work, the agricultural sector and market sellers, and recommendations for implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy in a way that strengthens access the right to social security.

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

¹ Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Mauritius, Maldives, Samoa

² Fiji, Guinea Bissau, Timor Leste

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)**

In collaboration with academia, OHCHR has initiated an interdisciplinary research project - *'From Vulnerabilities to Resilience: Realizing the Right to Development and the Right to a Healthy Environment for Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)'*, taking into account past, ongoing and future United Nations efforts relating to SIDS.

In view of the multiple interconnected challenges, threats and vulnerabilities (including geographic, social, economic and environmental) faced by Small Island Developing States, and with the aim of making a human rights-based contribution to resilience-building efforts within the framework of United Nations Conferences on SIDS (including the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the SAMOA Pathway and its forthcoming review in 2024), this project will involve research and analysis and consequent recommendations through the lens of the right to development and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The project will focus on the obligations of States and the international community in relation to sustainable development in SIDS, such as equity, equality and non-discrimination including intergenerational justice and equity; common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities; international solidarity and cooperation, climate and development finance and environmental sound technology; participation and distribution. Other human rights to be addressed will include the rights to life, peace, self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources, science, food, health, education and housing. The study will include special attention to populations and communities in vulnerable situations including women, children, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and People of African Descent and will include the voices of youth and concerns of both present and future generations. The project aims to make human rights-based recommendations for sustained and sustainable development in SIDS. The first phase of this interdisciplinary research project will comprise a desk study to explore ways to advance the realization of the right to development and the right to a healthy environment with plans for empirical inquiry in the next phase

In another ongoing collaborative project also with academia, OHCHR is analyzing the mutually reinforcing relationship between the right to development and South-South Cooperation with a view to strengthening the application of both to realize human rights and sustainable development including SDGs. The project is based on 3 case studies, 2 of which concern SIDS:

- a. India's healthcare and communication related resilient and sustainable restoration of public infrastructure project in Antigua and Barbuda. This completed project worth USD 1 million has been carried out under the aegis of the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund).
- b. South Africa's agriculture related resilient and sustainable genesis of production and commercialization project in the Comoros Islands. This project worth USD 1.8 million has completed its first phase and is part of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility

for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund).

Results from these studies will be used among others, to contribute to global policy discussions including through possible inputs to the review of the SAMOA Pathway

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 be 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 4th International Conference on SIDS, what are the key priority policies, programs and projects that are needed to further advance the SIDS development agenda and why? (750 words)

In all SIDS, but in particular in SIDS that are also LDCs, and through active, free and meaningful participation by all and the fair distribution of their benefits:

- Promote adaptation and resilience for disaster risk reduction,
- Build physical connectivity including roads and bridges,
- Transfer of technology, especially green technology to promote among others environmental sustainability,
- Diversify economies to better build economic and social resilience to external shocks,
- Promote universal social protection systems especially targeting the marginalized and vulnerable who are furthest left behind,
- Increment governmental capacities, mainstreaming human rights and inclusion in all areas of government,
- Urgent collective action to realize global partnership and Means of Implementation under SDG 17 and a,b,c Targets under all the other Goals,
- Urgently scale-up international cooperation and solidarity including North-South, South-South, Triangular and Regional Cooperation with human rights at the core,
- Adopt a human rights-centred climate and development finance,
- Advocate for debt sustainability and debt restructuring to enable ring-fencing of social services,
- Operationalize the Right to Development which addresses the particular challenges facing SIDS such as survival as Nation States, sovereignty and self-determination, and
- Policies, programs and projects in SIDS will need enhanced support from the international community, including through sharing knowledge and **experience**.