

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)**.

UNDRR's interventions in and support to SIDS focuses largely on building capacity to manage and understand disaster risk. By enhancing capacity in collection, analysis, use and sharing of disaster loss data, UNDRR strengthens the ability of SIDS to take risk-informed decisions in investments and governance with a view to building long-term resilience.

National trainings were held on disaster loss databases, Sendai Framework monitoring and reporting and risk assessment in Mauritius, Maldives, Madagascar and Seychelles. These trainings gathered key stakeholders who collect, produce and use disaster loss and risk data to strengthen data governance, risk understanding and institutional arrangements and coordination for the exchange and management of data. UNDRR also provided support to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to strengthen the country's National DRR Strategy, in turn increasing the country's resilience and multi-hazard early warning systems.

At the request of the Government of Maldives, UNDRR supported the planning process for a risk-informed and evidence-based national integrated climate adaptation and multi-hazard disaster risk reduction plan. Integrated technical support is planned for 2023 in Maldives,

with key areas for support including local resilience building through the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative, inclusive risk and resilience governance, risk analysis and multi-hazard early warning systems. St Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica were also supported at the local level through MCR2030.

UNDRR supported 14 Pacific Island countries and territories to report on the progress on DRR through the Sendai Framework Monitor. UNDRR also supported Tonga to update the Pacific regional loss and damage platform (PDaLo) with loss and damage information after the tsunami and volcano in 2022. UNDRR, in partnership with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, will also implement a project entitled 'Increasing Infrastructure Resilience through Strengthened Governance'. This project is being piloted in Tonga to increase the resilience of critical infrastructure.

In the framework of the implementation of the CREWS Caribbean project, Trinidad and Tobago has taken the initiative to develop a Risk Information Exchange (RiX) national platform to be set up among others for IBF (impact-based forecasting) and resilience infrastructure stress testing. UNDRR also supported situational analyses in 14 Caribbean states and overseas territories which included technical support on risk information and analysis.

UNDRR co-organized a sub-regional training on the Comprehensive Risk Management with the University of West Indies (UWI) in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), targeting six Caribbean countries: Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago. Participants represented three different institutions: 1) National Emergency Management Organizations; 2) Ministries of Environment; and 3) Ministries of Planning. In addition to this, a report entitled "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR and CCA): Pathways for Sustainable Development Policy Coherence in the Caribbean Region" was developed; this study examines the degree of coherence between national policies and plans focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), DRR and CCA in the Caribbean Region (analysis was conducted for 16 countries).

UNDRR continued to accelerate and support implementation of risk-informed development through collaboration in the Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Groups. This included support to the Technical Working Group on Risk Financing to revise its workplan and consult on and develop a regional roadmap on disaster risk financing. The regional disaster risk financing roadmap will come before Pacific Economic Ministers for consideration later in 2023. The Human Mobility and Risk Governance Technical Working Groups were also engaged in the Pacific Sendai Framework MTR process. UNDRR also partnered with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Pacific Community (SPC) in the convening of the first Pacific DRM Ministers Meeting in September 2022, resulting in the Nadi Declaration which encapsulates Pacific Leaders' Priorities and Commitments for disaster and climate resilience. UNDRR with the Association of Caribbean States, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Organization for Migration supported the launch of the

Greater Caribbean Climate Mobility Initiative to support the region in anticipating and addressing climate-forced displacement and migration, and facilitating climate mobility to advance resilience and regional development in the context of the climate crisis.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

Improved, tailored development cooperation 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)**

Between 2012 and 2021, mortality from disasters in SIDS consisted of 1.3 per cent of global reported mortality, despite only accounting for 0.3 per cent of reported population. UNDRR recognises the disproportionate impacts faced by SIDS and provides targeted support in many areas including but not limited to: strengthened Early Warnings Systems, building capacity and access to disaster data, advocacy to strengthen legislative frameworks that support disaster risk reduction outcomes, and support to national and regional level policy processes.

In partnership with the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Alliance for Small Island Developing States, UNDRR published a report entitled '*Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Gaps, challenges and constraints in means of implementing the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction*'. The report aimed to strengthen DRR policies and programs in SIDS through distilling recommendations to better integrate DRR and improve access to means of implementation for SIDS. This is an approach which will also inform UNDRR's response to Part B of this questionnaire.

UNDRR has been working with the Fiji Government, GIZ and UNITAR on climate and disaster risk assessments to inform Fiji's climate-induced planned relocation work. UNDRR is peer-reviewing the Comprehensive Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology (CRVAM), which is an assessment tool that support the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and will be used to determine the adaptation measures, including relocation sites as a last resort. The tool will be used to identify and assess climate hazards, including their likelihood and potential impacts, as well as the exposure and vulnerability of at-risk communities, and to support decision-making on adaptation. The methodology has been piloted in some villages identified for relocation but has yet to receive final approval from the government along with the planned relocation regulatory framework. This may be an approach that in the future is scalable across a variety of SIDS and coastal communities.

UNDRR's report on the *'Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems: Target G'* found that early warnings systems coverage was woefully lacking in SIDS with only one third of SIDS reporting having multi-hazard early warnings systems in place. Since the launch of the Secretary General's Early Warnings for All Initiative, UNDRR has continued to support SIDS with improvements in coverage and effectiveness of early warnings systems. Of the 30 countries approved for the first phase under the initiative, the following SIDS are included: Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana and Haiti. The challenges of achieving early warnings coverage and effectiveness are specific for SIDS. Even between SIDS, differences in size, geographies, and data availability require tailored approaches to deliver on this ambitious goal. UNDRR is beginning the first phase of this study with Gap Analyses to identify what the main challenges are, before supporting SIDS at the national and regional levels to achieve this goal.

The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework is a retrospective and prospective stocktaking and review exercise which culminated in the High-Level Meeting of the Midterm Review in May 2023. The review takes stock of implementation, assesses progress and challenges; identifies shifts in context, new and emerging issues since 2015. UNDRR worked with partners and governments to support SIDS to conduct National Voluntary Reports to the Midterm Review. UNDRR also supported the participation of several SIDS representatives, including the Prime Ministers of Guyana and Tonga to the High-Level Meeting of the Midterm Review and 17 Ministers carrying a range of portfolios to ensure strong SIDS advocacy. At a side-event, organised in partnership with the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, Australia, and Fiji, and UN Women, SIDS made a clarion call for greater international support and means of implementation to support resilience building efforts, and promoted the need for a more comprehensive understanding of vulnerability and resilience to impact the international financial framework.

PART B

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

There are 3 key pillars which UNDRR would recommend be considered as SIDS and

development partners look towards the 4th International Conference on SIDS.

1. Multi-Hazard Risk Governance

The successor framework for the SAMOA Pathway, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, intensifying climate risks, rising geopolitical challenges, economic downturn, and a rapidly evolving technology landscape, must champion a multi-hazard approach to risk governance. This strategy should recognize the interconnectedness of risks, across the full scope of risks and hazards reflected in the Sendai Framework. Acknowledging these linkages and addressing them cohesively is fundamental to protecting economies, lives, and livelihoods in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

COVID-19 underscored the imperative of preparedness and the necessity for comprehensive risk assessment and management strategies. A multi-hazard approach would build on these insights, developing proactive measures that anticipate and mitigate a spectrum of threats, rather than reacting to crises as they emerge. This approach would require robust data infrastructure for risk modelling and early warning systems, integrating factors from epidemiology to environmental science and geopolitics.

Further, the escalating geopolitical challenges necessitate a globally cooperative and inclusive approach. Given the economic vulnerability of SIDS, international partnerships are crucial to bolster their resilience. Strengthening global cooperation can ensure a fair distribution of resources and a collective response to common threats, fostering global security and stability. UNDRR also recognizes the transboundary nature of many risks and hazards we confront today. The cascading nature of risk from sector to sector, and country to country, demand cooperation and mutual support between countries to build resilience. Increased cooperation between neighbours in the Global South can help establish robust data sharing networks, enabling us to better anticipate and respond to emerging threats. By sharing meteorological data, for instance, countries can develop more accurate early warning systems. By exchanging information on disease outbreaks, they can coordinate responses and mitigate impacts.

Ultimately, the successor framework to the SAMOA Pathway should prioritize holistic, integrated risk-governance strategies that are cognizant of the multifaceted challenges faced by SIDS, leveraging learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic and rising geopolitical complexities.

2. Comprehensive approach to climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development

The successor framework to the SAMOA Pathway needs to promote an integrated approach to climate change, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This comprehensive strategy is not just about addressing these

issues in isolation but about understanding their interconnections and creating synergies among them.

Climate change, disaster risk, and sustainable development are interconnected components of the developmental puzzle for SIDS. An integrated approach that acknowledges these linkages can lead to more effective solutions, helping SIDS utilize existing resources more efficiently and build resilience against future shocks.

For instance, sustainable development initiatives that incorporate climate change mitigation can simultaneously reduce disaster risk. This could involve renewable energy projects that lower carbon emissions and decrease reliance on external energy supplies, reducing vulnerability to price shocks and supply chain disruptions.

Similarly, investing in disaster risk reduction not only protects lives and livelihoods but also safeguards development gains. By planning infrastructure and land use with an eye to future climate scenarios and potential disasters, SIDS can avoid costly damage and disruption. The success of an integrated approach also depends on the effective inclusion of all stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, Chambers of Commerce, and community leaders.

Crucially, this integrated approach can strengthen the ability of SIDS to mobilize additional means of implementation. By demonstrating the effectiveness of holistic strategies, SIDS can make a compelling case for increased international cooperation and support. In this way, the successor framework to the SAMOA Pathway can help SIDS navigate a sustainable, resilient development pathway, maximizing existing means of implementation and harnessing the promise of new ones.

3. Risk-Informed Investment and Legislative Frameworks

The successor framework to the SAMOA Pathway can encourage the use of national and subnational legislative frameworks as powerful tools to build resilience, specifically in guiding investments towards resilience-building rather than risk propagation.

The framework can promote the development and implementation of laws that require all investments—public and private—to undergo a thorough resilience assessment before approval. This means ensuring that any investment contributes positively to the resilience of SIDS rather than inadvertently increasing their vulnerability to climate change, disasters, and other risks.

For example, green, blue and grey infrastructure investments could be mandated to adhere to climate-resilient standards and to consider potential future climate scenarios. Similarly, laws could incentivize or require investments in sectors such as renewable energy or sustainable agriculture, which contribute to both economic growth and environmental

sustainability.

By encouraging the establishment of legislative frameworks at the subnational level, the successor framework can ensure that local context and needs are adequately considered. Such localized regulations can address specific vulnerabilities and make resilience-building efforts more effective.

Adoption of legislation can be a transformative lever for SIDS with multiplier effects for DRR. Limited legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction that ensure the accountability and responsibility for risk creation and risk reduction is hampering progress. Investing in this area can pave the way for institutional reforms within governments, clear roles and responsibilities across government agencies and support multistakeholder and inclusive disaster risk management.