

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

1. What specific activities or programmes, if any, has your government, organisation or agency implemented or introduced, specifically targeting the vulnerabilities of SIDS? Please cite examples of solutions seeking vulnerability reduction.

The Sustainable Development and Disasters Unit developed a comprehensive training course on ECLAC's Disaster Assessment Methodology, including detailed sectoral presentations, practical exercises and current disaster-risk-management-related literature. The course focuses both in the estimation of the effects of a disaster, and in bringing awareness to the importance of identifying and reducing existing and new social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Throughout the sessions the issue of baseline information and planning are also discussed, as they allow countries to effectively identify their risks and vulnerabilities and act on them before a disaster.

Two training courses were organized to support the Caribbean region, both sought to strengthen the capacity of member States in the assessment of the effects and impacts of disasters in light of the 2030 development instruments, and to address the challenges and opportunities for disaster risk reduction present in the SDGs. The first training session was organized in coordination with the Association of Caribbean States (24-27 January 2017), with participation from CDEMA and CCRIF SPC. Participants included seventeen representatives from six Member States (Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago) and two Associate Members (Aruba and the British Virgin Islands). The second training was funded by CCRIF SPC and co-organized with CDEMA (14-16 March 2017); it reached four countries (Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis).

In addition to disseminating the Disaster Assessment Methodology in the region, three disaster assessments were conducted between October 2015 and October 2016. The assessments were elaborated in the aftermath of Hurricane Joaquin (October 2015) and Hurricane Matthew (October 2016) in The Bahamas, and Hurricane Earl (August 2016) in Belize. The reports had two main sections, first, an assessment of the damage, losses and additional costs caused by the event. The second section incorporated specific sectoral recommendations for a resilient reconstruction process. These recommendations were elaborated in light of the team's findings and structured under the GFDRR's five pillar framework: risk identification, risk reduction, preparedness, financial protection and resilient recovery.

2. To what extent has your Government mainstreamed the SAMOA Pathway and/or the SDGs into national development plans and/or programmes? Please indicate any challenges and/or opportunities.

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean has been actively supporting member States in mainstreaming the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway into national development plans. This initiative is at the early stages and began with the hosting of a Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the SDGs in national development planning held in Kingston, Jamaica, during 14-16 February 2017. The office has also submitted a concept note to DESA for an Eleventh Development Account project to strengthen national institutional frameworks in the Caribbean for an integrated approach to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda. This project is designed to achieve synergy in the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean and assist in institutional strengthening to enhance the capacity of national frameworks to guide coherent policy design and achieve integrated implementation of development goals.

3. To what extent has your Organisation, integrated the Samoa Pathway and or the SDGs into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national level?

ECLAC continues to play a significant role in supporting the implementation of programmes and activities pertinent to the Samoa Pathway and SDG's through its direct technical cooperation as well as facilitation of dialogue for prioritizing and monitoring progress towards these development goals. In the first instance, ECLAC specific actions include the implementation of the GIZ Energy Financing Project in the Caribbean over the past two years. This project supported governments of the sub-region in strengthening their policy framework for adapting to climate change through the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy in several countries including Saint Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Cayman Islands. Through the project, ECLAC also contributed to the review of National Energy Policies for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Caymans.

In the second instance, ECLAC has been instrumental in brokering dialogue among countries towards the implementation of the Samoa/SDG's through its convening of meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM/TAC) for the Implementation of the BPoA and MSI. This mechanism was instrumental in enabling Caribbean countries to arrive at consensus on priority development issues for Samoa and the Post 2015 Development agenda. Over the past two years, two meetings of the RCM/TAC were convened in which technical issues such as institutional strengthening of Caribbean SIDS; adaptation strategies to climate change; building of development partnerships through SIDS/TAP; monitoring of progress in the implementation of the SIDS development agenda; and proposals for a technological platform for mentoring SIDS progress were discussed.

With respect to the SDGs', in February, 2017, ECLAC in collaboration with GIZ hosted a regional workshop to explore issues and strategies for mainstreaming the SDG's into the policy and planning frameworks for Caribbean SIDS. This workshop explored topics such as the global framework for SDG follow-up and

review; National institutional frameworks for planning and implementing the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway; the Caribbean experience in mainstreaming the SDGs in existing national development plans; tools for integrated national development planning, and data demands for SDG monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean. A specific area of focus in these discussions was the exploration of strategies towards applying core indicators for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean.

4. Indicate the extent to which the issues and concerns of SIDS are given due consideration in conferences and processes organized or supported by your organization.

SIDS concerns have been central to the discussions in meetings and processes organized by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Indeed, at the recent meetings of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held in April 2016, the key challenges national indebtedness; disaster risk reduction; aging populations; and disabilities formed the basis of most of the discussions. In the specific case of the intergovernmental meeting of the CDCC, resolutions were adopted in respect of disaster assessments and resilience building in the Caribbean; the promotion the rights of persons with disabilities; a proposals for debt reduction of Caribbean SIDS; the strengthening of mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the SIDS development agenda and the promotion of an enhanced framework for the engagement in the multilateral systems by associate member states of the CDCC.

Additionally, the issue of promoting and financing energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in the Caribbean was the focus of discussions at a Regional Energy Policy Dialogue and Training Workshop in May 2016. Moreover, as indicated above, several training workshops and technical assessments in the area of disaster risk reduction have also been undertaken during the past two years.

5. In relation to the implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/>

- (i) indicate actions undertaken to date and their outcome(s);**
- (ii) indicate what partnerships have been contemplated or have been initiated; and,**
- (iii) indicate whether additional partnerships have been registered on the SIDS partnership Platform.**

ECLAC does not have any specific partnerships on the SIDS Platform.