

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

## **Submission by UNESCAP**

ESCAP's support to the Pacific SIDS mandated by the Commission resolution 71/4 'Implementing the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway' is to enhance 'national capacities and institutions' and 'the Pacific voice and representation in regional and global processes'; and to monitor 'the follow-up to the Samoa Pathway and the evolving post-2015 development agenda'<sup>1</sup>. This report outlines actions taken 'in collaboration with the relevant UN bodies and specialized agencies, regional and sub-regional organizations and non-governmental organizations'<sup>2</sup> in the Pacific 'seeking solutions in a concerted manner' 'to address the vulnerabilities' of Pacific SIDS. It will also highlight efforts to integrate the SAMOA Pathway into 'national and regional policies and development frameworks', which ESCAP is pursuing in the Pacific primarily through the development of a Pacific SDG roadmap with 'regional indicators' that also monitors and reports on the SAMOA Pathway and the *Framework for Pacific regionalism*.

ESCAP supports the development of the Pacific SDG roadmap which, when approved by Pacific leaders in September 2017, provides an integrated sub-regional monitoring and reporting framework for implementing and reviewing the 'Asia Pacific Regional Roadmap for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia Pacific' B(ii) which was endorsed at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) on 29 to 31 March 2017<sup>3</sup>. ESCAP's support for the Pacific SDG roadmap work includes participation as a UN representative on the Pacific SDG Taskforce; financing the mapping of SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway against Pacific regional plans strategies and frameworks; and co-organizing and co-sponsoring with UNDP and the Pacific regional organizations the Pacific SDG consultation planned for 29 May – 1 June 2017.

As part of its support towards the implementation of SDGs in the Pacific, ESCAP has also helped Fiji and the relevant Pacific regional organizations and UN entities prepare for and convene the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN Oceans Conference 15-17 March 2017. SDG 14 being one of the SDGs reviewed by HLPF in 2017 was one of the SDGs subject to an in-depth review during the 4<sup>th</sup> session of APFSD<sup>4</sup> where the Pacific presented the outcomes of its UN Oceans Conference preparatory meeting highlighting its challenges (including ocean acidification) and priorities implementing SDG14. The Pacific was also quite active throughout the APFSD meeting.

The EU-funded Climate Change Project implemented by ESCAP (in partnership of ILO and with the support of UNDP) for Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru undertook household surveys on attitudes, perceptions and capacities related to climate change and response

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/ESCAP/RES/71/4](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/ESCAP/RES/71/4)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/ESCAP/RES/71/4](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/ESCAP/RES/71/4)

<sup>3</sup> See draft report of the 2017 APFSD <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/B1700358.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> See Report of the roundtables on sustainable development goals at [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/EESCAPFSD\(4\)CRP1\\_0.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/EESCAPFSD(4)CRP1_0.pdf)

options including migration and relocation. It also supported the development of migration/labor policies, climate change strategies, and, through a regional meeting on the project's experiences and findings, developed an action plan which ESCAP and partners (PIFS, SPC, ILO, IOM, and OHCHR) will be supporting including towards a sub-regional mechanism to address the needs and rights of communities and peoples who move or are displaced due to climate change. This is one of the two emerging priorities of SIDS identified by the 2016 Global Sustainable Development Report<sup>5</sup>, together with ocean acidification which has also been highlighted by the Pacific.

Support for strengthening capacities in climate and infrastructure financing was also provided through national and regional studies and workshops in the Pacific and high level dialogues in Asia-Pacific where Pacific ministers played active and influential roles. Other than assisting with disaster needs assessments and providing regional advice on disaster risk management in recent times, ESCAP organized regional workshops and trainings in 2016/2017 involving SPC, SPREP and participants from Pacific SIDS on strengthening multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning systems and disaster resilient agriculture.

ESCAP is working with Tonga on the hosting arrangements for the Asia Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) in 2018 while, with Kazakhstan funding, biogas technology has been successfully tested and established in Samoa, Tonga, and Solomon Islands in 2016 with 3 more planned for 2017. This is in support of a partnership on sustainable livelihoods registered under the SAMOA Pathway.

During the reporting period and in support of the SDG principle of 'leaving no one behind', ESCAP has helped undertake national policy reviews, legislative analysis and reviews, and legislative drafting for compliance with the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD); assisted three countries with their ratification processes and worked closely with Pacific partners to finalize the new *Pacific Framework for the Rights with Persons with Disabilities 2016-2025*, which was endorsed by Forum Leaders in October 2016. Most Pacific countries now have a national disability policy, and a growing number of countries are requesting assistance to develop standalone disability legislation as well as to harmonize their existing laws with the CRPD, following the lead of the Marshall Islands which enacted the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act* and the *Human Rights Committee Act* in 2015 with technical assistance from ESCAP and PIFS. Most Pacific member States have now ratified the CRPD, and the remaining three – Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Tonga - are expected to follow suit in 2017.

In addition, ESCAP has contributed to human rights reporting in the Pacific, in particular through the Universal Periodic Review and treaty body (CEDAW) processes. It has also helped to address issues of social inequality and promote social protection through national workshops in Fiji and Kiribati in 2016, as well as to improve representation of the Pacific in ESCAP's Asia-Pacific reports/publications. Key partners of ESCAP at the sub-regional level are PIFS, PDF and OHCHR, and at the global level, the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2016>

In relation to the work on data and statistics for SDGs, ESCAP is implementing a project to help build national capacity to produce environment-relevant indicators through the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). SEEA account implementation has taken place or planned for Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, Palau, and FSM and regional training was conducted for Pacific SIDS in September, Fiji<sup>6</sup>. Other training and regional workshops assisted or organized by ESCAP include: workshop on SDGs indicators and data (New Caledonia Feb/March 2017); and on data analysis and report writing (DARW) for civil registration data and vital statistics was held on 19-29 September 2016. ESCAP is considering registering a voluntary commitment for 'Oceans Accounts' under the 2016 UN Oceans Conference.

In conclusion ESCAP initiatives highlighted for the reporting period reflect the key priorities of the Pacific SIDS under the SAMOA Pathway and are being pursued in a manner consistent with its mandates given by the member States of the Commission and by the global agendas for SDG and the SIDS. Looking ahead, better alignment and more 'genuine and durable' partnerships under the SAMOA Pathway will be realized through an integrated Pacific SDG roadmap that is linked or mapped at the indicator level to 'national and regional policies and development frameworks' including of ESCAP and the UN in Asia-Pacific and in the Pacific. In this regard, ESCAP's participation in the development of the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2023 which uses 36 SDGs indicators as measures for its success, is also worth noting.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.unsiap.or.jp/news\\_event/news/2016/1609\\_SEEA\\_Fiji.html](http://www.unsiap.or.jp/news_event/news/2016/1609_SEEA_Fiji.html). Participating countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu