

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### **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 survey for the SG report in 2018.**

**Please take time to read thoroughly, before starting the Questionnaire.**

#### PART A

##### Policy, Legal, Institutional and Financial Arrangements for Implementation

1. (Organizational Arrangements) Is there a Focal Point/Unit dealing with implementation of the Samoa Pathway? If yes, where is it located within the institutional architecture of your country or institution? If no, please explain how the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is currently coordinated?

Ireland is strongly committed to the full implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. In terms of focal points within Government, there is no dedicated individual but rather a combination of key staff across a number of Departments and business units who have a good understanding of the Pathway and sustainable development issues.

This network includes: the Deputy Director of UN Policy Unit; the Climate and Resilience Policy Lead in Irish Aid; the Sustainable Development Counsellor and First Secretary in Ireland's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York; all within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). This network of informed and engaged staff stay in contact on a range of issues and policies relevant to the SAMOA Pathway on an ongoing basis.

In addition, issues related to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway are dealt with in the context of Ireland's national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There are high level coordination mechanisms involving the Prime Minister's Office; the Department of Communications, Climate Change and Environment (DCCA); DFAT; and all other Government Departments. DFAT representatives serve to assist in fostering coherence between Ireland's 2030 Agenda commitments and those made in the SAMOA Pathway. The work of Ireland's Marine Institute as it relates to sustainable development and sustainable ocean activity, also feeds into these discussions.

2. (Policy and Legislative arrangements) Is the Focal Point/Unit supported by an enabling policy and/or legal framework? Is yes, please describe. If no, how is the Focal Point/Unit enabled to lead or facilitate the implementation of SAMOA Pathway. How has this affected progress on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in your organization at national and regional levels?

As implied above, the core team of staff engaged on the SAMOA Pathway is an informal

network which coordinates and communicates on a regular basis but does not have a formal framework underpinning it. In terms of the 2030 Agenda/SDG implementation group, this is convened at a number of levels through a Government decision endorsed by Cabinet in 2017.

As a relatively small Ministry, DFAT is able to foster policy coherence in an efficient way which could possibly be undermined by too formal a coordination mechanism. Experiences over the last number of years since the Pathway was agreed have shown that Ireland is well placed to engage coherently on a range of issues and events such as UN and EU Oceans conferences; humanitarian response; the Commission on the Status of Women; the UN Steering Committee for SIDS Partnerships; and the 2030 Agenda/HLPF to name a few of relevance.

3. (Financial Arrangements) Please give an indication of:
- (i) **For States** - the percentage of national budgets allocated to supporting SAMOA Pathway thematic priorities over the last fiscal year.
  - (ii) **For UN system agencies, Regional institutions and international development partners** - percentage of the total budgets invested into SIDS priority areas over the last Fiscal year:

<b>Priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway</b>	<b>Budget Allocation</b>
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	N/A
Climate Change	N/A
Sustainable Energy	N/A
Disaster Risk Reduction	N/A
Oceans and seas, water and sanitation, biodiversity	N/A
Waste management	N/A
Health	N/A
Gender equality	N/A
Social development	N/A
Means of implementation (including partnerships and institutional support)	N/A
Etc.	N/A
<b>Total</b>	N/A

## Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Support to SIDS

4. (Work Programme Arrangements) Please give an indication of:

- (i) **For SIDS** - Does your country have a current long-term National Development Plan? If yes, to what extent has it been aligned to the SAMOA Pathway and/or the 2030 Agenda? Is this plan being implemented? If no long-term plan exists, please indicate what is being used in place of a long-term National Development Plan.
- (ii) **For UN system agencies, Regional institutions and international development partners** – what strategic documents/frameworks/policies/plans guides support for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and/or the SDGs if any? How is it resourced and implemented? How often is it revised?

Earlier this year, Ireland launched the *National Implementation Plan 2018 – 2020*. The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the SDGs. The Plan identifies **four strategic priorities to guide implementation**:

1. **Awareness:** raise public awareness of the SDGs;
2. **Participation:** provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;
3. **Support:** encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and
4. **Policy alignment:** develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has lead responsibility for promoting and overseeing the coherent implementation of the SDGs on a whole-of-Government basis.

All Ministers retain responsibility for implementing the individual SDGs relating to issues under their aegis and have been actively engaged in the preparation of this Plan. The Plan provides a '**SDG Matrix**' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a '**SDG Policy Map**' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. The full plan can be found at: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/sustainable-development/sustainable-development-goals/Pages/National-Implementation-Plan-2018---2020.aspx>

In early 2018, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, announced plans to issue a new policy on International Development Cooperation, replacing the 2015 policy *One World One Future*. This White Paper will be produced in 2018, and will aim to situate Ireland to the fore in leading and participating in collective global aspirations for a better world, as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Internal preparations and analysis are already underway. The consultation process is following

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform guidelines. Consultation across Government is ongoing and a public consultation will be launched before summer 2018, involving both public meetings and online opportunities to input. The new policy will be launched shortly thereafter, taking on board the outputs from the public consultation phase.

The White Paper will also build on the independent work of the review of the Irish Aid programme recently undertaken by the Oireachtas (Parliamentary) Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade (JCFAT).

Staff working within DFAT on SIDS, the SAMOA Pathway, and sustainable development more broadly are inputting into the White Paper process to ensure that it takes account of relevant commitments.

- Using the table below, please provide an overview of the work (programmes, projects, actions, etc.) that your Organization/Government is implementing or plans to implement in support of the SAMOA Pathway and/or the SDGs for the biennium 2017-2018? (Please exclude Conferences and partnerships as this is covered in a separate section).

Name of Project/ Programme/ Activity	Themes/ Goals addressed		Target Countries, Regions, Sectors	Expected Achievements	Intervention Type  (tech transfer, Capacity development etc.)	Total Budget (US\$)
	Samoa Pathway	SDGs				
White Paper on International Development	Broad focus	Full 2030 Agenda	Broad focus	Deep alignment between Ireland's international development policy and the SDGs	High Level Policy Framework	
National Implementation Plan 2018 – 2020	Broad focus	Full 2030 Agenda	Broad focus	Establish national implementation framework for the SDGs and 2030 Agenda	High Level Policy Framework	
Review of DFAT Stability Fund	Climate Vulnerability	Goals 1,2,3,6,7,8,9,10, 11,12,13,14,15,17	SIDS – Pacific, Caribbean, AIMS. To include	Deepening Ireland's programmatic		c.\$800k

			climate resilience and mitigation, improved engagement by SIDS in multilateral processes, human rights based approach	engagement on SIDS priorities		
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**PART B**

1. What challenges have you encountered in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, or in supporting SIDS to implement? What solutions or potential solutions have been or can be adopted to address these challenges?

To date, much of Ireland’s support for SIDS and SAMOA implementation has taken place at the multilateral level, through commitments or partnerships announced for instance in Samoa in 2014, at the Ocean Conference and Our Ocean (EU) events in 2017, and through fostering strong bilateral and multilateral relationships with SIDS through the UN in New York and Geneva.

Ireland also has a limited diplomatic footprint, with the majority of diplomatic accreditations to SIDS being based out of Australia or New York. Ireland is to open a new Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand, in 2018. This will increase our ability to deepen engagement across the Pacific. Increasing the geographic scope of our diplomatic network in the Pacific region will also facilitate Ireland to engage more meaningfully in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes established by the EU in the coming years.

Improved cooperation with private sector entities in the implementation of both the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs is also a challenge, which will be explored to the extent possible in the ongoing White Paper review process.

2. To what extent is your country capable of meeting the human and financial resource requirements for implementation of the SAMOA Pathway?

Ireland has capacity challenges in terms of the resources available to DFA and the Government more broadly to engage on SAMOA Pathway commitments. However, as part of the ongoing White paper process, it is anticipated that significant additional ODA resources will be provided in the period 2019-2020.

3. To what extent has your country been able to access international development assistance required

to implement the key aspects of the Samoa Pathway?

N/A

### **PART C**

1. For the year 2017, please describe any key results achieved as a result of ongoing work being implemented by your organization/Government in the thematic areas of the SAMOA Pathway. What impact, if any, has this had at national and/or regional levels.

#### **Supporting SIDS engagement with relevant UN Processes:**

Ireland has sought over the course of 2017 to support the engagement of representatives from SIDS in relevant UN negotiations.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is one of the key multilateral processes that SIDS struggle most to engage with, as many have no or minimal representation in Geneva. To assist in this regard, a Trust Fund to support the participation of the LDCs and SIDS in the Human Rights Council was established in 2012. A follow-up resolution entitled Promoting the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council (resolution 34/40) became the second most sponsored resolution since the establishment of the Human Rights Council in 2006.

Ireland enthusiastically co-sponsored both resolutions, and was the first donor to the Trust Fund. To date, we have continued to make an annual donation of €50,000. Ireland's Mission to the UN in Geneva has provided support to the participating SIDS delegations in other forms too, for example through networking with and delivery of training to the delegates funded via the Trust Fund during their time in Geneva.

Ireland has made contributions to similar Trust Funds to facilitate SIDS engagement at the UN, for instance during our facilitation of the 2030 Agenda (2015) and Global Compact on Migration negotiations in 2017.

2018 will see this support continue, in relation to CSW, the SAMOA Pathway MTR, and other processes.

Support to the Least Developed Country Expert Group of the UNFCCC (LEG)

Within UNFCCC processes, Ireland is among the most consistent supporters of the challenges of Least Developed Countries, and SIDS as a subset of this. Part of that support involves consistent financing of the Least Developed Country Fund (the LDCF, managed by the GEF) with a contribution of €1.1m per year. Another element is the financial and technical support to the LEG, which has a dedicated team within the UNFCCC Secretariat. The LEG is a body formally constituted by the UNFCCC to provide expert advice, mostly on climate change adaptation, to the 47 LDCs

which are parties to the Convention. Of these, 8 are SIDS. In addition to funding of €500,000 per year to finance training and guidance to LDCs on adaptation, our participation involves a staff member who sits on the LEG group and provides technical support in kind. Among the 13 LEG members, 2 come from SIDS.

In 2018, Ireland announced dedicated funding of €250,000 to strengthen the gender function of UNFCCC, which will enable issues of gender to be mainstreamed in climate discussions.

### **UN Oceans Conference Commitments**

Ireland has put in place a National Integrated Maritime Plan to enable us to protect and develop our greatest natural resources. This integrated approach means the management of our marine resources is done in a holistic way that integrates our economic, environmental and social concerns, mirroring the ambition of the SDGs.

Plastic marine litter, including microplastics, represent a serious and growing threat to the health of our marine ecosystems and to human health. Ireland will support Sweden's initiative calling for a ban on microbeads in cosmetics.

Ireland will legislate domestically to prohibit the sale or manufacture of certain products containing microbeads including not just cosmetics, but also body care and cleansing products as well as detergents and abrasive surface cleaning products.

Ireland will provide \$1 million in funding to help enhance the statistical capacity of developing countries, with a particular focus on Small Island Developing States, to implement and monitor their progress towards achieving their SDGs and Paris Agreement commitments. The funding will be delivered via the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and to the G.E.F. Trust Fund for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, over a period of three years.

### **Our Ocean Commitments 2017:**

#### **Commitment 1**

Ireland announces its commitment to invest EUR 1 million over the period 2018-2021 into R&D to help ensure future food and nutrition security and the sustainable supply for other high-added-value chains and products such as bioenergy, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics from algae.

#### **Commitment 2**

Ireland announces EUR 1 million funding towards research vessel ship time per annum from 2018-2021 to activities agreed under the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AORA) - Galway Statement implementation, notably seabed mapping & ocean observation. Data from these activities will be open access.

#### **Commitment 3**

Ireland announces that it will invest EUR 4 million per annum to a world class programme of seabed

mapping (INFOMAR). Ireland has to date committed some EUR 50 million to this programme. This data feeds directly into the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNnet) and helps support AORA.

#### **Commitment 4**

Ireland announces that, in cooperation with the International Eco Schools programme, it will roll out a ground-breaking Global Citizenship: Marine Environment education module for school children from September 2017 onwards. The programme will increase ocean literacy by fostering understanding of the important role the oceans play in our lives, how individual actions can affect them and how we can act together to protect them.

#### **Commitment 5**

Ireland announces EUR 320,000 in funding to the Clean Coasts Programme for 2017 and commits to funding on an on-going basis in future years. This programme, operated by An Taisce, Ireland's National Trust, engages communities to work actively with local authorities to protect Ireland's beaches, seas and marine life. This Programme comprises Clean Coasts Volunteering (with over 550 Clean Coasts volunteer groups established to date) and the highly sought after Green Coast Award (62 beaches awarded the Green Coast award in Ireland in 2017).

#### **Commitment 6**

Ireland announces the expansion of its 2015 "Fishing for Litter" programme to a further 2 ports/piers and 15 vessels which has encouraged fishermen to retain marine litter brought up in their nets for onshore disposal, with 46 trawlers in 7 different ports around the Irish coast now participating in that programme.

#### **Commitment 7**

Ireland reaffirms that by end 2018 it will introduce national legislation to prohibit the sale or manufacture of certain products containing microbeads including not just cosmetics but also body care and cleansing products as well as detergents and abrasive surface cleaning products.

#### **Commitment 8**

Ireland announces a contribution of EUR 50,000 to the three United Nations trust funds in 2017. The contribution will go to the United Nations trust fund created to assist developing states engage with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, to the trust fund to assist them in participating in the work of the UN Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the marine environment and to the fund to assist developing states participate in the work of the UN Preparatory Committee on a new legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable development of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Since 2003 Ireland has contributed more than EUR 800,000 to these trust funds.

### **PART D**

- ~~1. Indicate the extent to which the issues and concerns of SIDS are given due consideration in conferences or similar processes organized or supported by your organization during year 2017.~~



~~In your explanation, please include the purpose, frequency, size (funds, participation) of the conference.~~

### **PART E**

- ~~1. Have you implemented any new partnerships during the year 2017?~~

### **PART F**

Please include any other information you may wish to share.

**With Irish Aid support, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED<sup>1</sup>) has just strengthened its work on Inclusive Marine Fisheries Governance.** This work focuses on a) the political economy analysis of the subsidy regimes in place for marine fisheries governance; b) an inclusive international mechanism to govern the high seas; c) M&E guidance for SDG14 ‘Life Below Water’; and d) improving tools for small-scale fisheries accounting. Work on subsidy and fiscal regimes is expected to provide guidance on potential for increased revenue collection as well as social and ecological benefits. Support to the UN instrument on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction has focused on supporting Least Developed Countries (with SIDS a major stakeholder group) to be more effective and coherent in the negotiation process. Support to analysis of the role and economic value of small scale fisheries will identify the major threats faced by fishing communities, as well as inform policy options. Given the strong reliance on international cooperation on fisheries governance, and the **prominent role of small scale fisheries in their economies, this work should prove extremely important to SIDS among other LDCs.**

In 2018, DFAT will engage with national Marine Research bodies in Ireland (the Marine Institute in particular) on the scope for mobilising in-kind technical support to SIDS, on marine ecosystem monitoring, sustainable fisheries management, or coastal zone management. This support could be in the context of the NDC-Partnership (Nationally Determined Contributions of the UNFCCC), or on a bilateral basis.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Institute for Environment and Development is a UK-based global institute which provides poverty-focused operational research and policy support to developing countries on climate and environment issues. They are a core partner of Irish Aid on climate policy, and we provide them with €1.1m annually. This is split between core funding, to support initiatives such as that on oceans, earmarked funding to support LDC negotiators in UNFCCC processes, and funding for bespoke climate technical support to our Key Partner Country missions.