

Part A. Introduction (2 pages max)

Setting the Context

Summary of what has taken place over the past 4 years of implementation? What national and/or regional institutional structures/mechanisms are in place if any? What progress has been made and constraints confronted at the national and/or regional levels if any? Coherence and linkages with the 2030 Development Agenda and other global processes.

Part B. Progress in the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

- a. Review of Progress in implementation of the Samoa Pathway
(UN System, Regional Institutions, Other Stakeholders)

Pursuant to OHRLLS' mandates on advocacy in favour of SIDS, to assist in mobilising international resources for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, to provide appropriate support to group consultations of SIDS and its role in mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway in the work of the UN system and enhancing coherence of SIDS issues, the following key activities are noted for the reporting period.

OHRLLS in pursuit of its SIDS advocacy mandate, convened and participated in 17 SIDS specific events. This include a High-level Dialogue on "Oceans and small island states" co-organised with AOSIS and SIDS DOCK in the margins of the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017. The event resulted in announcements of voluntary commitments for SIDS which directly contributed to the outcomes of the Ocean Conference.

In April 2018, UN-OHRLLS convened a two-day Consultative Meeting of SIDS and their development partners on accelerating the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the national, regional and global levels. The Consultative Meeting brought together 60 participants comprised of Permanent Representatives of SIDS and their development partners and representatives from the UN system. Discussions of the meeting informed on how the UN system can best support efforts of the Small Island Developing States, including in the context of the ongoing United Nations Sustainable Development Reform process as well as next steps for the regional preparatory processes leading to the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway in September 2019.

OHRLLS has developed an Action Plan for the SIDS national focal points in June 2018. This was carried out following consultations with SIDS Member States and the OIOS recommendation to implement OHRLLS' expanded mandate pursuant to paragraph 120 SAMOA Pathway to ensure mainstreaming of SAMOA Pathway into the work of the UN System and to enhance coherence of UN Processes on SIDS issues at national, regional and global levels. In December 2017, the Under-Secretary General sought nominations of focal points on mainstreaming and coherence of SIDS

issues from members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) with presence at the global, national and regional levels. To date nominations have been received from 16 SIDS.¹ The Action Plan lay out key steps that will inform the full operationalization of the SIDS national focal points including the mobilization of the resources needed for the funding of its activities.

b. National and Regional Actions to address implementation of the Samoa Pathway

OHRLLS through its engagement with the Broadband Commission has led efforts to improve connectivity in vulnerable countries, including a focus on the Asia-Pacific region over the last year. In October 2017, OHRLLS with the Government of Vanuatu convened a Meeting to leverage investment in broadband for national development which was held in Port Villa, Vanuatu. Pacific SIDS participated in the meeting to share best practices as well as to strengthen partnerships with private sector organisation in the ICTs sector.

Also in the margins of the Asia-Pacific on Broadband Connectivity, OHRLLS convened an Expert Group Meeting on “Resilient urban development in SIDS: harnessing opportunities for enhanced connectivity”. The EGM focused on the role of connectivity in addressing the needs of the rapidly urbanising population in SIDS, especially in the context of SDG Goal 11 to: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. The EGM put forward recommendations to enable ‘smart cities’ which offer a better quality of life for their residents while being more sustainable and cost efficient.

OHRLLS as part of the “Working Group on Broadband for the Most Vulnerable Countries” lead the preparation of the report entitled “Broadband for national development in four LDCs: Cambodia, Rwanda, Senegal and Vanuatu”² which was launched on 12 July 2018.

c. Linkages to other key regional and global processes

In alignment with the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action, to enable half of the LDCs to meet the graduation criteria by 2020, OHRLLS established an Inter-Agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs in November 2017. Half of the 12 LDCs currently under consideration are also SIDS (Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor Leste); and stand to benefit from the activities of the Task Force which will provide strengthened and coordinated UN system-wide support to the countries graduating from the LDC category. These SIDS will also continue to benefit the newly established Technology Bank for LDCs launched by UN-OHRLLS in June 2018. As part of the measures to support smooth transition, the Technology Bank will continue its services to countries graduating from the LDCs category for up to five years upon graduation.

¹ Cabo Verde, Commonwealth of Dominica, Comoros, Guyana, Maldives, Mauritius, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St. Lucia, Suriname, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu

² *Link to the Report will be available after the launch on 12 July on the OHRLLS website

OHRLLS continued its advocacy to mainstream the SAMOA Pathway in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and to this end participated in the SIDS Event “Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Small Island Developing States: Promoting the Role of Cities in Sustainable Development in Island Systems” co-organized by UN-Habitat, UNESCAP and UNECLAC which was held in the margins of the World Urban Forum in Malaysia in February 2018.

d. Partnerships for SIDS

OHRLLS continued to increase the number of private sector organisations joining the SIDS Global Business Network³, an online platform and resource hub aiming to improve connections between entities in the national and regional private sectors of small island developing States, global businesses and other relevant stakeholders. OHRLLS together with the government of the Republic of Mauritius hosted the two-day SIDS Global Business Network Forum under the overarching theme of “Strengthening private sector partnerships for sustainable tourism development” in Balaclava, Mauritius from 21-22 May 2018. The 2018 Forum was the third in a series of SIDS private sector fora convened by UN-OHRLLS and its partners. Throughout the two days, the forum addressed the linkages between tourism in SIDS with other cross-cutting sectors such as cultural heritage, renewable energy, connectivity, sustainable oceans and finance. The Forum concluded with the several new partnership announcements involving the private sector to support SIDS in their implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Part C. Monitoring and follow-up

a. Mid-term Review of the Samoa Pathway

Pursuant to paragraph. 28 of General Assembly 72/117, which called upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to organise facilitate and provide necessary support to the review process at the national, regional and international levels, DESA and OHRLLS have established a joint programme of work for the preparatory processes leading up to the one-day high level review. OHRLLS supported by DESA led the preparations for the AIMS regional preparatory meeting of the AIMS convened in Mauritius from 23-25 May 2018 and regional meeting for the Pacific, held in Tonga from 19 to 21 June. OHRLLS will provide a supporting role to DESA in the preparations for the Caribbean Regional Meeting to be held in Belize from 7-9 August, as well as the Inter-Regional meeting in Samoa from 30 October to 1 November. The two Offices have also adopted joint plans for resource allocations related to financing the preparatory processes for the Mid-Term Review of the Samoa Pathway.

³ See <https://sidsgbn.org/>.

The Units have worked together effectively to overcome major challenges facing the MTR process such as lack of funding while concurrently organizing and facilitating the respective meetings. Through a joint effort, these Offices have effectively provided the required support for MTR process and continue to jointly raise the extra budgetary resources required to facilitate the MTR including the participation of SIDS representatives in the three preparatory regional meetings, the inter-regional meeting and the one-day high level meeting itself which will take place in New York in September 2019.

b. Follow up to the JIU Report

Pursuant to the JIU recommendations pertaining to DESA and OHRLLS in its report (JIU/REP/2016/3), the Department of Economics and Social Affairs SIDS Unit and the Office of the High Representative Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, continued to take steps to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of DESA and OHRLLS in support of SIDS.

DESA and OHRLLS continue to alternative the chairing of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for small island developing states. A notable achievement has been the adoption of its Terms of Reference in its Meeting in September 2017, which will contribute to further enhance coherence and effective coordination between United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders and to improve communication and consultation with Member States.

A number of joint activities were undertaken over the reporting period, including the several side-events related to SIDS issues which were convened in the margins of major UN Conferences and meetings. During the high-level segment of the General Assembly 72nd session in September 2017, DESA and OHRLLS together with other partners, co-hosted a high-level breakfast on harnessing synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. This was followed by a high-level event on Loss and Damage to continue political emphasis on this important issue which was co-organised and co-chaired by the USGs of DESA and OHRLLS, which was convened in the margins on the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017.

Over the reporting period, two SIDS consultative retreats, one convened by DESA in and one convened by OHRLLS was held in September 2017 and in April 2018 respectively. The DESA SIDS Unit and OHRLLS fully collaborated in organising and convening of the two consultative meetings, with participation of representatives from the two Offices in each meeting.

Within its function to provide a supporting role to the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, DESA and OHRLLS continues to support the work of the Steering Committee, including the hosting of the annual Global SIDS Partnership Dialogue during the Ocean Conference in June 2017, where DESA and OHRLLS were represented at the principal level. Efforts have been made to promote synergies and complementarities between the two partnership platforms, the SIDS Action Platform and the SIDS-GBN through sharing of knowledge and experts registered on both

platforms.

Conclusion (1-page max)

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?

The overall programme of work of the Office of the High Representative is designed around three interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, namely, subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, and subprogramme 3, Small island developing States. Substantive responsibility for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is vested in Subprogramme 3, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Unit. The SIDS Unit is comprised of two posts from the regular budget (one P-4 and one P-2) and non-post resources to support the implementation of the mandates under the subprogramme. Furthermore, the management of OHRLLS allocated one additional post from the LDCs subprogramme (P4 level) and one post of GTA (P2 level) to support the work of the SIDS unit to effectively deliver its mandate however it is noted that this is not a sustainable funding strategy. In addition, the Advocacy and Outreach Unit works closely with the SIDS Unit and provides support in carrying out its advocacy mandate, including assistance during the organisation of SIDS related events and social media related activities. Furthermore, the activities for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is carried out under the overall guidance of the Under-Secretary General, the Director and the Chief of OHRLLS.

2. (Policy and Legislative arrangements) Is the Focal Point/Unit supported by an enabling policy and/or legal framework? If 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?

The work of the SIDS Unit is guided by the General Assembly mandate to OHRLLS including; (i) mobilisation and coordination of international support and resources for the effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway; (ii) to provide appropriate support to group consultations of SIDS; (iii) ensure the mainstreaming of SAMOA

Pathway and issues related to SIDS in the work of the UN system and enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in the UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels’ (iv) OHRLLS together with UNDESA to support the work of the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS which, has been established to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships.

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:

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

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?

The implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is embedded in the Programme of Work for the SIDS Unit in OHRLLS. The overall programme of work supports the objectives set for the biennium which, are underpinned by concrete outputs, indicators and performance measures. OHRLLS has developed an Action Plan to strengthen the complementarities between the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs. Concrete actions taken under the guidance of the action plan include the links between the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs in the planning and monitoring of the Office, including in Strategic Frameworks and Programme Budget, work plans, IMDIS etc. The resources for the SIDS Unit are appropriated from regular budget post and non-post as well as extrabudgetary resources.

5. 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				

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?

OHRLLS was not provided with additional resources to implement the SAMOA Pathway and the additional mandate due to the SDGs. Over the reporting period, OHRLLS has delivered in mandate on SIDS through the reallocation of resources within the Office and through acquiring additional resources (GTA) of a temporary basis however it is emphasised that this is not a sustainable funding strategy and OHRLLS predictable resources to effectively deliver its mandate in the long term.

The increased advocacy activities with different actors, while positive, has also highlighted the need for enhanced coherence on SIDS issues to avoid these activities being an end unto themselves. The need for coordinated follow-up to advocacy activities that have resulted in more concrete commitments is also highlighted. As such the need to integrate these activities with ongoing global processes, as opposed to standalone ventures, is a key lesson learned.

There is a need for enhancing coherence across the various SIDS partnerships platforms including the SIDS Global Business Network, the SIDS Partnerships Framework and other partnerships for SIDS registered under the Ocean Conference voluntary commitments. Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of partnerships also need to be strengthened to improve accountability and delivery of commitments once made.

2. To what extent is your country capable of meeting the human and financial resource requirements for implementation of the SAMOA Pathway?
3. To what extent has your country been able to access international development assistance required to implement the key aspects of the Samoa Pathway?

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.

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.

	Title of the Process/Conference	Purpose	Average no. of participants every year	Please explain SIDS participation in the conference /process	Outcome document and how SIDS priorities are reflected in the documents.
1					
2					
3					
4					

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, including links and reports (page and sections specified)

Thank you.