

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

Suggested two paragraphs from Pacific UNCT:

The United Nations operates in the Pacific based on a multi-country engagement led by two Resident Coordinators and a Joint Pacific UN Country Team (UNCT), linked together across two regional hubs with 24 UN agencies operating regionally out of Fiji and Samoa. This situation is unique to the Pacific region given the vulnerabilities and development needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific. The Pacific United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017 outlines the collective response of the UN system to development challenges and national priorities of the SIDS in the Pacific in five outcome areas: environmental management, climate change and disaster risk management; gender equality; inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction; basic services (health and education); and governance and human rights. These are complemented by key programming principles mainstreamed across the UNDAF including human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, results-based management and capacity development.

The UNDAF has particular relevance in disaster risk management and mitigation, leading to the coordination of development programmes and projects that link directly to disaster resilience and climate change. It is also broadly aligned with regional priorities as defined in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The UNDAF results framework resonates strongly with the SAMOA Pathway and represents genuine and durable partnerships, mainly at the country level. With coordination in the Pacific complex and challenging, the Pacific UNCT's commitment to the principles of Delivering as One and to 'leaving no one behind' have supported strengthened coordination efforts across the region and established goals for ramped-up programmatic and operational coherence, including for the next UNDAF period. These have also included support to Pacific governments on familiarisation and localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with key regional organisations, development partners and civil society.

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 Pacific United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017, signed between 2013 and 2014 by 14 Pacific Island governments outlines the collective response of the UN system to development challenges and national priorities of the Pacific Small Island Developing States in five outcome areas: environmental management, climate change and disaster risk management; gender equality; inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction; basic services (health and education); and governance and human rights. These are

complemented by key programming principles mainstreamed across the UNDAF including human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, results based management and capacity development.

The UNDAF has particular relevance in disaster risk management and mitigation, leading to the coordination of development programmes and projects that link directly to disaster resilience and climate change. Alignment of UN priorities in this area across several UN agencies with comparative advantage played a role in developing disaster resilience across the region, which was tested during Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji in 2016. The UN assisted Pacific countries in engaging in international dialogues and provided targeted expert advice on natural disaster resilience. UN agencies also collaborated to create the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council, a mechanism that will allow the private sector to engage with partners and the governments regularly on reducing risks from natural hazards, and preparing and responding to disasters. In 2016, as a Green Climate Fund (GCF) accredited entity, UNDP facilitated the development and successful approval of climate change adaptation projects for Tuvalu (\$36 million) focused on coastal protection and, and a GCF Samoa Project (\$57.7million) focused on integrated watershed management for the Vaisigano River in Apia. UN agencies are committed to jointly exploring opportunities to support Governments in implementing GCF projects.

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.

The UNDAF 2013 – 2017 as a regional multi-country framework has relevance to the regional and national development priorities of the Pacific. It is also a means of focusing attention on the need for enhanced coordination and integrated planning against those priorities. The UN therefore has the opportunity to establish priorities in partnership with Pacific governments, as well as other national stakeholders and regional partners, and position the UN's technical expertise and impartial policy advice in supporting objective monitoring and evaluation of national development frameworks in the context of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. To ensure the Pacific UNCT's continued success in supporting SIDS in the Pacific in this work, dedicated attention to addressing coordination challenges and the sustainability of UN Joint Presence Offices in the Pacific for the duration of the next UNDAF cycle is necessary, including revisiting the formula for UN agency funding allocation for coordination for the Pacific.

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?

The UNDAF 2013 – 2017 is complemented by the Pacific UNDAF multi-country action plan 2013-2017, the common operational plan for implementing 14

individual UNDAF country-specific output level results matrices that are tailored to each country's priorities. Working closely with key regional organisations of the Pacific, the UNDAF is broadly aligned with regional priorities as defined in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and its results frameworks resonates strongly with the SAMOA Pathway and represents genuine and durable partnerships, mainly at the country level.

The UNDAF framework has been used to lead country-based development reviews of Pacific country's individual strategic development plans, including setting priorities for renewable energy, climate change, the participation of women in political and economic activities, and good governance. The UNDAF also demonstrates relevance through its support of national policies in all five outcome areas, including the formation and the strengthening of national institutions responding to SDGs priorities. These include developing policies in thematic areas of leadership, good governance and human rights, as well as establishing joint programmes on youth employment and gender-related issues, e.g. increasing women's political participation, addressing violence against women and girls, and supporting the Pacific countries' UPR preparations and development of national plans for implementation of human rights recommendations.

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.

The Pacific UNCT agencies have actively supported the substantive inclusion of Pacific voices in global debates and processes. This has included support to climate-affected Pacific countries in the lead up to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 22 (COP22), coordination of the World Humanitarian Summit Pacific Consultations, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management), as well as the finalisation and roll-out of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Pacific UNCT also initiated its responses to directions laid out in the SAMOA Pathway by establishing more innovative partnerships and proving that it can deliver better, together.

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.**

[Please refer to specific UN agencies' responses submitted separately.]