

## 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?

Under Sub-programme 5 of UNCTAD, the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes comprises *inter alia* a Small Island Developing States and Status Issues Section. This section is UNCTAD's focal point for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

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?

Like all sections of UNCTAD, the SIDS and Status Issues Section has been, since July 2016 (UNCTAD 14), implementing the mandate established by UNCTAD member States through the Nairobi Maafikiano, which refers to SIDS 10 times. Four of these citations recognize the exceptional vulnerability of SIDS to exogenous shocks (para. 22), as well as the need for: (i) sustainable productive investment (para. 51); (ii) responses to infrastructural gaps (para. 70); and (iii) ongoing general support for the development needs of SIDS, including through the provision of advisory services to those States among SIDS that are faced with the challenge of graduation from LDC status (para. 91). The other six citations take the form of operational language ("UNCTAD should...") mandating the secretariat to continue to help SIDS in various areas of relevance to UNCTAD's general mandate: trade, investment and development challenges; maritime transport system; e-commerce and digital trade; resilience and productive capacity-building; ocean resources.

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>  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Preamble of the Samoa Pathway</b></p> <p>Priority of UNCTAD: implementing paragraph 22 of the Preamble, in which member States reaffirmed their “commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of SIDS”.</p>   | <p>SIDS and Status Issues Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes<br/>(Regular budget, 2 staff members)</p> |
| Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth  |   |
| Climate Change  |   |
| Sustainable Energy  |   |
| Disaster Risk Reduction   |   |
| <p><b>Oceans and seas, water and sanitation, biodiversity</b></p> <p>UNCTAD pays particular attention to SIDS in its work to identify the opportunities generated by the ocean economy, an area of work closely related to SDG 14 on the ocean and coastal sustainable development.</p> <p>UNCTAD helps developing countries create an enabling environment for ocean-based potential investors and economic operators. This implies defining sound national and/or regional strategies. This area of work has involved publications on fisheries and the blue economy, expert meetings and training workshops at national levels and beyond.</p> | <p>Division for International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities<br/>(Regular budget)</p>                           |
| Waste management  |   |
| Health  |   |
| Gender equality   |   |
| Social development  |   |
| <p><b>Means of implementation, including partnerships: Trade</b></p> <p>In accordance with para. 107(d) of the Samoa Pathway, UNCTAD supports the efforts of SIDS “to develop and strengthen partnerships to enhance the participation of SIDS in international trade of goods and services, build their productive capacities, and address their supply-side constraints”.</p> <p>UNCTAD also helps the CDP “to give due consideration to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS...” (para. 118).</p>   | <p>Various Divisions of UNCTAD</p>  |
| <p><b>Etc.</b></p> <p>Other Sections of UNCTAD deal with various Samoa Pathway topics sporadically, in the framework of their global country coverage.</p>  |   |
| <b>Total</b>  |   |

## 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 64<sup>th</sup> session of UNCTAD’s Trade and Development Board, in September 2017, was a first-time opportunity for the Board to acknowledge four decades of UNCTAD work on the particular challenges facing SIDS, and to encourage further relevant action. The rationale for UNCTAD action for SIDS is based on the recognition of a unique situation in the global development landscape: for most SIDS, the main development challenge is vulnerability to external factors beyond domestic control; the paramount development goal of these countries therefore is resilience-building, a multi-faceted set of objectives ranging from climate adaptation to economic diversification. SIDS need external financial and/or technical support in their resilience-building efforts, and there is a long-standing plea for “SIDS treatment” as the most desirable avenue for answering this need. Yet international support measures to that end are lacking in the absence of criteria for identifying SIDS. Leaders of some of the most highly vulnerable SIDS have been particularly vocal in their plea for a breakthrough in the treatment of SIDS by the United Nations system.

UNCTAD is in the forefront of global advocacy to address this matter, while supporting the resilience-building work of individual SIDS. Identifying SIDS, raising the visibility of the island vulnerability issue, identifying special measures for these countries and providing a range of advisory services for a number of them have been the four principal areas of UNCTAD action in favour of SIDS, within the ambit of the Nairobi Maafikiano, and in full accordance with the priority goal of the Samoa Pathway as described in its paragraph 22 (member States’ “commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of SIDS”). The SIDS agenda of UNCTAD, over the past decades, has consistently been organized along these lines, toward systemic progress in the UN’s way to help SIDS achieve structural economic and social progress.

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<br>(tech transfer, Capacity development etc.)            | Total Budget (US\$)                                   |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
|   | Samoa Pathway  | SDGs   |  |   |  |   |
| Various sub-Programme of UNCTAD   | . Preamble<br>. Chapters on Oceans; Trade; Capacity-building   | SDGs 8; 10; 17   | All SIDS   | Paramount goal of systemic progress toward internationally accepted SIDS status, a necessary condition for SIDS treatment, without the which resilience-building efforts of SIDS would hardly be sustainable. | . Consensus-building<br>. Research and analysis<br>. Technical cooperation | Regular budget  |
| Development Account-funded project 1415AW “Supporting SIDS in their efforts to build economic resilience” | UNCTAD support member States’ “commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of SIDS” | Mainly SDG 17 (“Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”) | Project 1415AW targets 6 SIDS:<br>. Kiribati<br>. Sao Tome and Principe<br>. Solomon Islands<br>. Timor-Leste<br>. Tuvalu<br>. Vanuatu | Greater ability, in the six recipient countries, to manage the challenge of graduation from LDC status  | Technical assistance (advisory services; sensitization events)             | \$488,000 (implementation over a period of 2.5 years) |

## **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?

UNCTAD does not face insurmountable challenges in its support to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. UNCTAD helps selected SIDS in their resilience-building efforts, a role which has been appreciated by beneficiaries. The United Nations as a whole, on the other hand, has inflicted on itself a systemic challenge which makes it intrinsically difficult for the Organization to pursue coherent and synergetic (including inter-agency) action to support structural economic progress among SIDS. This

systemic challenge is a direct consequence of the absence of a coherent and internationally accepted list of SIDS that could be the basis for establishing SIDS status, the necessary condition for a global response by development partners to the plea of SIDS for special treatment. UNCTAD's resilience-building action, albeit successful, is a pocket of SIDS treatment in comparison with the range of needs, among SIDS, for specialized support internationally (e.g. climate adaptation; population relocation in the context of natural disasters; preferential market access with adapted rules of origin; smooth transition measures for least developed SIDS which are facing the challenge of graduation from LDC status).

UNCTAD has been actively advocating the recognition of SIDS status, and has accordingly taken a number of steps to facilitate acceptance of SIDS status (in particular, a list of genuine SIDS, and proposals for a fair treatment of highly vulnerable SIDS in the triennial review of the list of LDCs). UNCTAD considers paragraph 22 of the Samoa Pathway, notably the members' call for "urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of SIDS" as the crux of the current global mandate on SIDS, the fundamental condition for any action under all other chapters of the Pathway to be effective and to bear fruit.

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

N.A.

3. To what extent has your country been able to access international development assistance required to implement the key aspects of the Samoa Pathway?

4.

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.

All key results of UNCTAD's work for SIDS in 2017 were consistent with the Samoa Pathway, particularly with the call by UN member States for effective resilience-building action. Special beneficiaries were Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. For four of these SIDS, the main outputs were Vulnerability Profiles in anticipation of the 2018 review of the list of LDCs. Other outputs were sector-specific works aimed at supporting transformational progress and building economic resilience, with reference to the fisheries and tourism sectors in particular.

Beyond these specific recipients, the real impact of UNCTAD's work on SIDS in general is difficult to assess. There are nevertheless growing effects, in many SIDS, of UNCTAD's action to support the long-standing plea of SIDS for SIDS treatment. In particular, several SIDS leaders, speaking at global or regional levels on climate adaptation issues, have been calling for SIDS-specific international support measures, and accordingly for clarity on SIDS status (as consistently advocated by UNCTAD).

## **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.

SIDS were one of the subjects on the agenda of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board in September 2017. Relevant issues as described in UNCTAD background note TD/B/64/9 for this purpose were given due consideration and discussed by Board members during that session. The subject will be followed upon in 2019.

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

## **PART E**

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

N.A.

## **PART F**

Please include any other information you may wish to share.

N.A.

Thank you.