

Report of the Secretary-General

“Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”

UNGA73 PROPOSED OUTLINE

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. The following questions must be answered.

Policy, Legal, Institutional and Financial Arrangements for Implementation

- (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?

Response: For much of 2017 the “political impasse” combined with economic challenges (declining revenue from oil and gas and coffee exports) in Timor-Leste meant that relatively little has been paid in the country to following up on the SAMOA Pathway. Following the Parliamentary Election in Timor-Leste on 12 May 2018, the country is now preparing for the new Government to take charge before the end of May and it will be interesting to see how implementation of the SDGs and the Samoa Pathway commitments is prioritised.

NO

- One of the first actions taken by the Government of Timor-Leste in response to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was to establish an SDG Working Group under Government Resolution 34/2015. This Working Group was tasked to identify ways in which the new global goals of the 2030 Agenda could be harmonized with the SDP, and integrated into the Program of the 6th Constitutional Government that assumed office on 16 February 2015. The SDG Working Group is chaired by the Prime Minister’s Office, with strong representation from the Ministries and units responsible for planning, budgeting, monitoring and implementation of the SDP.

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- The SDGs Working Group assessed the alignment of Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2011- 2030 (SDP) with the Sustainable Development goals and targets. The Group identified strong consistency and convergences. It was evident that Sustainable Development Goals 1 through 15 are well aligned with the goals of the SDP. Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions and Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals are consistent with the SDP implementation approach (further details are described in the 'on enablers' section of the SDGs roadmap document). At the SDG target level, 58 SDG targets are aligned with SDP sub-goals to varying levels of proximity.
- The group has organised several informative sessions and discussions with representatives of the Government, agencies to see how this collaboration can be established. First meeting was held with the Director-General of the line ministries and agencies in all of the Government. The second meeting focused on the focal points of UPMA (Planning and Monitoring unit) from each line ministries and agencies.). The purpose of having these sessions are to increase the line Ministry understanding on SDG goals and indicators; Line ministries provide commitment to collaborate with GDS to facilitate access to administrative data to monitor progress in achieving SDG); and Establish a Standard Operating Procedure on access to administrative data.

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Support to SIDS

- 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?

Response: A major challenge in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is the lack of a clear commitment on the part of the National Government. The Samoa Pathway was rarely referred to by Timor-Leste Ministers, Senior Government Officials or key development partners in the country. There is little public understanding of the Samoa Pathway.

More needs to be done to assess and strengthen the level of commitment from the national Government to the commitments outlined in the Samoa Pathway document. Without stronger Government (national and local) ownership and leadership of the Samoa Pathway, it will be difficult for the UN or other partners to assist Timor-Leste to make progress against the commitments summarised in the Samoa Pathway document and implementation of the SDGs.

- 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.

Response: In 2017 there has been progress in Timor-Leste on: improving basic health care (SDG 3). The aim of the government of Timor-Leste is to ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of health services for all Timorese people. It relies on two approaches: a comprehensive package of services through community health centres, health posts, mobile clinics, and SISCa posts as well as hospital service packages through national and referral hospitals

in the country. All these services are free for everyone. The government is committed to reducing the high levels of infant, children under 5, maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in the country by offering comprehensive and basic emergency management of relevant cares. According to Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey (DHS) 2016, **Infant mortality** has declined over the past 13 years, from 60 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 30 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016. Under-5 mortality has also declined from 83 deaths per 1,000 live births to 41 deaths per 1,000 live births over the same, around 84% of women age 15-49 receive antenatal care (ANC) from a skilled provider, nearly half (49%) of children age 12-23 months have received all basic vaccinations. Breastfeeding in Timor-Leste is very common, with 96% of children ever breastfed.

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Improving the provision of water and sanitation (SDG 6). The next focus is on further improving access to clean water, sanitation, and solid waste management, especially in remote, rural areas. Infrastructure is improving, but additional investments, particularly in rural areas, are needed to support inclusive growth. Nearly 8 in 10 (79%) households have access to an improved water source. Urban households are more likely to have access to an improved water source (92%) than rural households (74%). Half (50%) of households use improved sanitation. Three in four (75%) urban households use improved sanitation, compared to 42% of rural households. Fifty percent of households use unimproved sanitation—9% use a shared facility, 14% use an unimproved facility, and 27% have no facility (DHS 2016);

Improving infrastructure and services (SDG 1). Real progress has been made in restoring and upgrading a core network of national, district, and rural roads. Public investment has transformed the electricity sector at an impressive rate since independence. Since 2008, the Government of Timor-Leste, through its electric utility, *Electricidade de Timor-Leste (EDTL)*, has invested nearly \$1 billion. This investment meant that old, inefficient diesel generation could be replaced, and that a single transmission and distribution system could be created from a collection of isolated systems. Because of this investment, network-supplied electricity coverage increased from 21 percent of households in 2003 to 73 percent in 2016. The installed generating capacity more than tripled, giving EDTL enough capacity to connect all households and easily meet peak demand until at least 2027 under the highest load-growth. In the meantime, deregulation has delivered transformative gains in telecommunications, providing 3G mobile internet services.

Improving Agriculture and Tourism (SDGs 2 and 8); and work youhh and women's empowerment as well as on 'Leaving no-one behind. With the vision of building a stronger, upper middle-income nation by 2030, high on the agenda in Timor-Leste is strengthening the non-oil economy through: economic diversification (agriculture and tourism); creating more and better job opportunities for youth; developing strategic industries; and prioritizing rural development. Currently ranked 175th on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Ranking, Timor-Leste is putting a special focus on private sector development. This involves enhancing the small and medium enterprises sector, while also removing some of the binding constraints to private sector growth; and improving infrastructure, increasing efficiency in the public sector, also building up skilled labor.

Timor-Leste's leadership has recognized the importance of empowering women and achieving gender equality. It has committed itself to gender-sensitive budgeting and to establishing a gender monitoring system under the Office of the Prime Minister. Furthermore, the government has prioritized women's political participation since independence. This resulted in women holding 38

percent of parliamentary seats, the highest percentage in Asia. It is important, that these changes also reach the municipal and suco council levels.

In the area of 'Women, Peace and Security', Timor-Leste has developed a National Action Plan for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and encouraged women's participation in the security forces. Now, 16 percent of the police force and 9 percent of the military service are made up of women.

Domestic violence remains high in Timor-Leste, a characteristic that many post-conflict societies share. The Government of Timor-Leste has recognized this challenge and is actively working to address it. New legislation has made domestic violence a public crime, no longer requiring the victim to go to the police her or himself, but rather obliging anyone witnessing domestic violence to report it to the police. Since then the number of reported incidences have increased. The Government has provided specialized training to the police on how to respond to reports of domestic violence and safe houses are being provided across the country in cooperation with NGOs.

Partnerships that supports the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

- Do you have any new and existing partnerships and can provide any inputs on progress made **during the year 2017?** (please see annex for list of UNDP partnerships)

Response: In 2017 the new partnerships

In 2017 Timor-Leste participated in and benefitted from the Global Partnership for Oceans, Ocean Watch, Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism.

With the new Government soon to be in place, it will be interesting to see what kinds of new partnerships and developed in 2018-19. From a UN perspective, in 2018 we are exploring how Timor-Leste can benefit from the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme, Parliamentarians Advancing Anti-Corruption through UNCAC and through South-South Cooperation.

Annex – UNDP SIDS partnerships

LAC focused partnerships and global SIDS partnerships

1. Advancing Child Rights with Equity among OECS Member and Associate Member States
2. Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of SIDS
3. IWECO - Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
4. Lighthouses Initiative
5. Caribbean Energy Efficiency Lighting Project
6. Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership
7. The Caribbean Risk Management Initiative

AIMS focused partnerships and global SIDS partnerships

1. Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS - Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management

A-P focused partnerships and global SIDS partnerships

1. A corporate programme of the GEF implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
2. Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP)
3. Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS (RESPAC)
4. Engaging Parliamentarians as Advocates with civil society to progress SRHR and ICPD in the Pacific SIDS
5. Forum Compact - A Pacific Regional Enabling Mechanism to Achieve Sustainable Development
6. Micro Capital Grant TC Evan
7. Pacific Adaptation for Climate Change (PACC) Project
8. Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Network
9. Pacific Partnership for Action on Safe Water and Sanitation
10. Pacific Risk Resilience Programme: a partnership approach to risk governance in the Pacific
11. Samoa Parliamentary Strengthening Programme
12. United Nations Pacific Interagency Task Force on Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control (UN PIATF)
13. Women's Economic Empowerment Driving Sustainable Development in SIDS
14. Organic Islands: Growing Our Future
15. Pacific Biosphere Reserves Network: A tool for Exchange and Cooperation
16. Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIF)
17. Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management
18. Pacific Mangroves Initiative
19. Pacific Youth Development Framework Partnership (PYDF Partnership)
20. PacSIDS Ridge to Reef Programme Partnership

Global SIDS Partnerships:

1. Building Capacities for Increased Public Investment in Integrated Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction
2. Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS - Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management
3. Ecosystems-based Adaptation (EBA) Programme
4. Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) for the SIDS: GFCS-SIDS
5. Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
6. Global Partnership for Oceans
7. Global Wastewater Initiative (GW2I)
8. HIV/AIDS prevention – Joint United Nations Team on AIDS (JUNTA)

9. ICTs for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for SIDS
10. Parliamentarians Advancing Anti-Corruption through UNCAC
11. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
12. Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism
13. Ocean Watch: Assessment and Promotion of Progress in the Implementation of the 1992, 2002, and 2012 Global Commitments On Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
14. Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (under GPA)