

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?

Focal Point:

- a. Countries with Special Needs Unit (CSN), Macro-economic Policy and Financing for Development Division
- b. ESCAP Sub-regional Office for the Pacific

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?

ESCAP/RES/71/4 'Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway'¹

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	22
Climate Change	18

¹ <http://www.unescap.org/commission/71/documents>

Sustainable Energy	9
Disaster Risk Reduction	7
Oceans and seas, water and sanitation, biodiversity	10
Waste management	0
Health	0
Gender equality	12
Social development	8
Means of implementation (including partnerships and institutional support - Statistics)	14
Etc.	
Total	100

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?
 - a. **Asia-Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development:** Ongoing support for the achievement of the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific through resourcing from RB and XB sources. [<http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/SDGs-Regional-Roadmap.pdf>]
 - b. **Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development:** Developed by a Pacific SDG Taskforce (ESCAP and PIFS as Co-Vicechairs) for implementation up to 2030, but monitored by Pacific leaders for updating as required. Presents a clear direction for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the context of the SAMOA Pathway and Framework for Pacific Regionalism. It outlines five key elements to promote national and regional ownership, and tailor the global aspirations for sustainable development to the Pacific context, namely: Leadership and coordination; Advocacy and communications; Regional monitoring and indicators; Integrated reporting; and Supporting the means of implementation.
 - c. **ESCAP/RES/71/4** ‘Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway’
 - d. **ESCAP Pacific Strategy:** Guides organisational-wide work in support of Pacific SIDS from XB and RB resources. Revised annually.

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).

Note: Budget provided in the table below is total budget for each project/programme/activity, unless otherwise noted.

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				
Strengthened capacity of small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region with regard to the valuation of environmental capital and the economic cost of gender inequality	No poverty Gender equality Reduced inequalities Peace, justice and strong institutions Biodiversity Partnerships Data and statistics	SDGs 1, 5, 10, 16, 17	Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea <i>Regional forums:</i> Palau, Timor Leste, Maldives, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia	To develop the capacity of governments of-Pacific SIDS to integrate economic valuation of the environment (SEEA) and gender inequality into sustainable development planning and implementation.	Capacity development	638,000
Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region	No poverty Gender equality Decent work and economic growth Climate action	SDGs 1,5, 8 and 13	Kiribati, Tuvalu, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji	To protect and empower communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific focusing on climate change-related displacement, migration and planned relocation.	Capacity development	400,000
Pacific Enable	Disability Good health and wellbeing Decent work and economic	SDGs 1, 8, 10	Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and	Countries in the Pacific have increased national capacity to align their legislative frameworks with the CRPD and report	Legal and institutional frameworks	90,000

	groth		Vanuatu	on CRPD implementation		
Ocean Cities: Supporting Pacific island developing States to adapt sustainable urban development to island systems	Climate Change, DRR, Oceans and Seas	SDGs 11, 13, 14	Pacific	To strengthen the capacity of SIDS member States to develop and apply an integrated policy approach for oceans-friendly and climate-responsive urban development adapted to island systems.	Capacity development	65,000
UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2017 – Pacific Islands developing Economies Report ²	Means of implementation, including partnerships (trade)	SDG 17	Pacific	Supported evidence-based policy making	Analytical report	N.A.
Training course on the design of systems of income security for older persons in the Pacific (jointly with with ILO-ITC and ILO Asia and the Pacific)	Disaster risk reduction, Poverty reduction, Women’s empowerment	SDGs 1, 5	Policymakers and pension practitioners from Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and PIFS	Increased knowledge on the need to build inclusive and sustainable systems of income security for older persons to build resilience to disasters and reduce poverty of older persons, particularly older women. Provided tools for the design of systems of income security.	Capacity development	
Evidence-based policies for the sustainable use of energy resources in the Asia-Pacific region	Sustainable Energy	SDG 7	Asia-Pacific, including Fiji and Tonga	Increased capacity of policymakers in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region to develop and implement evidence-based policies for the sustainable use of energy resources.	Capacity development	666,000
Accelerating implementation of SDG 14	Oceans and Seas, Biodiversity	SDG 14	Asia-Pacific	To strengthen the capacity of SIDS member States to achieve implementation of SDG 14 by developing a methodology to help prioritize needs, identify entry points for action, and support follow-up and review processes.	Capacity development	54,400
Rapid Response	All	All	Timor Leste,	Support to the preparation	Capacity	50,000

² <https://unnex.unescap.org/content/un-global-survey-trade-facilitation-and-paperless-trade-implementation-2017> ; in collaboration with the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO).

Facility			Samoa, and Kiribati	of the VNR. Training on stakeholder engagement. Training on LDC graduation and WTO accession	development	(for SIDS component)
Technical workshop on strengthening development cooperation between CSN and development partners in East and North-East Asia in 2017	Means of implementation, including partnerships	SDG 17	Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and 5 other countries in Asia	Improved capacity of CSN to design and implement development cooperation policies; and enhanced understanding of CSN needs among development partners	Technical workshop	50,000
Technical workshops on implementation of the global programme of action in 2017: (i) Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs and (ii) Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs	Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	SDGs 1, 17	Timor-Leste, and 3 other countries in Asia	Enhanced understanding among policymakers of policies that promote economic growth, reduce poverty and narrow development gaps in the region	Technical workshop	40,000
Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2017	Climate change, sustainable energy, water and sanitation, sustainable transportation, and means of implementation, particularly on finance	SDGs 6, 7, 9	LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS	Improved capacity of CSN, to design and implement development policies for infrastructure development and financing for infrastructure	Producing knowledge products and conducting capacity building activities based on them	5,000
Financing strategies for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	Means of implementation, particularly on finance	SDG 17	35 ESCAP member States, including Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu	Improved understanding among policy makers and major stakeholders of financing needs for achieving sustainable infrastructure development and increased knowledge and awareness of financing sources and modalities in areas of infrastructure finance	Producing knowledge products and conducting capacity building activities based on them	499,000
Innovative climate finance mechanisms for financial	Climate change, sustained and sustainable, inclusive and	SDGs 6, 7, 8, 9, 13	Fiji, and 4 other countries in Asia	Strengthened capacity of public financial institutions in selected countries to develop	Capacity Development	670,000

institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region	equitable economic growth with, sustainable energy, sustainable transportation, water and sanitation, means of implementation, including partnerships			policies and guidelines that promote private-sector investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects		
Global programme on data and statistics	Means of implementation (data and statistics)	SDGs 16, 17	Asia-Pacific, including Fiji Kiribati, Maldives Samoa Tonga Vanuatu	Enhanced capacity of developing countries to strengthen statistical institutional environments to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals. Strengthened capacity of developing countries to improve statistical production processes to address increased data needs across multiple statistical domains; Enhanced leveraging, partnerships and collaboration by United Nations system and other partners to help countries strengthen their national statistical systems for measuring the sustainable development goals.	Capacity development	1,301,373 (August 2016-December 2019)
Joint ESCAP/ECLA C programme on national accounting (SNA)/ environmental-economic accounting (SEEA)	Means of implementation (data and statistics)	SDG 17	Asia-Pacific including Maldives, Vanuatu, Fiji	Asia-Pacific component of the project focus on strengthening SEEA implementation	Capacity building, advocacy	\$172,883
Advisory mission to support in area of trade as a means of	Means of implementation, including partnerships (trade)	SDG 17	Timor Leste	Broadened and deepened capacity of member States to advance trade, investment, enterprise development, science,	Policy advisory, Capacity building, Stakeholder	3,000

implementation to SDGs including through Timor-Leste's accession to WTO and organising a Workshop and Consultation on "Trade-related issues on SDGs and LDC Graduation", Dili, 5-9 Nov 2017				technology and innovation that support sustainable development and include gender perspectives	consultations	
Assisting Republic of Marshall Islands in drafting their first National Export Strategy	Means of implementation, including partnerships (trade)	SDG 17	Republic of Marshall Islands	Enhanced national evidence-based policies and capacity building on trade, investment, enterprise development, for sustainable development	Policy advisory, Capacity building, Stakeholder consultations	\$10,000 (estimate)
Capacity Building on Selected Aspects of Impact Assessment of Preferential Trade Liberalization in Goods, Feb 2017, Maldives	Means of implementation, including partnerships (trade)	SDG 17	Maldives	Built capacity on trade negotiations of RTAs	• Capacity building	3,000 (estimated)
National Consultation Workshop on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation, Suva, 23 June 2017, co-organized with Fiji Customs	Means of implementation, including partnerships (trade)	SDG 17	Fiji	Raised awareness of stakeholders on role of paperless trade for trade efficiency and sustainable development.	Policy advisory, Capacity building, Stakeholder consultations	4,000 (estimate, combined mission)
Workshop on Implementing Single Window in Papua New Guinea and Role of UN Treaty on Cross-border Paperless Trade [in partnership with the EU]	Means of implementation, including partnerships (trade)	SDG 17	Papua New Guinea	Raised awareness of stakeholders on role of paperless trade for trade efficiency and sustainable development.	Policy advisory, Capacity building, Stakeholder consultations	2,000 (estimate; partly covered by EU)

July 2017 Papua New Guinea						
SIAP Training on SDG Monitoring	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 9 participants from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	
SIAP Training on Modernisation of Statistical System	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 25 participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Samoa, Timor-Leste , Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	
SIAP Training on Economic Statistics for SDG	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 8 participants from Fiji, Maldives, Samoa, Timor-Leste	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	
SIAP Training on Agricultural Statistics	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 9 participants Fiji, Maldives, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	
SIAP Training on Environment Statistics, Climate Change – related statistics	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 4 participants from Fiji, Samoa, Timor-Leste	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	
SIAP Training on Management of Statistical System	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 10 participants from Cook- Islands, Maldives, Samoa, Solomon Islands,	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	

			Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu			
SIAP e-Learning on Economic Statistics for SDG	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 11 participants from Cook Islands, Maldives, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	
SIAP e-learning on Environment Statistics	Capacity Building for Improvement of Data and Statistics		Asia-Pacific including 10 participants from Comoros Islands, Guinea, Mauritius, Niue, Samoa, Timor-Leste	Trained personal to improve statistical system in their country	Capacity Development	

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?

Challenges to implementation of the SAMOA Pathway are mostly operational, reflecting the structural barriers that SIDS themselves face. Transport costs are high and levels of ICT infrastructure development in most SIDS do not allow virtual meetings as a substitute. It is often difficult for officials from Pacific SIDS to obtain visas for travel to meetings and conferences, and travel connections can result in travel of 2-3 days each way to attend a meeting. This is a particular problem for leaders and ministers who face many competing demands.

ESCAP has also faced some implementation challenges with the SAMOA pathway given the lack of M&E framework and clear articulation of the linkages between the 2030 Agenda and Pacific public policy processes such as the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, which feeds into the Asia-Pacific Roadmap, has helped but some ambiguities remain given the overlapping nature of these sustainable development frameworks and different regional and sub-regional entities involved in implementation. A mapping of the SAMOA Pathway actions (SIDS global sustainable development actions), 2030 Agenda (SDGs), Framework for Pacific Regionalism (Pacific public policy priorities) and numerous regional sectoral frameworks and strategies was undertaken by ESCAP to help make sense of these various processes and to identify the convergence points as well as gaps.

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.

Key results and impact at regional level:

- Adoption of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development at the 2017 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting. Linked to the Asia-Pacific Roadmap, the PRSD presents a clear direction for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the context of the SAMOA Pathway and Framework for Pacific Regionalism.
- Strengthening of sustainable development priorities in national planning processes through targeted fiscal policies and alignment with budgetary processes and resources with the IMF Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre to facilitate ongoing PFM work to link national and local plans with budgets; improve accountability for performance by establishing departments and/or ministries; and inform monitoring of performance and resource allocations.
- The Pacific successfully advocated for the inclusion in the outcomes of the Conference precautionary language on the use of the oceans and language on the special and differential treatment in fisheries as a major resource priority for the sub-region. ESCAP assisted Fiji and other Pacific island countries in their preparations for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in 2017, including by reporting on Goal 14 to the high-level political forum on sustainable development through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.
- Implementation of the Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) through legislative reforms is pioneering efforts to develop a sub-regional model legislation that promotes the equal rights of persons with disabilities, and continues to take a leading role on disability rights generally. ESCAP works in close partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Disability Forum to help member States to fulfil their commitments under various global, regional and sub-regional frameworks, including the Samoa Pathway, the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2016–2025.
- Successful production of environment-relevant indicators through the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. It has been implemented in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu with a focus on energy, land, waste and water. A knowledge product

to facilitate further work was published with information on the achievements and lessons learned through implementation thus far.

- Stronger regional understanding in the role cities in SIDS play in promoting sustainable and resilient urban development, learning from best practice approaches to implementation.
- Identification of pertinent green finance instruments for use by small island developing states and other countries in the wider region and relevant policy actions required to enhance their readiness to use and roll-out these instruments.
- Improved understanding among SIDS policymakers of financing needs for achieving sustainable development and increased knowledge about resource mobilization, particularly for infrastructure development. The activities organized under these projects managed to attract key policymakers and experts from relevant Government ministries and offices and facilitated discussions on how to further strengthen collaboration with development cooperation between countries with special needs, including SIDS, and their development partners.
- Common sub-regional position on the priority ICT challenges through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS). ESCAP Pacific member States (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu) identified four priority areas to be addressed by the AP-IS sub-regional plan on promoting broadband connectivity in the Pacific sub-region. The four priority areas included: 1). cybersecurity and associated policies, 2) capacity building on ICT challenges, 3) connectivity and access to isolated/rural communities and 4) infrastructure sharing policy.
- Strengthen early warning systems the Pacific through geospatial data platforms (geo portals) in Fiji (<http://www.fijiportal.gov.fj>), Micronesia (<http://www.geoportal.oeem.gov.fm>), Solomon Islands (accessible only through Solomon Islands' Government Network) and Tonga (<http://202.134.25.30>) and digital formatting for exchanging emergency alerts in internationally standardized format.

Key results and impact at national level:

- Kiribati: Preparation of the VNR report to be presented at the 2018 HLPF in New York. The SDG Task Force was trained and supported for the formulation and drafting of the VNR. Support was provided to the National Statistics Office and the Ministry of Finance tasked with the preparation of the report.
- Papua New Guinea (PNG): Strengthened forecasting tailored to the needs of national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS) and national agencies of climate-sensitive sectors.
- Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI): Development of the first National Export Strategy (NES) which fulfils the objectives of the Samoa Pathway as it draws the road map and suggests policies which will assist RMI in integrating regionally and between the regions and in world markets
- Timor Leste: Clear identification of gaps that exist in fulfilling the goals of Samoa Pathway as well as SDGs and identified very specific capacity building needs of Timor Leste.
- Palau and RMI: Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and account for common Goals and national priorities in planning and resource allocation processes.

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.
	National workshop on Infrastructure Financing Strategies in Samoa, 1-2 Feb 2017 in Apia, Samoa.	Jointly organized with the Government of Samoa to increase capacity of policy makers and major stakeholders in Samoa to prepare national financing strategies that mobilize domestic and international resources in support of infrastructure development to accelerate sustainable infrastructure development.		The workshop was attended by 54 participants, including high-level officials from different ministries and state-owned enterprises as well as financial experts from the central bank, the Unit Trust of Samoa and multilateral organizations.	Chair summary: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Chair%20Summary%20Samoa%20Workshop%20Finalized.pdf The participants emphasized that infrastructure is a key priority for Samoa's development. They also emphasized that the implementation and maintenance of existing projects and infrastructure should be improved together with coordination within government and with the private sector and communities.
	Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on 'Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work' February 2017, Bangkok	The Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on 'Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work' discussed the gender-differential impact of regional trends on women's ability to participate and lead in the workplace on par with men. Action-oriented recommendations were developed		The meeting was attended by the Director General, Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women, Timor-Leste as well as the Acting Director Women, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji	The importance of women's economic empowerment has been highlighted in the Samoa Pathway as well as in the recommendations of this Dialogue. Key recommendations included the implementation of economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment with a number of recommended priority actions within this context. Other key

		during the Policy Dialogue to turn the tide on gender inequality and ensure equal access to decent work for all.			recommendations also reflected SIDS priorities including, inter alia, strengthening the normative and legal frameworks for full employment and decent work for all women, and taking action to address climate change and respect, protect and promote women and girls' human rights.
	Intensive training at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) February-March 2017	Focus on geo-portals, geo-database, and geospatial data for Disaster Risk Reduction	12	8 Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)	Established the prototype geoportals in pilot countries.
	Sub-regional preparatory meeting to the APFSD	Preparation for the APFSD	80	SIDS countries participated in the sub-regional preparatory meetings contributing to the agenda of the meeting by sharing lessons learnt, best practices and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the theme of resilience	N/A
	Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) March 2017, Bangkok	Preparation for the HLPF. Sharing of best practices on SDGs implementation. Discussions on the theme of resilience	700	SIDS countries participated in the main sessions of the Forum sharing their experiences on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Maldives in 2017, as VNR country, was also part of a back-to-back workshop on the VNR preparation and had the chance to present their report to the other SIDS participating in the APFSD	APFSD report including a reference to the finalisation of the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. The Roadmap mentions that "Cooperation will be undertaken in coordination with regional and subregional organizations to ensure that activities contribute to subregional priorities, including
	Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and the Pacific Island Countries,	Discussion on status of regional implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020 in the	Event during the 73 rd Commission Session	During the 2017 event, statements were made by representatives of Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji , Lao PDR and Republic of Korea. A statement was also made by the representative of the OHRLLS.	Proceedings: http://www.unescap.org/commission/73/document/Account_of_Proceedings_E73_41E.pdf The Commission noted the high vulnerability

	<p>May 2017, Bangkok</p>	<p>Asia-Pacific Region, the status of regional implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 and the regional implementation of the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS.</p>			<p>of the Pacific subregion to natural disasters and climate change and highlighted the importance of maintaining the health of the Pacific Ocean, including by addressing ocean acidification and combating illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. (para 11)</p> <p>The Commission emphasized the need for SIDS to pursue integrated approaches that enhanced disaster preparedness and resilience to future shocks. (para 11)</p>
	<p>High-level exchange on infrastructure and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS</p> <p>May 2017, Bangkok</p>	<p>Discussion the progress and challenges related to sustainable development, with a special focus on the topic of development and maintenance of physical infrastructure as crucial catalysts of development.</p>	<p>Event during the 73rd Commission Session</p>	<p>The panel was moderated by Mr. Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr. (Palau). The panel members included Mr. Joe Natuman (Vanuatu).</p>	<p>Proceedings: http://www.unescap.org/commission/73/document/Account_of_Proceedings_E73_41E.pdf</p> <p>The panel informed the Commission that infrastructure development in SIDS faced a number of challenges, ranging from the logistical and cost implications of working in a remote and dispersed archipelago, to high vulnerability to disasters and climate change, to constraints associated with a limited and unpredictable funding base. (para 20)</p> <p>The panel called for the need to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation and suggested that development partners and the international community should</p>

					realign their cooperation strategies more closely with the national priorities, policies, structures, principles and processes established by the SIDS Governments. (para 20)
	Side event on Investing in infrastructure for an inclusive and sustainable future of the Asia-Pacific LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, May 2017, New York	The event was organized as panel discussion, featuring high-level government officials and experienced policymakers from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as experts from partner organizations and the private sector. The participants discussed the key findings and policy issues of the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2017</i> .	Side event during the 2017 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum.		Event page: www.unescap.org/events/ffd-ny-csn2017
	Symposium on Progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 7) and Interlinkages with other SDGs, June 2017	In support of the 2018 HLPF	Adhoc, in support of the 2018 HLPF	2 representatives from the Pacific	noted the need to align global inputs to the review of implementation of SDG7 to the 2018 HLPF with the Samoa Pathways
	Expert group meeting on development of knowledge hubs on early warning systems in the Pacific June 2017, Nadi	Develop the draft knowledge hubs for early warning systems in the Pacific region	21	SIDS experts attended expert group meeting	The first draft strategy for development of knowledge hub on early warning system
	Intensive training at BMKG	Focus on multi-hazard early warning systems	12	6 Pacific countries (Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)	Weather and ocean related monitoring and disaster warning

	(Indonesian Agency for Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysics) July-August 2017, Jakarta				algorithms and programme tailored for SID needs.
	Asia-Pacific Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics September 2017, Incheon	Development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics and build capacities for their use in evidence-based DRR policy making	35 (Physical meetings are held on an ad hoc basis)	Participants in meetings and capacity-building activities by Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, and SPC. Fiji was one of the disaster statistics framework pilot countries.	Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF) is a manual for statisticians in national agencies, particularly in countries with relatively high risk of disasters, such as SIDS. (http://communities.unescap.org/asia-pacific-expert-group-disaster-related-statistics/content/drsf)
	Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum September 2017, Yogyakarta	Enhanced capacity of participants to implement trade facilitation for sustainable development		All ESCAP members [<i>Participants from SIDS:</i> <i>Maldives, 2; PNG, 1; Samoa, 1; Solomon Islands, 1; Timor-Leste, 3; Vanuatu, 1</i>]	
	Sustainable Agro Food Business Forum September 2017, Bangkok	Broadened and deepened capacity of member States to advance trade, investment, enterprise development, science, technology and innovation that support sustainable development and include gender perspectives		[<i>Vanuatu: 1 participant</i>]	
	Regional workshop on Strengthening development of the Least Developed Countries in Asia and the Pacific to support implementation of the 2030	Co-organized with the Government of Cambodia, the workshop reviewed progress of LDCs in the region in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, shared knowledge among		The workshop was attended by a total 75 participants, including 12 government officials from 6 SIDS in the region (Kiribati, Maldives, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). One SIDS official moderated a session and five SIDS officials contributed as discussants.	Outcome documents: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Summary%20of%20Workshop_Cambodia_final_0.pdf ; SIDS-specific challenges were highlighted in the outcome documents. For example, para 11 argues that ODA and preferential tariff

	<p>Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p>October 2017, Phnom Penh</p>	<p>policymakers and researchers on ways to effectively leverage development cooperation partnerships, and discussed ways to enhance regional economic cooperation and integration of LDCs, with a focus on CLM (Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR) integration with other ASEAN countries.</p>			<p>treatment will remain important for the Pacific LDCs, even after their graduation from the LDC category. Similarly, para 45 (c) takes note of the critical role of development cooperation in mobilizing necessary resources for the Pacific LDCs.</p>
	<p>2nd National Seasonal Forum in Papua New Guinea convened by National Weather Service</p> <p>October 2017, Port Moresby</p>	<p>Participating institutions analyzed potential impacts and identified impact management strategies in response to the seasonal outlook for 2017-2018 of early wet season onset and region-wise rainfall outlooks.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>The Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management, Department of Health, PNG Power, Department of Agriculture and Livestock, and PNG Red Cross presented their impact outlooks and management strategies/ measures.</p>	
	<p>Regional workshop on Formulating national policies and strategies in preparation for graduation from the LDC category</p> <p>November 2017, Thimbu</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Government of Bhutan, the workshop aimed to enable participants from Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vanuatu to identify specific policy measures and strategies to prepare for a smooth transition away from LDC status and to suggest approaches to harness post-graduation</p>		<p>The workshop was attended by 55 participants, including three government officials from 2 SIDS (Timor-Leste and Vanuatu) and one resource person from Maldives.</p>	<p>Event page: www.unescap.org/events/csn-ldc-workshop-in-bhutan</p> <p>The outcome document acknowledged that LDC graduation may come at high cost for small island LDCs due to the loss of access to international support measures. It was also noted that the benefits of graduation are not well understood for some small island LDCs.</p>

		conditionality to achieve the SDGs.			
	Third review and appraisal of the ‘Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing’	To assess progress in the Plan of Action and identify gaps.	5	SIDS participants contributed actively in negotiating the outcome document.	The outcome document reaffirmed the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
	Regional preparatory meeting for the ‘Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration’ November 2017, Bangkok	To provide a regional input to the global negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.	9	SIDS participants were engaged as member State representatives delivering statements, as well as serving on a roundtable discussing drivers of migration.	The chair’s summary highlighted issues related to climate change and migration from the perspective of SIDS, as follows: “Several representatives from small-island developing states noted that while migration should be recognized as a climate change adaptation strategy, building climate change resilience should be prioritized to ensure that affected populations were not compelled or forced to move away from their islands. As such, from the perspective of small island developing States, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration must also include references to the right to development; to the nexus between

					development, climate migration and building climate resilience to mitigate forced migration; and to gender equality and equity, noting that women and girls were at high risk of rights abuses during migration”
	Strategic Dialogue on Building Inclusive Social Protection Systems November 2017, Bangkok	Discuss and share country experiences from the region on how to build effective and inclusive social protection systems in order to extend coverage to all	30	The Strategic Dialogue brought together policymakers, practitioners and thought-leaders from Asia-Pacific. A representative from the Social Protection and Disability Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tonga shared Pacific experiences in social protection.	No specific outcome document agreed. However, the discussions and some country experiences are reflected in e-learning tools that are under development in ESCAP.
	Regional Meeting of Pacific SDG Coordinators and Agencies on Implementation of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development November 2017, Apia	Present preliminary findings from ESCAP/Social Development Division research on Inequality of Opportunity in Asia and the Pacific, and seek additional databases from demographic and health surveys (DHS) to better represent the Pacific Islands.	30	In the group discussions, inequality was identified as a critical issue among Pacific island representatives and a priority for future work. In separate discussions with representatives from National Statistical Offices, ESCAP was informed that efforts would be made to provide latest national DHS datasets for the ESCAP research (Samoa, Vanuatu).	Due to the difficulty in obtaining data from National Statistical Offices, Pacific Island countries were underrepresented in the ESCAP report and analysis (Commission 74 th Theme Study) on Inequality (only Vanuatu appeared, with 2007 data).
	High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 November 2017, Beijing	To undertake a midpoint review of the progress made, including gaps and challenges, in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in	350	A total of 17 participants from the governments of SIDS attended this meeting: Fiji (7), Kiribati (4), Nauru (1), New Caledonia (1), and Samoa (4). The Vice-President of Kiribati attended the event. Fiji nominated Samoa and Kiribati as members of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022. The Minister from Fiji chaired a panel discussion in the Senior Officials’ Segment; while	The meeting adopted by consensus the report including the outcome document, Beijing Declaration and Action Plan. This contains specific policy actions to be taken by member states to expedite the implementation of the Incheon Strategy and to foster its synergy with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SIDS country delegation as

		Asia and the Pacific; and to discuss the future policy direction for building disability-inclusive societies in Asia and the Pacific, bearing in mind the synergies between the Incheon Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.		officials from Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati were panellists at the Ministerial segment. The Pacific Disability Forum represented the civil society sector of SIDS.	well as representatives from the Pacific Disability Forum actively participated in the negotiation of the outcome document
	Committee on Statistics	The Committee on Statistics provides the strategic directions for statistics development of countries in the Asia-Pacific region including the SIDS.	153 (The Committee meets every 2 years)	SIDS are members of the Committee as well as of most Steering and Expert Groups established by the Committee: Economic Statistics, Civil Registration and Vital statistics, Population and Social Statistics, Disaster-related Statistics	The sixth session of the Committee on Statistics adopted a collective vision and framework for collective action in the Asia Pacific region to advance official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E.ESCAP_CST%285%29.1.Rev_.1_Collective_Vision.English.pdf The collective vision and framework for action document is the guiding principle for strengthening statistical capacity in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia-Pacific region including SIDS.
	7th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network November 2017, Bangkok	Broadened and deepened capacity of member States to advance trade, investment, enterprise development, science, technology and innovation that support sustainable development and		<i>[Solomon Islands: 1 participant]</i>	

		include gender perspectives			
	First session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee November 2017, Dhaka	(1). To discuss the operationalization of the governance structures of the AP-IS Master Plan; (2). To discuss regional and subregional implementation plans of the AP-IS initiative and to identify challenges and opportunities in implementing the initiative; (3). To develop partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations for the implementation of the AP-IS Master Plan; and (4). To provide an update on state of ICT at regional and subregional levels to ESCAP member States in support of the deliberations.	90 This meeting will be held on an annual basis. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2018, Bangkok.	Six ESCAP Pacific member States submitted to the meeting national ICT priorities and challenges for promoting broadband connectivity in the subregion (http://www.unescap.org/events/first-session-asia-pacific-information-superhighway-ap-steering-committee) As a result, Pacific ESCAP Pacific member States discussed and agreed on four key priorities to be addressed by the AP-IS subregional implementation plan for the Pacific	Pacific priorities and challenges were reflected in Item 6, paragraphs 62-68 of the report of the meeting: (http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/AP-IS%20SC%20Meeting%20Report%20Final.pdf) Also, Pacific member States country submissions on identifying ICT challenges at the national level was consolidated by the secretariat and made available online via the meeting's website.
	Regional Partners Forum on New Urban Agenda November 2017, Bangkok	Stocktaking of NUA in Asia Pacific	70	Maldives, Kiribati	SIDS priorities related to capacity development, financing and data gaps highlighted
	Asia-Pacific Climate Week December 2017, Bangkok	Convened climate finance champions network meeting to deliver regional capacity-building workshop to national champions to strengthen and consolidate the network of change makers.	29	The Fiji Reserve Bank and the Fiji Development Bank have been active in participating in conferences and sharing their experiences on green bonds.	Regional Climate Action Agenda for Asia and the Pacific (informal document) reflects needs of small island developing states to access finance and offers a way forward to support them.
	Regional Preparatory Meeting for the	Preparation for APEF	(APEF held every	Five participants from Pacific islands countries. Prior to the RPM, an expert	Ministerial Declaration on regional cooperation for energy transition towards

	Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) December 2017, Thailand		five years)	working group meeting on universal access to modern energy services, renewable energy, energy efficiency and cleaner use of fossil fuels. From the Pacific, five experts attended the expert working group meeting, which prepared recommendations to the RPM and subsequently to the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.	sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific
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PART E

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

- In support of the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway for Pacific island countries in 2017, ESCAP has strengthened existing and new partnerships including the Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC); Pacific Community (SPC); Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Centre (PIIRC), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).
- ESCAP strengthened the partnerships with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), UNGGIM, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide qualified opportunities to the Pacific countries including intensive capacity building programmes and expert group meetings.
- ESCAP strengthened the partnership with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as well as with stakeholders in Papua New Guinea through the coordination process and implementation of project activities.
- ESCAP has established the Ocean Accounts Partnership following a series of resolutions on the blue economy and oceans governance. Within the Ocean Accounts Partnership, ESCAP is collaborating with different stakeholders within the region to establish and leverage partnerships in the region on ocean governance, research and statistics. The partnership has a crucial importance for SIDS as reflected by the national governments on several occasions. In the 48th Statistical Commission session, ESCAP made a statement on behalf of UN Environment and ESCAP on oceans statistics. On the basis of this intervention, UN Statistical Commission has asked ESCAP and UN Environment to take the lead statistical guidance for the ocean. The programme objective entails building on the work of DESA/UNSD on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).
- Within limited resources, ESCAP's TIID has endeavored to engage Pacific Islands economies in as many as its regional activities as possible, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the Oceania Customs Organization in particular.

PART F

Please include any other information you may wish to share.

Relevant outcomes and projects/programmes/activities/events in 2018 and upcoming:

- Outcome of the ESCAP 74th Commission Session (May 2018):
 - Delegations from Samoa and the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) noted that their countries' progress with respect to gender equality and the economic empowerment of women, including through legislative reforms and national development plans that have been put in place or reformed in order to ensure that no one is left behind. Some delegations commended various sub-regional initiatives for their contribution to fostering sustainable social development and inclusion, particularly for women and girls. The Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration was highlighted in this regard by the Honourable Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa.
 - H.E. Mr. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Fiji noted that Fiji is empowering women for a prosperous and progressive modern nation. Fiji's 5-year and 20-year National Development Plans aim to ensure that no one is left behind, irrespective of location, gender, ethnicity, physical and intellectual capabilities and social and economic status. Fiji's social protection system continues to be strengthened to protect the rights of older persons, women and persons with disabilities. There is a USD 90 a month subsidy and bus fare subsidies for persons with disabilities, as well as the food voucher programme for rural pregnant women. Through adoption of tax incentives, employers are encouraged to recruit persons with disabilities and youth.
 - The 2016 Disability Act in the RMI was noted for being the first legislation in the Pacific in full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
 - The 74th Commission expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in introducing a generic tool that can be used by national statistical offices to engage policy makers and enhance understanding and support for the disaggregated statistics. It was reflected that the tool helped getting the necessary policy attentions for SDGs monitoring in SIDS.
- Data and statistics: On the basis of the existing knowledge in identifying how the Systems of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) could be adapted, a workshop will be held on 1-3 August 2018 in Bangkok to get input from international and regional scientists, statisticians and policy experts. By partnering with UN Oceans and its members, the project intends to establish an international community of practice on ocean statistics. There has been an outpouring of interest from national governments particularly from SIDS, international organizations and academic networks on this area.
- Sustainable energy: Within the framework of the development account project "Evidence-based policies for the sustainable use of energy resources in the Asia-Pacific region", two countries from the Pacific are included to implement national level activities in 2018 and 2019:

- Tonga: ESCAP will assist Tonga in developing its informational basis to help determine the policy measures and instruments required to achieve its renewable and energy efficiency targets.
- Fiji: Implement activities (electric vehicles, markets, energy knowledge management system, labelling system) to support the review and future outlook and crafting of the National Energy Policy (NEP) as well as the target to reduce fossil fuel for transportation to around 22% of total final energy consumption by 2030 set in the Green Growth Framework (GGF) for Fiji.

These activities will support the implementation of Samoa Pathways to strengthen capacity of these countries in developing and implementing sustainable energy policies and strategies in partnership with other international entities.

- Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS): A follow-up Subregional Group meeting for the Pacific is planned to be held in 2018 to identify concrete actions (conduct pre-feasibility study, capacity training workshop and/or policy advisory service) in light of the four priorities identified earlier.
- Gender equality and empowerment of women: ESCAP has recognized that women's entrepreneurship is a key pathway for advancing women's economic empowerment and that it has multiplier effects on decent employment, poverty eradication and economic growth. ESCAP, therefore, promotes women's entrepreneurship by advocating for policies that create a gender-responsive ecosystem in the region. Within this context, ESCAP is planning to implement a technical cooperation project designed to address the particular challenges facing women-owned MSMEs when attempting to access finance and business development technologies. This project includes Pacific Island nations in its geographic scope and intends to look at the specific problems facing women entrepreneurs in that context. ESCAP also provides technical assistance on enhancing capacity for gender-based budgeting to its members.