

## The Mandates of the UN-DESA SIDS Unit

1. In 1994, member States recommended<sup>1</sup> and subsequently endorsed<sup>2</sup>, “*relying on the most efficient and cost-effective use of resources*”, that the SIDS Unit be mandated to fulfill the following functions:

- a. Provide substantive secretariat support to intergovernmental and inter-agency processes related to the monitoring, review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action;
- b. Act as a liaison and focal point for Governments, organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on matters related to the follow-up to the Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action;
- c. Prepare reports to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other relevant bodies, on the implementation of the Programme of Action, drawing on the inputs from all appropriate sources;
- d. Provide support, as appropriate, to other activities emanating from the Programme of Action.

2. In addition to the above-mentioned core functions and the added tasks prescribed by the BPoA<sup>3</sup>, over subsequent years<sup>4</sup>, the Assembly, with additional requests, has expended the responsibilities of the Secretariat, through the monitoring and reporting of specified and additional SIDS priority areas requiring further focused attention, including repeated requests for reporting on the implementation of its annual resolutions. Table: 1 identify the additional responsibilities bestowed on the Secretariat by the Assembly<sup>5</sup>.

ADDITIONAL MANDATES			
Year	UNGA Resolution	# of Additional Mandates	Status
BPoA (1994)	A/CONF/167/9 <sup>6</sup>	5	Completed
1995 - 1999	A/RES/50/116 <sup>7</sup>	3	Completed
	A/RES/51/183 <sup>8</sup>	2	

<sup>1</sup> A/CONF/167/9, see: paragraph 123

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/49/122, see: paragraph 15

<sup>3</sup> A/CONF/167/9 paragraphs 118, 119, 120, 128 and 135

<sup>4</sup> Including through the Mauritius Strategy for further Implementation of the BPoA 2005 (MSI) and the SAMOA Pathway (2014)

<sup>5</sup> Does not include repeated requests e.g. annual production of the Secretary-General's Report

<sup>6</sup> See: Paragraphs 118, 119, 120, 128 and 135

<sup>7</sup> See: Paragraphs 9, 10 and 12

<sup>8</sup> See: Paragraphs 11 and 14

	A/RES/52/202 <sup>9</sup>	1	
	A/RES/53/189A <sup>10</sup>	2	
	A/RES/54/224 <sup>11</sup>	1	
BPoA + 4	A/S-22/9/Rev.1 <sup>12</sup>	1	Ongoing
2000 - 2004	A/RES/58/213 <sup>13</sup>	3	Completed
MSI (2004)	A/CONF.207/11 <sup>14</sup>	2	On-going
2005 - 2009	A/RES/64/199 <sup>15</sup>	2	Completed
2010 – 2014	A/RES/65/2 <sup>16</sup>	2	Completed
	A/RES/65/156 <sup>17</sup>	2	
	A/RES/67/207 <sup>18</sup>	1	
	A/RES/68/238 <sup>19</sup>	1	
	A/RES/69/217 <sup>20</sup>	1	Ongoing
SAMOA Pathway (2014)	A/RES/69/15 <sup>21</sup>	2	Ongoing
2015 - present	A/RES/70/202 <sup>22</sup>	5	Ongoing
	A/RES/72/217 <sup>23</sup>	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>37</b>	
Completed		24	
<b>On-going</b>		<b>13</b>	

Table.1

3. Table.1 above identify and conclusively confirm the increase in the mandates of the Secretariat in the years subsequent to the adoption of the BPoA, highlighting that out of the 37 additional mandates, 13 are on-going. It is to be noted that following the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway in 2014, several of the on-going additional mandates given to the Secretariat relates to supporting the work of the Steering

<sup>9</sup> See: Paragraph 7

<sup>10</sup> See: Paragraphs 12 and 14

<sup>11</sup> See: Paragraph 2

<sup>12</sup> See: Paragraph 1. The Assembly identified the following areas for priority action, including the means for their implementation: *climate change, including climate variability and sea level rise; natural disasters; freshwater resources; coastal and marine resources; energy; and tourism* as requiring further focused attention

<sup>13</sup> See: Paragraphs 17, 22 and 23

<sup>14</sup> See: Paragraphs 101 and 102. The Assembly added the monitoring of the “*Johannesburg Plan of Action*” into the work of the Secretariat in Para. 102. Further, the MSI identified six additional priority areas for SIDS namely: *graduation from least developed country status, trade, sustainable production and consumption, health, knowledge management, and culture*.

<sup>15</sup> See: Paragraphs 6 and 7

<sup>16</sup> See: Paragraphs 32 and 33

<sup>17</sup> See: Paragraphs 2 and 12

<sup>18</sup> See: Paragraph 11

<sup>19</sup> See: Paragraph 22

<sup>20</sup> See: Paragraph 18. The Assembly added the monitoring of the SAMOA Pathway into the work of the Secretariat.

<sup>21</sup> See: Paragraphs 101 and 119.

<sup>22</sup> See: Paragraphs 11(a), (b) & (c), 14 and 15. The Assembly added the mandates of supporting the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, support to HLPF and the inter-linkage of the SDGs to all of the SIDS development agendas under these paragraphs.

<sup>23</sup> See: Paragraph 30 – The Assembly requested reporting on initiative to strengthen coordination between UNDESA and OHRLLS

Committee on SIDS Partnerships, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and on the effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Samoa Pathway, in line with the 2030 Agenda. The sub-section of the report that follows assesses *inter alia* the impact of these increases on the workload and delivery of the work programme of the Secretariat.