

QUESTIONNAIRE

(UN System and Other Relevant Entities)

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 Secretary-General report in 2019.

This report is being prepared in accordance with paras 5 and 6 of A/RES/72/307. The report will (i) serve to support the intergovernmental consultations on the Outcome Document of the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway and (ii) be considered by the UNGA 74. The report will review progress on SAMOA Pathway implementation for the period January 2015 to present.

In all responses, and as far as is possible/practical, UN system and other relevant entities should refer to the [UN System Implementation Matrix](#)¹ prepared following the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The Attached Annex provides examples of the preferred level of detail for responses.

- 1. Financial Support:** Please provide information on annual financial allocation(s)/investment(s) (i) in absolute values and (ii) as a percentage of the total annual budgets for SIDS programme areas, for the period January 2015 to December 2018 or the most relevant period following the onset of the SAMOA Pathway. Please provide your responses in the Table in **Annex 1, no. 1**.

(This should be come from PARDEV & MULTILATERAL)

- 2. Measuring the Progress/Implementation Status of SAMOA Pathway thematic areas:**

- a. With reference to the assigned areas contained within the UN Implementation Matrix, where relevant or possible, please indicate the percentage achievement of the thematic areas contained within the SAMOA Pathway. Please support your answers with quantitative evidence (progress indicators, delivery rate of programme/project funds, etc.) as appropriate.

***Paragraph 23** – The Pacific island region is an economically and culturally diverse and sharing similar challenges and opportunities. ²In 2017, the labour participation rate is 65.4 per cent and unemployment –to-population ration is 61.9 per cent. The unemployment rate is 5.6 per cent and youth unemployment is 12 percent both of which are close to gender parity. According to the World Bank Risk Report ³ five Pacific countries are among the top 20 countries globally that are the most affected by disaster risk – they are exposed to natural hazards and, owing to their poor economic and social situations, are particularly vulnerable. Developing preventative measures to limit infrastructure and property damage and increasing institutional capacity, particularly for small businesses, to respond to climate events can*

¹ http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/612SAMOA%20Pathway%20implementation%20matrix_UN%20system.pdf

² Informal employment (self-employed and contributing family workers) is excluded from agriculture calculations.

³ Pacific island average calculated from the World Bank; World Development Indicators (2017), <http://data.worldbank.org/one> country excluded from calculation.

be a source of decent job creation that also works towards building resilience. During the ILO Member States in the Pacific meeting in Apia after the SIDS Inter-Regional Preparatory meeting in November 2018, the participants were taking the leading role in acting on climate change and suggested a knowledge sharing platform could help highlight the ambition of the Big Ocean States (BOS). This was a follow up discussion on the recent SIDS Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the SAMOA Pathway Midterm Review that took place in Apia same month where SIDS member states identified among their 15 priorities moving forward : Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth with decent work for all.

To strengthen the capacity of the global system to absorb shocks and reduce climate- and environment related-risks, the humanity is in a steady transition towards a low-carbon model of development, adopting less resource intensive economic models, drawing on technology- supported, increasingly competitive sectors and redesigning education and skills development programmes to meet the rapidly changing profile of the new labour demand. We need to elevate our resolve and move faster to reduce adverse impact on people, primarily in Small Island States where time is a limited resource.

As reflected in the 2017 ILO report titled: JUST TRANSITION, DECENT WORK, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE, the success of this transition depends on the capacity of key actors – governments, unions, employers and development partners– to align their efforts towards greening economies and employment while building people’s and institutional resilience in the face of growing climate-related fragility and vulnerability. Clear guidelines were produced by the ILO to secure a just transition to zero-carbon economies while the Paris Agreement itself stated that governments should take into account ‘the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities.

***Paragraph 24** – Most Pacific Island Countries remain heavily on reliant on official development assistance, overseas remittances, and imported goods. ⁴An estimate of 17% of people in the Pacific Islands have disability. ⁵Women are more vulnerable to hardship and poverty due to socio-economic contexts, labour force discrimination, migration, a lack of property rights, heavy responsibilities in the household and the community, and subsistence farming. Continued and increased research and extension services will improve productivity of small land holders and subsistence farmers. Support for new and strengthened policies to introduce and expand production and enhance links between agriculture and the tourism industry will aim to positively affect agricultural employment. ⁶Advancing the concept of blue and green economies will help countries establish enabling environments for private sector initiatives that create jobs for women, men, and youth, by recognizing the economic benefits of marine and ecosystem while ensuring their sustainable management. Strategies targeting youth unemployment in particular will increase access to productive and decent work as well as opportunities for entrepreneurship, including access to finances facilities, training opportunities, and information and market policies that incentivise start up and expansions. Strategies to support the design of employment and economic policies that place jobs first will also be targeted.*

⁴ [United Nation Pacific Strategy 2018-2022](#)

⁵ UNESCAP (2012) Disability at a Glance, Suva, Fiji

⁶ [United Nation Pacific Strategy 2018-2022](#)

Paragraph 27(a) - Youth Entrepreneurship as a career choice could be the answer in addressing the unemployment rate for youth in Pacific. ⁷Pacific Islanders are naturally talented individuals, talented in sports, drama and academic studies. However, some are naturally business minded either due to exposure to a family venture or pure interest, they also have the potential to be successful entrepreneurs yet, there is not enough support readily available to hone into these skills for development. Although entrepreneurship is not encouraged as much as obtaining 'white collar' employment, with the increase of unemployment annually, youth need to be aware and have open minds to consider youth entrepreneurship as one avenue in order to be successful.

ILO estimates that youth unemployment is more than 20% in the SIDS, some countries even more than 50%. The promotion of job opportunity and decent work for young people is a central concern for ILO. To address the Youth Unemployment Crisis, the ILO has initiated programs in the SIDS to support youth employment through promoting equality in access to decent work; through strengthening the employability of young persons to make smooth transition from school-to-work; through building entrepreneurship skills for young people, and through encouraging investment in sectors that generate jobs for youth.

The ILO has provided extensive support toward improving employment services and labour market, entrepreneurship education for in-school youths (KAB), entrepreneurship training for out-of school youths (SIYB) and developing national policy that puts youth employment at the center of national economic development. The ILO is also supporting the young entrepreneurs to be part of the national private sector organization with the establishing 5 Youth Entrepreneur Council (YEC) in the Pacific include Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon, and Tonga utilising its national platform to support young entrepreneurs to network, to share ideas and best practices, more importantly to be able to influence policies and legislations developing process.

Another major intervention is to advocate for linking climate change process with creating decent jobs for local communities and developing local human capital with the skills for today's needs and tomorrow's employability.

Paragraph 27 (c) – Youth unemployment in the Pacific stands at an alarming 23% (SPC, 2011) with young people 4.5-6 times (ILO, 2013) less likely to secure decent jobs relative to older people. The ILO organised Pacific Employers Workshop, after being presented the Fiji and Vanuatu Young Entrepreneurs Council (YEC) model, expressed their support and interest.

In 2018 5 YECs established - Fiji was launched in June and Vanuatu in November 2016. YEC Solomon Islands and Tonga were established in early 2017, and Samoa in end of 2017. All were established under the national employer's organisation. While the YEC model was developed by the ILO and piloted in Fiji, a coalition of partners made up of the Pacific Youth Council, Pacific Leadership Programme and South Pacific Commission has rolled out the establishment of YEC in other countries. This partnership and initiative was acknowledged at the April 2017 Pacific Summit & Dialogue on Youth Entrepreneurship and reflected in the outcome statement calling for more YEC's in the region.

Paragraph 27 (e) - The Paris Agreement on Climate Change adopted in December 2015 makes a specific reference to the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work

⁷ Leadership Samoa 2015 Project.

and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities. This means that countries need to consider employment aspects in the design and implementation of their climate change commitments. As a UN observer organization in climate change negotiations, the ILO played an important role to ensure that employment issues are well taken into consideration giving the significant implications of climate change for jobs. Studies have demonstrated that uncontrolled climate change and environmental degradation will lead to disruption of business activity, destruction of infrastructure, and loss of jobs on a massive scale. The challenge facing the world of work is how to maximise decent work opportunities, while minimising the risks of job losses and finding ways to ensure a just transition for all.

SDG includes Goal 8: “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, and the "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway" put the Chapter title as “”sustained and sustainable, inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth with Decent Work for ALL”’.

Decent work is not just about having a job. It is about the quality of employment that provides an adequate income to keep workers and their families out of poverty. It is about basic rights at work and a voice in decisions-making process. It is about having social safety net in times of misfortune. Decent Work is a practical holistic approach and pragmatic people centered approach to facilitate the effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and develop an enabling environments for social and economic sustainable development.

While there are remarkable progress in economic, social and labour market development in the SIDS, some common decent work deficits exist in many countries including; high rates of youth unemployment and extensive under-employment; large informal sectors and heavy reliance on subsistence agriculture and fisheries in many states; skills mismatch and lack of employable skills; not sufficient social protection coverage; gender and other forms of labour market discrimination, as well as pockets of child labour and potential problems with forced labour; weak tripartism and social dialogue mechanism, outdated labour laws, weak labour inspection and labour courts; inadequate labour market information systems; and frequent and intense natural disasters and impact of climate change. One crucial intervention for ILO is to promote youth employment to support the SIDS towards meeting full and productive employment. Achieving decent work for youth is a challenge shared by all countries across the world these days. As per ILO estimates, more than 200 million people are unemployed worldwide, including nearly 80 million youth. There are 40 Million new comers to the labour market every year. The global youth unemployment rate stood at about 13 per cent. On average, young women and men are two to three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. ILO estimates that youth unemployment is more than 20% in the SIDS, some countries even more than 50%. The promotion of job opportunity and decent work for young people is a central concern for ILO. To address the Youth Unemployment Crisis, the ILO has initiated programs in the SIDS to support youth employment through promoting equality in access to decent work; through strengthening the employability of young persons to make smooth transition from school-to-work; through building entrepreneurship skills for young people, and through encouraging investment in sectors that generate jobs for youth.

At the policy level, the ILO is supporting the SIDS to develop National Employment Policy, elimination of Child Labour Policies, OSH policies, Labour Law Reforms and Acts, Labour Market Information and Protection of Migrant policies. All these policies supported by ILO give a special attention to youth’s unemployment issues and youth’s expectations. The ILO has provided extensive support toward improving employment services and labour market, entrepreneurship education for in-school youths (KAB), entrepreneurship training for out-of school youths (SIYB) and developing national policy that puts youth employment at the center of national economic development.

The ILO is also supporting the young entrepreneurs to be part of the national private sector organization, utilising its national platform to support young entrepreneurs to network, to share ideas and best practices, more importantly to be able to influence policies and legislations developing process as Fiji YEC now in practises. Another major intervention is to advocate for linking climate change process with creating decent jobs for local communities and developing local human capital with the skills for today's needs and tomorrow's employability.

As we all know disasters in the SIDS are becoming more frequent and intense and has the potential to increase decent work deficits. ILO is providing technical assistance to SIDS in Green Jobs, Just Transition, and Disaster Risk Reduction for Small & Micro Enterprises, Strengthening Labour Statistics and jobs centered disaster recovery. ILO will continue to work with our Tripartite Constitutes and other stakeholders to pursue its Decent Work Agenda and to support the SIDS to achieve full and productive employment by 2030.

Paragraph (f) - The International Labour Standard is a sanctuary policies when it reach to the national level and all the works and programmes implemented are based on the principles that member state should follow. It is with much respect that ILO have this observed and abide to by the member states taking into consideration the discussion and commitment actions that Committee of Expert in the HQ will direct request or observe from the periodic reports that member states send through in September every year on Conventions ratified. Samoa has ratified 8 core convention and 1 technical convention (MLC), recently the C144 has being registered with HQ and Samoa is ready to implement the Convention 144 on Tripartism. Other members countries in the pacific also respect these International labour Standard and works with members States to ensure they are respected in practice as well as principle. ⁸There has been a promising development in the region in recent years with an increase in the rate of ratifications of International Labour Standard (ILS) and rising number of Pacific members with raising number of Pacific Island countries expressing commitment to ILO principles. The focus of were given to the reviewing the national Labour Legislation to align with the ILS and to modernize few outdated labour law in the Pacific. 3 countries have also taken into consideration ratifications of core Convention 182 – Worst Form of child Labour – with latest ratification by new members state that became member of ILO recently; Tonga and Cook Island. ⁹Across in the Pacific, there is growing commitment to International Labour Standards and accordingly countries have increasingly being reviewing their national labour and employment laws. The Challenge is to translate these labour standards into policy and practice through national tripartite labour law reform processes and to build the capacity of labour administrations to enforce the law and to promote preventive measures.

Paragraph 27 (g) – The challenges relating to the availability of data are a consistent theme across the areas of sustainable development in the Pacific. Another challenge is that where statistical data is available, decisions are not necessarily made based on the available evidence. In terms of gender equality, efforts continue to generate gender profiles, gender statistics and analysis to inform policies and decision-making. Likewise, there are national and regional initiatives to improve statistics and evaluative reporting for culture and education. The challenge is the scale and pace of these efforts given the upscaling required in human and financial resources to advance existing statistical efforts across all

⁸ Decent Work and Social Justice in Pacific Small Island Developing States, ILO

⁹ Decent Work and Social Justice in Pacific Small Island Developing States, ILO

sectors. ¹⁰Since 2010, statistics development in the Pacific has been guided by the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) 2010-2020. The Strategy has allowed for a significant improvement in the timely collection of core official statistics among PICTs covering social and economic statistics. Core official data collections include: Population Census, Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Agriculture Census (AC), Labour Force Surveys (LFS), Merchandise Trade Statistics, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Price Indices, and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). Compilation of Balance of Payments, Government Finance, and Monetary statistics continue to be a part of core official statistics collected in the region. In many of the Pacific member countries these statistics are compiled by Ministries of Finance and Reserve Banks.

Paragraph 27 (i) – Traditional development path may often not be feasible for all Pacific Island countries, it should not be recognized that as for all parts of the world, good governance, rule of law and respect for human rights are a critical foundation for development for development growth. A stable fair and transparent system of governance is necessary precondition of decent work, ensuring business confidence which can boost economic growth; protecting fundamental rights of men and women at work and improving their income and productivity; facilitating social dialogue and protecting the most vulnerable workers. Other policies crafted in the Pacific to address the geographic and other constraints to development, they must be built from a foundation of government and civil society accountability and respect for the rule of law.

Laws still exist in the Pacific that treat women and girls differently and restrict their opportunities and rights in areas such as employment, social protection, decision making, land ownership, social, health and family status, education, and in constitutional protection. Almost all countries have adopted gender policies and strategies, including disability policies and while many are engaged in global reporting processes, resources for integrating gender equality priorities and implementation are limited. In 2018, four countries, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands and Nauru reported on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)¹¹ with progress in areas of domestic violence, criminal and common laws.

¹²Despite the call by leaders for gender mainstreaming and increased collection and use of sex disaggregated data across sectors, the lack of financial investments - especially in national budgets remain a major obstacle as noted in the 2016 PLGED Report. Budgets for national women's offices' are less than 1 percent of national appropriations and most sector ministries do not make specific budget allocations to address gender issues: and consultative mechanisms with civil society groups on budget and policy issues of national and sub-national government remains to be strengthened.

Paragraph 30 (d) – (refer respond paragraph 4)

Paragraph 30 (e) – Tourism is another important area of economic activity in the Pacific and it's a key theme area in the SIDS. ¹³There are number of challenges and opportunities in increasing the tourism sector in Pacific Islands and to enable Pacific women and men to benefit from a sizeable portion of the

¹⁰ Circular # 111 - Pacific Sustainable Report 2018.

¹¹ However, Tonga and Palau have not yet ratified CEDAW

¹² Circular # 111 – Pacific Sustainable Report 2018

¹³ Decent Work and Social Justice in Pacific Small Island Developing States; ILO

73 million jobs which the travel and tourism industry estimates will be created by 2020. One way is increase the number and skills of local workers in hotel. Another is increasing local produce in tourism supply chain. ¹⁴For example; although countries like Vanuatu have very fertile land on some of its 80 islands with different climate zones and different altitudes, the tourism industry still imports a lot of agriculture produce due to the fact that agriculture is largely subsistence agriculture and where produce is sold, its often for few months rather than all year round.

Paragraph 58 (h) – A related vulnerability of Pacific Island countries is low diversification of resources. Across the region, there are four key economic sectors: fisheries, tourism, agriculture and the maritime sector. Fisheries and seafaring are a vital source of employment, household income and food security for a large number of Pacific Island countries. Fisheries are a significant source of revenue (in the form of access fees) from foreign fishing fleets in several countries. The sector contributes over USD258 million to the GDP of Pacific Island countries and more than 14,000 formal jobs, primarily from the tuna fishery. Similarly, there may be scope for reviving the maritime sector, which has in the past produced remittance transfers worth over 25 per cent of GNP.⁶¹ Seafaring is a means of income is less susceptible (than household fishing) to climate and market price fluctuations however it relies on Pacific Island countries being able to compete with other seafaring countries, particularly in Asia Even prior to the global economic crisis most of the SIDS lagged behind other developing countries in terms of economic growth and progress towards development goals. As a result, employment growth was inadequate to absorb expanding populations. Accelerating economic growth will require a balance between macroeconomic policies, infrastructure development, and a sectoral approach, which identifies and supports sectors with potential both for economic development and decent work creation (this might include fisheries, resource extraction, telecommunications, tourism, as well as the care and creative industries).

Apart from Fiji, Samoa is another member of states that ratified Maritime Labour Convention in year 2016. This lead to protection of fishing zones, the Maritime workers as well as the jobs in the maritime.

Paragraph 63 (d) – ILO community programmes through youth projects and climate change resilient boost traditional systems of social protection for example greater investment in subsistence sectors and village infrastructure to improve capacity for food security, and promoting rural entrepreneurial activities that provide food, water and energy security for rural communities.

There are a number of reasons why funding to increase climate change resilience and adaptation is good for development. Firstly, it can help reduce the crippling dependence of Pacific economies on fossil fuel imports (in line with the commitments of regional leaders) and promote energy security for the poor. Second, better conservation of ecosystem services and green farming are likely to result in improved household incomes and ‘safety nets’ for the rural poor as well as improved yields for subsistence farmers.⁷⁰ Another key factor, overlooked in many previous analyses, is that investment in climate change resilience and adaptation projects is also beneficial for job creation, especially for young men and women. Increasingly, social transfers are recognised as a beneficial option in many developing countries to reduce poverty directly but also help children attend and perform better at school, enable families to invest in productive activities and provide economic stimulus by increasing consumption and demand.

¹⁴ Study in Agriculture sector in Vanuatu undertaken by the ILO Pacific Growth & Employment Project (forthcoming)

Paragraph 71(c) – Over the last decade, the region has made some progress in achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, particularly in education and health; and to a lesser extent women’s participation in the labour force and national policy making. This progress is attributed to a growing level of awareness of the gender inequalities facing women, evident by the adoption of regional commitments on gender including the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED)¹⁵, the implementation of national gender policies, passage of domestic violence legislation and protocols, ratification of related human rights conventions and steps towards ensuring gender responsiveness of Government institutions, civil society and the private sector through policies, programmes and resource allocation. Most PICTs are close to achieving gender parity in primary education enrolment based on the gross enrolment (attendance) rate. In some countries such as Kiribati, Nauru, The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Tuvalu declining enrolment of boys in secondary schools is a concern, particularly in Kiribati. Women and girls still face specific limitations in accessing secondary and tertiary education in some countries. Often these are not addressed in a systematic way by the education system, and overall, education infrastructure and system do not meet the needs of all students with disabilities, in particular women and girls. Despite some progress, key challenges remain. While awareness of gender inequalities is evident, there is still a lack of acceptance that gender inequality and the violation of women’s human rights are serious impediments to sustainable development. Gender and social perspectives are not adequately embedded systematically across the development agenda at the national and regional levels; and there continues to be a lack of adequate investment (financial and human) to transform gender and social inequalities, including all forms of discrimination against women and girls. There is strong resistance to transform social, economic, and political institutions and systems that perpetuate the exclusion of women from all forms of decision making; and likewise national mechanisms to hold institutions accountable for progressing gender equality and women’s human rights are lacking or have insufficient powers for meaningful results for gender equality.

Apart from the impediments to women’s equal access to labour market, gender discrimination is evident in occupational segmentation and (indirect) wage discrimination; for example, women are under-represented in senior level jobs in most Pacific Island countries. To the extent that they exist for Pacific women, formal employment opportunities are typically found in a small range of undervalued ‘female’ occupations in the service sector (including domestic work), tourism, garment making and food processing, where wages are lower and conditions poor and workers enjoy little bargaining ‘voice’. However, conditions that are even more precarious exist in the unregulated informal economy where larger numbers of women endure unsafe, unhealthy and hazardous occupations like market and roadside trading, and are at greater risk of poverty.⁵⁰ The sex industry is becoming an increasingly compelling work option for some Pacific women, a direct outcome of rising poverty levels as well as the limited opportunities for decent work in the formal economy. Sex work is particularly associated with the fishing, logging and mining industries of PNG, Solomon Islands and Kiribati and the urban centres of Suva, Honiara and Port Moresby

Paragraph 77 (c) – refer 71 (c)

Paragraph 85 - Although good progress has been made in access to education, some children are still being left behind, exposing them to the risk of recruitment as child labourers. ¹⁶In PNG, ILO research has

¹⁵ Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 2012; Renewed Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights 2017-2030

¹⁶ Decent Work and Social Justice in Pacific Small Island Developing States; ILO

revealed children not attending school are particularly vulnerable to recruitment into child labour (nearly 50% of children surveyed having never attended school). The problem of child labour remains persistent in many parts of the Pacific, in occupations ranging from domestic service, market trading and hotel work and agriculture. Commercial sexual exploitation is also evident in several Pacific Island countries. In Fiji and PNG, available data shows significant numbers of working children, many in the worst forms of child labour such as child prostitution, drug trafficking, begging, carrying heavy loads, and collecting and/or handling scrap metals and chemicals. The vulnerability of school age children to labour exploitation is exacerbated by human trafficking in the region, which is influenced by weak border and immigration controls, corruption and weak governance, patriarchal social systems and cultural practices which create special vulnerabilities for girls and women, poverty, and the region's susceptibility to natural disasters.³⁶ The employment of children is not only a rights-based issue, but also a significant economic and social concern for governments, as child labour leads to a loss of educational and skill development which in turn hampers the productivity of the next generation of workers, reducing earning capacity and the upward job mobility when they reach adulthood.

Enforcing the ratification of Convention 182 has most member states ratified it ensuring that they Child Labour is eliminate in any forms whatsoever. National labour laws to align with the fundamental conventions ensure that member countries are followed according to articles of the ILO constitution.

Paragraph 88 (a) - ¹⁷Across the region, accessibility to basic education is improving. However, many countries still suffer from issues of accessibility, quality and a mismatch of curricula and opportunities in the workforce. This is particularly an issue for the technical and vocational education and training (TVET), which is delivered in one of three ways: as part of the formal school system, (including school-based, pre-vocational and post-secondary technical institutions), through centre-based trade-training outside the formal system, and through enterprise-based training such as apprenticeships. Private training providers are important sources of TVET in most Pacific Island countries and include churches, not-for-profit providers and for-profit providers. There are reported skill shortages that largely reflect a failure to adapt curricula to the changing demands of the economy. An ADB analysis of TVET in the Pacific found that training typically lacked direct linkages to employers and their needs, was inconsistent with employment trends, and thus lacked economic relevance. The study found that training systems generally were not flexible and did not respond easily to changing demands.

Persons with disabilities in PICTs are among the poorest and most marginalised members of their communities. They are over represented among people living in poverty and underrepresented in social, economic and public life, including in national decision-making. They generally have lower economic, health and education outcomes. The number of people living with disabilities in the Pacific is increasing due to high rates of diabetes-related amputations and blindness; increasing traffic and work-related accidents; and the ageing population.

There is an estimated 1.5 million people or 15 percent of the total Pacific population living with some form of disability. Disability prevalence varies dramatically across PICTs ranging from an estimated 1.2 percent in Samoa to 12 percent in Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea¹⁸. There is limited accurate official data on the incidence of disability and few services for people living with physical or mental impairments. ESCAP notes that across countries, variations in disability prevalence stem from differences in the definition of disability as well as the purpose and method of collecting data. PICTs have made progress in collecting statistics in household surveys that identify people with a disability, using the standard set of

¹⁷ ADB (2008), *Skilling the Pacific Technical and Vocational Education and Training in the Pacific*, p xviii

questions developed by the Washington Group. However, apart from these self-reported prevalence statistics, data is lacking on the realities of persons living with a disability

Paragraph 88 (c) – (Refer Paragraph 88 (a))

Paragraph 110 – Number of platforms were developed within the Pacific Island Countries in the assistance programmes of the ILO in the past few years. Unlike Fiji, Samoa with their National Youth Council developed an E-Youth Hub where youth are able to access online to register them for job seeking. Ministry of labour host the overarching National Employment Registration for Job Seekers while the youth component were fed in from the E-Youth Hub from SNYC or MCIL also filter from the Ministry of Labour Job Seekers Registration. Young Entrepreneur Council were developed for 5 member countries and the aim is to boosting programmes for young business people, affiliate with Employers through Chambers affairs and also to participate in the decision making. In Samoa; Chamber of Commerce provide their yearly Environment Confidence Survey with its members, ensuring that business environment are affordable and environmentally sound technologies. Whilst a number of Pacific countries do have an array of public and private business development services, they are poorly coordinated, often inaccessible in rural areas and unregulated in terms of quality. For example, in Vanuatu there is a lack of complementarity of programs from different providers, high cost, lack of availability in rural areas, and lack of tailoring to micro and small enterprises. While in Samoa there is no clear boundary of who deals with who and what does what – for instance we have the Samoa National Youth Council,

- b. Please report on any other targets/indicators used by your organization to assess progress on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? If the SDG goals and targets are used please explain how current progress measures against these indicators/targets?

(For ILO – its P&B and this should be from the PARDEV)

- c. If no specific indicators/targets are used by your organization please indicate how your organization measures progress in lieu of targets and indicators?

3. Successful Examples – This section examines best practices and successful interventions that have made significant impact on the ground. (Word Limit for responses: 2500).

(For the Case of Samoa only)

- a. From among the programmes/projects that have been implemented by your organization over the reporting period, please elaborate on a few of the most successful. Please provide your responses in the Table in **Annex 1, no. 3.**

i. Why are these considered a success?

This is one of the best practice through technical assistance ILO has used the Tripartism approach where ILO through programmes that are available with the constituents to work towards seeking jobs and placement of the workers, and mapping out how the programmes will implement within 5 months plan from June till November 2017. Given below will elaborate more on the programmes ILO conducted through its partners and constituents. There was also the Impact Assessment Report that was presented during the Public Workshop that ILO and constituents conducted during the project period.

This preliminary impact assessment on a response project to support redundant Yazaki EDS workers have found good results through a collaborative effort between the ILO, the multinational and national implementation partners. This was highlighted at the ILO supported national workshop on coping with disruptions in the global supply chain to reduce impact on youth employment, in Apia.

Yazaki EDS, a Japanese multinational enterprise and largest private employer in Samoa ceased operations in August 2017. After 25 years of operation, approximately 700 workers, about 60% youth, 62% women and 50% sole family earners were targeted by the project. The car harness manufacture accounted for 60% of total national export earnings and is identified in the Samoa National Employment Policy (NEP) as a potential impact to the labour market.

The national partners included the Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC), Samoa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), Samoa First Union and the Small Business Enterprise Center (SBEC). The objective of the ILO intervention was to strengthen the existing national employment and social protection services that could support the redundant Yazaki workers to secure waged and self-employment.

Through a jobs fare organized by the ILO within the Yazaki complex, local company Ah Liki Investment employed more than 200 workers. Restaurants, hotels and retail companies also used the opportunity to hire ready for work young people and women.

SBEC conducted skills training and business training to support venerable women sole family earners. Ms Ime Kaisa a former employee of Yazaki EDS shared her success on starting her elei/fabric printing business and now supplies to a few Farmer Joe Supermarkets in Apia. The Samoa First Union registered and supported 250 redundant workers and also indicated that through this project they were able to get access to Yazaki complex and discuss with management issues raised by their members. A general agreement by the participants was that there needs to be an understanding of rights of workers from an early age. The Samoa Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in providing financial training for redundant workers to manage their redundancy package wisely.

While the 3rd quarter economic outlook for Samoa is under development, including the findings of the 2017 Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Ministry of Finance agreed to consider the ILO Preliminary Impact Assessment as inputs to the national economic outlook and forecast.

This was a good case study for future national and regional response to multinational closures due to disruptions in the global supply chain resulting in loss of jobs locally, and make this project a successful

one.

ii. What were the results? Please support with qualitative/quantitative evidence if possible/relevant

The impact assessment review conducted by ILO has identified key success factors, successes from the implementation of this ILO project, which set out to provide employment and social protection services to disenfranchised Yazaki workers and their families.

Here are some of the overall findings / results of this project:

- Over 50% of the Yazaki workforce gained new employment opportunities before the factory closure. This was a result of collaborative efforts of the internal Yazaki Transition Support programme, this ILO project, and the services delivered by implementing partners, government support, private sector companies who approached Yazaki to recruit new employees and Yazaki employees themselves.*
- Close to 100% of Yazaki staff engaged in some form of training and utilised other support services delivered by ILO implementing agencies, before the factory closure*
- The training and support services delivered were relevant to Yazaki staff, and delivered at the right level, taking into consideration their literacy and numeracy levels.*
- All sessions and services were also delivered in Samoan, or bi-lingual, which was essential since more than 90% of the workforce were more competent in Samoan language, and in many cases, were not confident using English to communicate on a professional level*
- The process of registration of youth on the e-Youth Hub, was a great opportunity for staff to understand how to transfer their skills from Yazaki into new jobs, and for most, was the first time they had a written CV*
- Most services were delivered onsite at Yazaki. This was convenient for staff, as they were able to attend during breaks and downtime. This also gave implementing partners full access to the staff in the workplace, which enabled them to deliver the programs to a large number of people in a short timeframe.*
- Staff were highly motivated to engage in services, as majority wanted to gain new employment and learn new skills, and be able to continue to support their families.*
- Implementing agencies were able to continue to provide training and support services after Yazaki closure. This complemented the Yazaki Transition Program, as this program was managed internally by Yazaki Management, and had to be completed before shut down date on 25th August*

iii. Please elaborate on the critical factors that contributed to the intervention's success and any key lessons learned?

The innovation includes employment service and training programmes for laid-off workers after closing the biggest factory Yazaki in Samoa, which was an evidence to show the importance of the ILO Just Transition when facing disruptions in the global supply and climate change. Yazaki was the largest private employer in Samoa, employing 670 locals including 62% women which accounted for 12% of the national

formal workforce. The Samoan Government stated that Yazaki closure was an employment and economic disaster for the country. ILO stepped in with very innovative solutions that saw 50% of employees find jobs in other local companies, even before its final closure in December 2017. Other workers up-skilled to do other jobs or took up internships or even started their own businesses

The challenge was to help 670 laid-off workers, 90% of them had below tertiary level qualifications. ILO team used Partnerships Strategy to intervene through effective coordination as follows:

- ✓ Samoa National Youth Council – provided free registration for 400 youths on the E-Youth Hub for job seeking.*
- ✓ Samoa Chamber of Commerce – used their Basic Finance Literacy to conduct 2 weeks training to better manage their redundancy packages including investing in small business.*
- ✓ Small Business Enterprises Center – trained sole women family earners with children on the SYIB, and assisted with bank loans to start their businesses.*
- ✓ Samoa Workers Congress through Samoa First Union invited free membership and provided training on the rights of workers under ILO Conventions.*
- ✓ ONE UN Youth Employment Programme – provided training on basic and soft skills for youths identified for the internship programme.*
- ✓ ILO provided Career Counselling training for management to provide career counselling.*

Where there any other key results/outputs achieved and describe its impacts, if any.

- ---

4. Addressing Gaps and Challenges:

- a. From among the programmes/projects that have been implemented by your organization over the reporting period, please elaborate on any implementation challenges that have been encountered (**Word Limit for responses: 2500**).

(i) Yazaki Project.

- For the Yazaki EDS project – the main challenge was the tight timeframe for delivery of the programmes and delivery before closure. The participants, Yazaki management and the implementing agencies all commented that they could have made more impact if they had more time for delivery*
- After Yazaki closure, it was challenging for implementing agencies to engage a high number of staff to continue using services. Only the staff who were highly motivated to find work or start a business, continued attending the training sessions, and utilising the services offered by the partners.*
- It is difficult to measure the full impact of the Yazaki closure, on the Samoan economy and labour market, at this point in time, as the key economic reports for this period, will be released in early 2018. Therefore the implications at this stage, are only predictions, and there needs to be a follow up, once actual data is released in 2018.*
- At time of this impact assessment, delivery of some the activities has not been completed, such as the SCCI Internship programme. Therefore the full impact of services, and employment and business opportunities generated from this project, will be realised once all these services have been completed.*

(ii)SNAP Porject

- *For the SNAP on YE 2015 (Samoa National Action Plan) on Youth Employment, - the main challenges were: -*
 - *Funding cutbacks (revised budget)*
 - *Project Term too short – this is the project needs to be implemented in to two years at the very least even on the same budget. It is extremely unfair on local staff, Government and Ministries engaged to be forced to complete several national policy related documents in this very short timeframe whole also doing their work*
 - *Limited staff for project implementation – the project was carried by a Project Coordinator and one support staff. For the magnitude of this project and the time constraints, finance and communications positions should also have been added.*
 - *Implementation Modality – considerations need to be given to the modalities of implementation, taking into account that Non-State-Actors are sometimes more efficient in carrying out the work that State Actors.*
- b. What have been the lessons learned and how will these be taken into account for the remaining implementation period of the SAMOA Pathway? (2019-2024)?

Yazaki Project

- ✓ *ILO should continue to dialogue, and lobby government to participate in these types of projects, by providing policy support, and initiating mechanisms which stimulate the economy and provide more job opportunities, such as foreign investment and the seasonal workers programs in New Zealand and Australia, as well as tax incentives. For this project, both MCIL and MOR were able to provide support to Yazaki, once they were notified of their intention to close down. ILO can contribute to this support in future, by bringing together the private sector employers and government, to discuss solutions and mechanisms in advance, which can provide positive long-term impacts to the labour market in Samoa.*
- ✓ *ILO should continue to promote services delivered by implementing agencies to the labor workforce in Samoa. Most of the staff from Yazaki who participated in this project, were not aware of the services provided by the implementing agencies, and did not find them to be accessible, and well promoted within their workplace, prior to the implementation of the internal Transition Support program and the ILO project.*
- ✓ *ILO should carry out an impact assessment in next 6-12 months, to assess and capture outcomes of these programmes, which are still ongoing. ILO should also continue to lobby, and support further research into the impact of Yazaki closure on the Samoan economy and labor market in the next 6-12 months, with government economic monitoring agencies and Samoa Bureau of Statistics.*

5. Outreach/Publications

- a. Please include a link to the annual progress report(s) of your organization, or any other relevant progress report(s). If present, please identify the sections relevant to SIDS/SAMOA Pathway implementation. Please also add any other publication issued by your organization the covers SIDS

(MULTILATERAL)

- b. Does your organization manage any website dedicated exclusively to SIDS?

(PARADEV & MULTILATERAL)

6. Preparations for the Mid-Term Review – A High-Level review of the Samoa Pathway will take place on 27th of Sept. 2019 in UNHQ, as mandated by [A/RES/72/307](#).

- a. Is your organization conducting or planning to conduct any internal review of SIDS programmes in preparation for the Mid-term review of the Samoa Pathway? If so, please provide.

(ILO NEW YORK – MULTILATERAL)

- b. Please elaborate on any other activities being undertaken in preparation for the High-Level Review in 2019.

(ILO NEW YORK – MULTILATERAL)

7. Other Matters – Please include any other information as relevant.

Thank you for completing the Survey!

Please report using the table below for successful examples. If the work has already been reported last year using the table please only add updates if any, otherwise skip filling out the table and elaborate on the rest of the question (I, II, III)

<https://sidsnetwork.org/secretary-general-report-samoa-pathway/>

Name of Project/ Programme/ Activity	Main Themes/ Goals addressed		Target Countries, Regions, Sectors	Goals	Intervention Type (Tech transfer, Capacity development etc.)	Total Budget (US\$)	Implementatio n Period
	Samoa Pathway	SDGs					
Yazaki EDS Samoa	Sustained & sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all	SDG 8	Samoa.	Ensuring job security for the transition of Yazaki workers mainly youth from the closing down of the biggest employer in Samoa.	ILO Technical Cooperation	US40,000	June 2017- November 2017