

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**.

- 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.

20. Mindful of the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not disrupt the development progress which that country has achieved, we reaffirm the need for the smooth transition of small island developing States that have recently graduated, and emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated as a priority by each graduating country, which can, inter alia, mitigate the possible loss of concessionary financing and reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt.

At the 2018 triennial review of the CDP, 12 countries met the criteria for graduation from the LDC category, including 6 small island developing states, on the bases of per capita income and human asset index. They are now at various stages in the graduation process, which is a significant improvement as compared to before 2018 when only 5 countries had graduated. However, most of them remain highly vulnerable as indicated by high values of the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) for 9 of these countries,

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

including all small island- developing states. The CDP thus did not recommend Timor Leste for graduation and decided to consider a recommendation at the next review (E/2018/33).

Member states took note of these vulnerabilities and decided to defer the consideration of the graduation of Tuvalu and Kiribati to no later than 2021 (E/RES/2018/27). It was further decided that Sao Tome and Principe as well as Solomon Islands were provided with an additional preparatory period of three years before the start of the three -year preparatory period leading to graduation (A/73/L.40/Rev.1), leading to their graduation at the end of 2024.

OHRLLS has provided significant support to graduating countries. At the end of 2017 an Inter-agency task force on graduation was established, which advocates for more tailored support at the country level by development partners and for enhanced smooth transition measures for support to LDCs provided by the UN system and trading and development partners. A Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support (A/73/291) also elaborates on a package of incentives and support measures for graduating and graduated countries.

A Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop on Preparing for a Smooth Graduation from the LDC Category was co-organized by UN-OHRLLS, UN-ESCAP and UNDP on 22-23 November 2018 in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The two-day workshop provided support towards the preparation of smooth transition strategies to small island Pacific LDCs that have been identified for graduation out of the LDC category.

120. We request the Secretary-General to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat continues, pursuant to its support and advisory services mandate, its analysis and reporting on the situation of small island developing States, including in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, pursuant to its advocacy mandate, ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway and issues related to Small Island Developing States in the work of the United Nations System and enhance the coherence of the issues of those States in United Nations processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, and continue to mobilize international support and resources to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by small island developing States.

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

The implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is embedded in the Programme of Work for the SIDS Unit in OHRLLS. The overall programme of work supports the objectives set for each year, which are underpinned by concrete outputs, indicators and performance measures, including in Strategic

Frameworks and Programme Budget, work plans, etc.

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

- 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?
 - ii. What were the results? Please support with qualitative/quantitative evidence if possible/relevant
 - iii. Please elaborate on the critical factors that contributed to the intervention’s success and any key lessons learned?
- b. Where there any other key results/outputs achieved and describe its impacts, if any.

SIDS National Focal Points

In October 2018, in Apia, Samoa, OHRLLS convened the **inaugural meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points**, a mechanism established to facilitate the coherent implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the country, regional and international levels. pursuant to paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway. The establishment of the NFP network is in response to paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway, which mandated OHRLLS to ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway in the work of the UN system, and to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels. The SIDS NFP network will play a critical role in the delivery of this mandate of coherence, as they are the closest to implementation of the SAMOA Pathway “on the ground” and can speak directly to the effectiveness of the support provided by the development partners, including the UN system, and how it can be strengthened.

The inaugural meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points highlighted the important role that the National Focal Points can play in the localization of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, which was identified as a critical accelerator for the implementation of these agreements. The meeting spoke to the range of roles that could be undertaken by the National Focal Points including catalysing South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation; the validation of partnerships at the national level, and supporting the preparation of the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) for the high level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

The meeting also underscored the importance of capacity building and the role of the UN system, including OHRLLS, DESA, UNDP, as well as regional and other organisations in helping build this capacity, and providing regional and international platforms for coordination and implementation. The meeting stressed the need to establish and/or enhance ICT tools for the exchange of information and ideas with respect to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. The meeting also stressed

the need for the development of statistical capacities in SIDS, as well as a harmonized approach to monitoring and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway across SIDS, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda, focusing on what is relevant, feasible and possible.

In this context, the meeting noted that future meetings of the National Focal Points would decide a Terms of Reference for the mechanism. It also agreed that a work plan would be further developed for 2019, focusing on the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway and the preparation of a toolkit for harmonized monitoring and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS. The meeting also highlighted the need for predictable and adequate funding for full operationalisation of the network, including the convening of focal point meetings, the necessary capacity building and the proper functioning of the network as would be outlined in its Terms of Reference.

Inter-Agency Consultative Group

OHRLLS as the co-chair of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), continued to strengthen the mechanism to enhance coherence and effective coordination of the activities by the UN system to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Concrete steps taken include the adoption of the IACG terms of reference in 2017 and the establishment of a **work-programme for 2019**, which will contribute to further enhance coherence and effective coordination between United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders and to improve communication and consultation with Member States.

SIDS Global Business Network

To further advocacy SAMOA Pathway and SIDS issues at the global level, UN-OHRLLS established the SIDS-Global Network which consists of: (i) the SIDS-GBN forum, where SIDS can interact with global businesses and other stakeholders to leverage partnerships that support sustainable development in SIDS and (ii) the SIDS-GBN website which, provides a platform for global advocacy for SIDS partnerships.

The SIDS-GBN to support countries to identify partnership opportunities and strengthen efforts by all stakeholders; attract greater interest and investment in SIDS by the private sector and thereby increase the engagement and the role of the private sector in promoting sustainable development in SIDS in seven thematic areas: (i) Oceans and Marine Resources; (ii) Connectivity – ICTs and Transport; (iii) Sustainable Agriculture; (iv) Sustainable Tourism; (v) Disaster Risk Reduction; (vi) Renewable Energy; and (vii) Finance and other Support Measures for Sustainable Private Sector in SIDS.

An independent evaluation of the SIDS-GBN conducted in July 2018, reported that through the network interactions some 50 concrete partnerships were developed. SIDS-GBN facilitated an emergent approach to create shared value through “cross-sector partnerships”, based on the premise of shared responsibility where different stakeholders

can come together and commit to work towards common development goals was critical to the success of the Network.

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**).

Please see SG report A/73/345, *Assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the small island developing States units of the Secretariat*.

- 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)?

The workload of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States increased significantly since January 2015 owing to the additional mandates shaped by the outcomes of major United Nations conferences on small island developing States and General Assembly resolutions. Furthermore, since January 2015, the workload of the Office of the High Representative has increased substantially with the requirements to strengthen linkages between the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and that of other global frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and other key priority areas for small island developing States.

After growing in scope and complexity, the original mandate of the Office of the High Representative — which covers aspects of advocacy pertaining to awareness-raising and consensus-building on small island developing States issues, along with resource mobilization — has now been expanded to four additional permanent workstreams. Those additional workstreams include: mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and issues relating to small island developing States into the work of the United Nations system; enhancing the coherence of small island developing States issues in United Nations processes at the national, regional and global levels; building linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway; and partnerships.

Despite no subsequent increase in resources, the Small Island Developing States Unit continued to deliver on its original mandate, which encompasses advocacy pertaining to awareness-raising, consensus-building and resource mobilization, and initiated activities pertaining to additional mandates the Unit had been entrusted with, in particular mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and issues related to small island developing States into the work of the United Nations system;

enhancing the coherence of such issues in United Nations processes at the national, regional and global levels; and partnerships. While the Unit has taken some initial steps in implementing the above-mentioned additional responsibilities, significant gaps remain in covering the full extent of the expanded mandates.

For the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Office of the High Representative, the costs incurred by an increasing number of activities resulting from its original mandates and by initial steps taken to implement new and additional mandates have been predominantly financed from temporary provisions and extrabudgetary contributions. Without sufficient and sustainable resources, the Unit will not be able to fulfil all those mandates. Gaps persist with respect to mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and issues related to small island developing States into the work of the United Nations system, and enhancing the coherence of small island developing States issues at the national, regional and global levels. The mismatch between mandates and resources is also evident with regard to: (a) partnerships, especially in providing substantive backstopping services to the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States and in activities relating to forging partnerships for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway; and (b) building linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway, including through the substantive backstopping of the consultation processes of the Alliance of Small Island States, its participation in intergovernmental negotiations and its contribution to United Nations working groups and task forces that focused on the 2030 Agenda.

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

OHRLLS published a report titled “Climate and Post-Shock Concessional Finance in SIDS - Contributing to resilience of Small Island Developing States”. The focus of the publication is on access and use of climate finance and post-shock concessional finance, providing a synthesis of findings on the current state of affairs and offers recommendations to increase the access and use of climate finance and post-shock concessional finance for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

UN- OHRLLS and IOM also co-published a “Climate Change and Migration in Vulnerable Countries - A snapshot of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States”. The publication aims to contribute to a better understanding of the connections between climate change and migration in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. By shedding light on the current challenges vulnerable countries are faced with, it hopes to encourage policymakers and relevant stakeholders in reflecting on concrete measures to address the climate migration nexus in vulnerable countries.

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

OHRRLS continues to manage SIDS content under its agency wide website: <http://unohrlls.org/>

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.

In July 2018, OHRLLS commissioned an independent evaluation of its project “to support the SIDS-Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) and website”, which, was established as a follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway, that serves as a platform to provide an important bridge to enable closer private sector ties between the three SIDS regions, as well as with the international business community. The independent evaluation included an in-depth assessments of both results at outcome and impact levels, and of sustainability of the projects and its value added.

The conclusions from the evaluation emphasised that “the SIDS Global Business Network has added significant value to the UN partner agencies’ knowledge, awareness, and acknowledgement of the relevance of addressing the broad and emergent nature of concepts such as sustainable development, cross-sector partnerships, shared value, and collaborative capacities providing for rich, deep discussions and learning amongst members of the network.”

Furthermore, the evaluation made recommended for a second-phase of the project which should focus on enhancing coordination at the regional level and focus more on country and local levels to deliver partnerships for sustainable development projects. Recommendations of the evaluation are intended to inform improvements to the SIDS-GBN going forward, and to map out best practices to be shared between the three SIDS regions.

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

Pursuant to paragraph. 28 of General Assembly 72/117, which called upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to organise facilitate and provide necessary support to the review process at the national, regional and international levels, DESA and OHRLLS have established a joint programme of work for the preparatory processes leading up to the one-day high level review. In this connection, DESA and OHRLLS provided substantive and organisational support to the regional and interregional preparatory meetings for

the Review. Similarly, DESA and OHRLLS will facilitate and provide the necessary support for the Mid-Term Review itself. The two Offices have also adopted and implemented joint plans for resource mobilisation related to financing the preparatory processes for the Mid-Term Review of the Samoa Pathway, and for the Mid-Term Review itself.

The first meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points for 2019, will be held by May, with the purpose of, *inter alia*, preparing for the High-Level Review. The meeting will also discuss the preparation of a **toolkit for the harmonized approach for monitoring and reporting on the Samoa Pathway**.

As part of the SDG7 Technical Advisory work, the Office of the High Representative will prepare a **policy brief on SDG7 and small island developing States**. The policy brief will look into the achievement of SDG7 in SIDS and analyse the progress made in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. It will include success stories at the national, regional and global levels, and present actionable policy recommendations to accelerate energy transition in SIDS. The policy brief will be launched during the 2019 high level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of ECOSOC in July.

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

Thank you for completing the Survey!

ANNEX 1

1. Financing

For UN systems, to the extent possible, please refer to the Samoa Pathway: UN System Implementation Matrix in Column 4

Priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway	Investments/ Resources Mobilised (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period	UN system specify SAMOA Pathway Paragraph
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth				
Climate Change				
Sustainable Energy				
Disaster Risk Reduction				
Oceans and seas				
Food Security and Nutrition				
Water and Sanitation				
Sustainable Transportation				
Sustainable Consumption and Production				
Chemical and Waste management				
Health and NCDs				
Gender equality				
Social development				
Biodiversity				
Means of implementation: Institutional support for SIDS²	1,975,793.54		2018- 2019	Paragraph 120
Etc.				
Total				

² Resources mobilised together with DESA related to financing the preparatory processes for the Mid-Term Review of the Samoa Pathway, and the Mid-Term Review itself.