

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 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.

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 SAMOA Pathway specific SIDS programme areas, for the period January 2015 to December 2018 or most relevant period. Please provide your responses in the Table in **Annex 1, no1.**

The SAMOA Pathway does not have its own reporting framework, so New Zealand has recently mapped the Common Reporting Standard codes (used in reporting of Official Development Assistance to the OECD DAC) to the thematic areas of the SAMOA Pathway so that consistent reporting can be drawn from the centralised aid management system. As this system was rolled out in August 2017, the figures in Annex 1, no.1 may have some discrepancies against earlier SAMOA Pathway reporting.

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

- a. With reference to the SAMOA Pathway thematic areas listed in **Annex 1, No 1** (where relevant or possible), please indicate the percentage achievement at the national level. Regional institutions should report against ongoing or completed programmes. Please support your answers with quantitative evidence (progress indicators, delivery rate of programme/project funds, etc.) as appropriate. Indicators tied to existing National Development/Sustainable Development Plans may also be used where relevant/appropriate.

We interpret this question to be directed at SIDS. However, we would draw attention to the important work of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Community in supporting the Pacific region's comprehensive reporting mechanism for The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (launched by the Pacific Islands Forum in 2017). The Roadmap and its accompanying reporting framework was devised to report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, (as well as Agenda 2030, and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation) in a way that is meaningful to the region. The first quadrennial report was completed in 2018 and aggregates country-by-country progress against priority development goals. It also comments on the issues with the SIDS Action Platform and monitoring progress of the Partnerships registered on it.

- b. Are there any other indicators used by your government to assess progress on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway thematic areas? If the SDG goals and targets are used, please explain how current progress measures against these indicators/targets?

New Zealand uses a Strategic Results Framework spanning the entire New Zealand Aid programme, to monitor progress and track results across its programmes. The Framework includes selected SDG indicators that are of relevance to our Pacific partners (and chosen for the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, agreed by the Pacific Island Forum) to aggregate results across country programmes. Because the SAMOA Pathway does not have a discrete set of indicators or a monitoring framework, we use the SDGs. However, there is almost complete alignment between the SAMOA Pathway and the priority areas of the New Zealand Aid Programme as the majority of our aid goes to SIDS (Pacific countries) through a country programme on agreed priorities.

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

We measure progress at the country level, and have indicators and targets to measure progress across a four-year time frame.

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 country over the reporting period, please elaborate on a few of the most successful. Please refer to **Annex 1, No. 3 in responding**
- 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. Were there any other key results/outputs achieved and describe its impacts, if any.

New Zealand has committed to spending over 60% of our total aid programme budget in SIDS during this period. This covers a large array of activities that address particular areas of the SIDS agenda. We have not sought to list or describe all these activities here, however we do summarise some of the more significant initiatives being implemented over the 2017-2018 biennium:

- Sustained advocacy for SIDS voice, issues and responsiveness within the multilateral system

- including specific advocacy for increased SIDS financing for development;
- Financing of three seminal studies on SIDS financing issues and policy options by the World Bank, the UNDP and the OECD DAC.
 - Scaling up of New Zealand’s development assistance by one third for the period 2018-2022, focused on supporting sustainable development in Pacific SIDS
 - Delivery of a Paris Agreement linked commitment to climate financing of NZ\$200 million over 2016-2019, the majority of which will be delivered in SIDS;
 - Delivery of a major programme of renewable energy partnerships and projects in SIDS in the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Africa totalling NZ\$32.7 million
 - Commitment to deliver 20% of our official development assistance as Aid for Trade to Pacific SIDS
 - Support to an ongoing programme of public financial management reform and capacity building within Pacific SIDS
 - Towards Oceans and Seas, New Zealand conducted a maritime patrol of the Southern Ocean fishery to deter IUU and to ensure the licensed fishing fleet maintains high standards. In the Pacific, New Zealand supported the apprehension in Indonesia of a vessel known to have engaged in illegal fishing and worked alongside Fiji authorities to apprehend six vessels. We also supported five Pacific regional surveillance operations and patrols with assets and technical advice. We committed NZ\$4.9 million to a new project with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency to improve traceability along the supply chain.
 - New Zealand worked to build capability in the Pacific to monitor fishing so that States can sign the Port State Measures Agreement if they choose, while supporting countries who have already signed. We worked closely with Pacific countries to introduce a ‘stepping stone’ regional rule that will help build capacity and meet some of the aims of the global Agreement. We also made financial contributions to regional and national agencies to strengthen port controls and to develop a regional scheme to report and document fish catch. This will help exporters to show that their fish has been sustainably harvested. This work in fisheries complements our sustained support to Pacific nations in multilateral negotiations, building capacity to comply with agreements through bespoke regional solutions and national implementation.
 - Ongoing implementation of and an increased cap on the Recognised Seasonal Employer programme which provides labour market access to workers from Pacific SIDS.
 - Supporting improvements in maritime and air transport safety in SIDS by funding aerodrome charting and the design of Global Navigation Satellite System landing procedures for domestic and international airports in 38 aerodromes in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Investing NZ\$6 million towards improving maritime safety delivering safety initiatives in Tonga, Kiribati, the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu.
 - Investing in primary healthcare services and developing monitoring and surveillance systems to decrease premature mortality from non-communicable diseases in Pacific SIDS

Information on other key initiatives delivered in SIDS are referenced here: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-work-in-the-pacific/regional-initiatives/>

Finance

- Support to achieve long-term debt sustainability. New Zealand’s engagement is through both reform-linked budget support programmes in a range of Pacific countries, which involve significant policy dialogue, and technical assistance via the IMF’s Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre, which we

are a long-standing donor towards. We have also sought to stimulate regional discussion on the issue e.g. collaborating with Pacific island revenue practitioners on an article on debt sustainability in the December 2018 ADB's Pacific Economic Monitor.

- Activities to strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation. A major example is a decade-long public revenue strengthening activity in the Solomon Islands, which included significant technical assistance from New Zealand's Inland Revenue Department. This work will conclude in early 2019.
- Technical advisory support for Pacific islands to attract foreign direct investment through funding to Pacific Islands Trade and Invest.
- A range of initiatives to improve the business enabling environment in Pacific countries, including support to the IFC and ADB's Pacific Private Sector Development initiative. This work helps least developed countries in the Pacific attract foreign direct investment.
- Ongoing policy dialogue on economic governance issues through the Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting.

4. Addressing Gaps and Challenges:

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

Delivering development assistance with and in SIDS brings both opportunities and challenges. For some initiatives, the relatively small scale of SIDS can mean initiatives have a large and very measurable impact. For example, New Zealand's now longstanding policy of seasonal labour market access for up to 12,850 individuals each year. The scheme is a significant initiative for thousands of Pacific workers (over 85% come from Pacific countries) and many small Pacific economies. The scheme has resulted in expanded formal employment options and access for Pacific Island country citizens, realising a measurable increase in remittance flows, and contributing to a range of skills and follow on social and economic investment by returning workers in their home countries. This initiative has benefits both to New Zealand's horticultural industry and to Pacific countries and demonstrates the potential for well-designed policy (rather than aid) initiatives to have offset the inherent economic limitations experienced by SIDS.

All initiatives in SIDS must recognise that small states have small administrations and that multiple donors, projects and accountabilities remain significant burdens on governments that can easily limit their ability to focus on and lead the domestic development agenda. Core development effectiveness principles are as relevant as ever and it remains a critical responsibility for all development partners to seek to minimise these burdens. New Zealand has experienced very strong benefits from work to strengthen public administrative and finance systems in SIDS and we are using these strongly in Pacific countries where progress has been made. We have expanded our use of coordinated joint budget support and in some SIDS, local government delivery is now the primary delivery modality with gains in efficiency and local ownership.

Other important challenges/lessons learned include:

- The importance of bolstering and supporting local capacity to analyse, plan and lead development initiatives – an example has been in the climate change area where thin local capacity has meant it is difficult for SIDS to plan and design the most effective initiatives to submit for climate finance. One response to this challenge has been the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility which has allowed a coordinated approach to infrastructure in the region and has invested in technical capacity to develop country level Infrastructure Strategic Plans.
- Being flexible in our choice of modality to ensure that it allows for local ownership but does not overburden small administrations.
- The critical importance of investing for resilience in SIDS – for climate and disaster resilient infrastructure; for economic resilience; for local disaster preparedness;
- The need to work closely and early with SIDS around finance transition issues including transitions from least developed to middle income country status and to high income status. For SIDS, these changes of technical status often do not come with greater inherent ability to self-finance development or cope with economic or natural shocks.
- The absence of a reporting framework to translate the aims of the Pathway into measurable impacts presents a challenge for understanding progress and evaluating effectiveness. In the Pacific region, The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development developed and adopted by the Pacific Islands Forum has been a useful response to this gap. The Roadmap uses a subset of SDG indicators to report progress against multiple UN and other agendas, including Agenda 2030, the SAMOA Pathway, and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Periodic reports will be produced every four years, with the first quadrennial report completed in 2018. The regional approach to reporting shares the burden of reporting away from the small administrations of Pacific SIDS, making use of shared capacity and regional organisations. Greater recognition and use of these reports by multilateral institutions mandated with reporting against these Frameworks should make greater use of regional reporting arrangement such as this.

5. Outreach/Publications

- a. Please include a link to the annual progress reports prepared on development/sustainable development. If present, please identify the sections relevant to SIDS/SAMOA Pathway implementation. Please also add any other relevant publication issued by your government that covers SIDS issues.

MFAT Annual Report 2017 – 2018, includes a case study of recent SIDS efforts:
<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/mfat-annual-report-2017-2018/case-study-supporting-small-island-developing-states/>

As President of the UN Security Council in July 2015, New Zealand brought the peace and security challenges facing small island developing states into the spotlight of the Council for the first time:
<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/work-with-the-un-and-other->

[partners/new-zealand-and-the-united-nations-security-council/case-study/](#) We published the summary of this debate on SIDS here: [Peace and security challenges facing small island developing states](#)

Advocacy for SIDS is included in our 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, in the multilateral engagement section: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid-Prog-docs/New-Zealand-Aid-Programme-Strategic-Plan-2015-19.pdf>

The Strategic Plan operationalised the International Development Policy Statement which also refers to our focus on SIDS: [International Development Policy Statement 2011](#) (this is currently being updated)

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 government 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 elaborate.

New Zealand is in a somewhat unique position in that the great majority of our development assistance is provided either directly to SIDS or is informed by SIDS and Pacific issues (e.g. our multilateral engagement). This means that our programme, our expenditure, and our international advocacy are all inherently strongly aligned with the themes of SAMOA Pathway. We do not plan a specific review of our SIDS programmes prior to the Mid-Term Review. We do have a rolling programme of Strategic Evaluations and Research which assess our progress and impact at country and thematic level.

For example, in 2018 we evaluated the following SIDS based programmes:

- Cook Islands sector support
- Fiji country programme
- Regional fisheries management programme
- Latin America and Caribbean regional programme
- Fisheries training initiative

[Evaluations available here: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/evaluation-and-research/evaluation-reports-2018/](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/evaluation-and-research/evaluation-reports-2018/)

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

Support (including financial) to Belize as AOSIS Chair, support to Pacific Islands Forum coordinator (Nauru) in New York, and participating in the Pacific Islands Forum working group on International Advocacy and Engagement.

ANNEX 1

1. Financing for 2015 – 2018 Calendar years

Priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway Funding to SIDs and Pacific Regional programme	Investments (USD)	Budget Allocation (% of total aid budget for period)
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	ICT \$11,521,681.91 Aid for Trade \$233,194,862 Education and Scholarships \$193,949,721 Total: \$427,144,584	ICT 0.7% Aid for trade 26.9% Educations and Scholarships 12.2% Total 16.2%
Climate Change	\$258,172,262	16.2%
Sustainable Energy	\$34,432,636	2.2%
Disaster Risk Reduction	Disaster Risk Reduction \$58,399,947 Humanitarian and Emergency response \$46,092,376 Total \$100,813,019	Disaster Risk Reduction 3.7% Humanitarian and Emergency Response 2.9% Total 6.3%
Oceans and seas (Fisheries)	\$52,218,939	3.3%
Food Security and Nutrition (Agriculture)	\$42,532,926	2.7%

Water and Sanitation	\$27,104,070	1.7%
Sustainable Transportation	\$32,645,672	2.1%
Sustainable Consumption and Production	N/A	N/A
Chemical and Waste management	\$6,832,959.32	0.4%
Health and NCDs	\$48,223,629	3.0%
Gender equality	\$472,133,005	29.7%
Social development	Culture and sport \$ 6,229,035 Peace and safety \$136,544,824 Total \$142,773,859	Culture and Sport 0.4% Peace and safety 8.6% Total 9.0%
Biodiversity	\$68,783,860	4.3%
Means of implementation	Budget/Sector support \$74,138,111 Governance \$322,334,658 Total \$379,740,268	Budget/Sector support 4.7% Governance 20.3% Total 23.9%
Etc.		
Total*	\$902,340,504	56.8%

*Priorities may be tagged to more than one priority/sub-priority, so totals are not the sum of the priority area expenditure, they are a non-overlapping total of the priority areas.