

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 SAMOMA 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.**

- 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.
 - 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?
 - c. If no specific indicators/targets are used, please indicate how your country 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**).
 - 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.

Italy has confirmed among the priority sectors of intervention and cross-cutting issues of its development and environmental cooperation some of the main challenges which the SIDS are facing: protection of the environment and promotion of biodiversity; adaptation and mitigation to climate change; renewable energies; food security. Italy – currently co-Chairing the Global Island Partnership and funding its Secretariat - is also promoting a “Fragile Ecosystem Alliance” between islands and mountains, both representing the most exposed areas in which fragile ecosystems overlap fragile societies. Consistent funding is being allocated.

The **regional program in the Caribbean SIDS** launched in 2015 in the field of **disaster risks management and rural development** is being pursued. The project will build on results of previous experiences, to assist institutions dealing with disaster risk management in better responding to new and evolving needs of farming communities. The specific aims of the initiative are: promoting bidirectional information flows of agrometeorological data, while gathering information required for Disaster Risk Reduction activities; enhancing agricultural productivity in the Caribbean through adequate information for effective pests and diseases management; mobilizing local volunteering groups in order to ensure adequate circulation of information on disaster risks management.

The Samoa Pathway acknowledges that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation. In this light, Italy has financed a **pilot project**, proposed by the World Bank, whose aim was to **improve the public private dialogue to strengthen the agro-tourism clusters and value chains** in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (**OECS**). The main purpose of the project was the development of a framework for strengthening and implementing an OECS sector-specific PPD in a pilot agro-tourism cluster or value-chain; the Italian funds will also contribute to the organization of the **Fourth Regional Caribbean Growth Forum Workshop**, a multi-stakeholder platform designed to facilitate the identification, and support the implementation, of a set of reforms aimed at improving growth prospects in the Caribbean.

At the same time, Italy is continuing to be on the forefront of the **response to emergencies** hitting both the Pacific and the Caribbean SIDS.

Recently we assisted Fiji islands, which were facing the destruction caused by Cyclone Winston and contributed to the 2016 UNICEF regional plan to respond to the effects of “El Nino” in the Pacific region, with specific reference to the basic needs of children.

In the framework of Italy’s yearly contribution to the World Bank “Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction”, funds are allocated to projects aimed at ensuring, for example, the managing of floods risks and the safety of schools in several SIDS.

Italy has promoted the **extension of the scope of the activities** to be financed under the terms of the MoU governing the **Pacific SIDS/Italy, Austria Luxembourg, Spain Partnership on environmental programme**, launched in 2007, in order to include the adaptation to climate change, as one of the most challenging priorities in PSIDS (*paragraph 31-46*), so as to make the Partnership fully instrumental to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. As a result, in the framework of the environmental Partnership a new “Climate change adaptation programme” has been launched, aiming at: 1) supporting Disaster Risk

Reduction efforts of the Pacific SIDS, as a means to decrease their vulnerability to the impact of severe weather occurrences; 2) supporting the protection and conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, as a means to increase resilience of the Pacific SIDS to the negative impact of anthropogenic activities.

In the context of the above-mentioned Partnership, the Italian development cooperation allocated in 2015 and 2016 **new grants**, globally worth 1.3 Mln euros, to the “Managing Ecosystem & Livelihood implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Islands States” programme, through IUCN, with the aim to carry out new projects in the **renewable energy sector**, which is a traditional field of action of the Italian cooperation with PSIDS. The approach we have chosen is country-specific, in order to create a flexible programme that offers concrete, targeted responses to the problem of energy dependence.

Following the example set by this long-lasting Pacific partnership, a **new partnership** on climate change and renewable energy was launched with **CARICOM member States**. In the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding, which has already been signed by eleven Caribbean countries, Italy has committed 12 million euros for the activities which will be carried out in 2015-2018.

Furthermore, we are developing with the World Bank a **new scheme** aimed at financing sustainable development projects in eligible CARICOM member states through Italian **concessional loans** globally worth 30 million euros.

The Italian commitment towards SIDS includes also bilateral Memoranda of Understanding with Cuba, Maldives, and Comoros. In particular, with Cuba, since 2017, Italy is actively working on two main projects with strong adaptation components, namely: coastal management and early warning system, for a total value of almost 2 Mln euros. With the Comoros, since 2015, Italy has committed 1,5 Million euros, for a project on waste management. Finally, with Maldives, since 2015, Italy is working on several projects, mainly addressed to: water desalinization, enhancing weather and climate monitoring and data management capacity for reducing vulnerabilities of climate change, and enhancing of renewable energies, for a total value of more than 4 Mln euros.

Finally, we contributed substantially to the new FAO programme “Assisting Small Islands Developing States to integrate the agricultural sectors into Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change”.

In 2015, Italy organized and financed the SIDS Forum at EXPO (483.000 USD), where, in partnership with FAO, organized also a “SIDS Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States”. In that occasion, Italy announced USD 2.0 Million dollars as voluntary contribution to the recently launched FAO’s Climate Change Trust Fund for Small Islands Developing States.

In 2018, Italy financed with 488.000 \$ the UNDESA project denominated “Strengthening the Capacity of SIDS in monitoring and developing durable partnerships. As part of the capacity building project “Strengthening the capacity of Small Island Developing States in monitoring and developing durable partnerships”, three regional and one inter-regional multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues have been organized in 2018 as part of the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review preparatory process, in Mauritius, Tonga, Belize, and Samoa.

Italy, building on its national expertise and on its long-standing international cooperation activity, is

particularly willing to be at the forefront within the international community in the efforts to achieve SDG 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), with special focus on Target 5: “by 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law, based upon best available scientific information” (“10x20 target”). A “10 by 20 Initiative” was launched in New York with the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance.

On March 2016, we financed and hosted in Rome, in cooperation with the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance and UNEP, a Scientific Conference, open to the participation of international experts and SIDS representatives. The Conference succeeded in finding a scientifically-based consensus on the characteristics, governance and sustainable financing of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which could help member states in their efforts to achieve the “10 by 20” target. Thanks also to the active involvement of SIDS’s representatives, the Conference adopted a “Rome Call to Action”, which urges the international community to integrate MPAs in relevant national development strategies, with governance frameworks able to ensure their viability.

In 2016 the Italian Cooperation will finance, through UNEP, a new cooperation programme aimed at following up on the “10 by 20 Initiative” and on the Rome conference on marine protected areas.

Capacity building is provided to SIDS by Italy also in the statistic sector, bilaterally or through International Organizations, to help them monitor the implementation of the 2030 agenda.

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)?

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.

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.
Italy, as co-chair of the PSIDS Partnership **Pacific SIDS/Italy**, Austria Luxembourg, Spain **Partnership on environmental programme** is considering to organize a review of the work which has been done so far in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.
- b. Please elaborate on any other activities being undertaken in preparation for the High-Level Review in 2019 if any.

In 2018, Italy financed with 488.000 \$ the UNDESA project denominated “Strengthening the Capacity of SIDS in monitoring and developing durable partnerships. As part of the capacity building project “Strengthening the capacity of Small Island Developing States in monitoring and developing durable partnerships”, three regional and one inter-regional multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues have been organized in 2018 as part of the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review preparatory process, in Mauritius, Tonga, Belize, and Samoa.

ANNEX 1

1. Financing

Priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway	Investments (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period	(Optional) specify SAMOA Pathway Paragraph
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth				
Climate Change	800,000		2016	
Sustainable Energy				
Disaster Risk Reduction				
Oceans and seas	1,500,000		2016	
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	1,100,000		2017	
Means of implementation	800,000		2017	
Etc.				
Total				