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?

Response to B and C above

Sustainable development is realised when there is an effective implementation of a visionary and proactive development agenda based on an integrated development of the three pillars of development; economic, social, and environmental. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), SVG has adopted this approach and is working towards attaining sustainable development that includes growth, inclusive and equitable development, and the effective management of the environment.

d. Accordingly in the absence of specific indicator/targets to measure progress on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway thematic areas and the SDG goals we stand guided by the overaching policy framework of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

e. The National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013 - 2025) provides an integrated approach towards attaining development from all its dimensions - i.e economic, social, environmental, political, cultural, and institutional - while formulating a multi-sectoral policy agenda to facilitate and guide the optimal improvement of the quality of life for all Vincentians. The Plan takes into consideration several conventions/declarations to which the country is party including, inter alia, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the OECS Development Charter, and the Mauritius Strategy on Sustainable Development.

Additionally, the following are several medium to long range policy documents geared towards sustainable development that are deemed important to the small island developing state of SVG:

1. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Approach
2. National Ocean Policy
3. The Poverty Reduction Paper
4. The Rural Transformation Plan
5. The Education Sector Plan
6. The Health Sector Plan
7. The Physical Development Plan
8. The National Emergency Policy
9. Medium-term Economic Strategy Papers (MTESPs)
10. The Tourism Master Plan 2010-2020
11. National Environment Strategy
12. Integrated Forestry Management Plan
13. National Parks, Beaches and Rivers Systems Plan
14. Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for the Agriculture Development 2010-2020

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 is this considered a success

   Argyle International Airport

   The Argyle International Airport is the most successful project implemented by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the review period 2015-2018. At a cost of US$259M or EC$700M, this project is the largest capital initiative in the history of the country.
   To this end, grant funds and in-kind contributions were secured from a diverse group of friendly countries. The importance of these generous contributions cannot be fully underscored; they came amidst the devastating global economic and financial crisis of 2008 and increasingly frequent and intense climate events that curtailed the fiscal space of many nations, including St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

   The success of this project comes on the backdrop of SVG, prior to 2017, lagging behind the overwhelming majority of Caribbean islands where air transport infrastructure is concerned. As recently as February 13, 2017, citizens and visitors were still using the cramped and limiting E.T. Joshua Airport and unable to access direct connections to major international destinations. This restricted, *inter alia*:

   (1) the development of the tourism industry;
   (2) international trade;
   (3) inflows of foreign direct investments;
   (4) economic competitiveness;
   (5) integration of the economy with those of the OECS, CARICOM, the wider Caribbean, Latin America and Europe; and
   (6) Ultimately the growth and development potential of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Opened on 14th February 2017, the Argyle International Airport (AIA) boasts a 9000 ft. long runway and an expansive apron area, which facilitates aircraft ranging from twin otters to large commercial jets such as the Boeing 747. This facility can accommodate as much as 1.2 million travellers per year with a cargo terminal for imports and exports. Further, AIA is equipped with modernized landing and

navigational aids such as VOR and NDB, along with a fully lit runway, taxiways and apron for night operations. Its Terminal Building (International and Domestic) can accommodate 1,000 passengers per hour for arrival or departure is equipped with two (2) state of the art glass jet bridges for international travel and docking of large commercial aircraf.

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

Though still in its infant stage, this world-class multi-million-dollar facility has delivered benefits from day one of its operation. On the opening day, February 14th 2017, St. Vincent and the Grenadines witnessed for the first time in its history international flights from Toronto, Canada and New York, United States of America. At present, there are weekly year-round flights from Miami on American Airlines, New York on Caribbean Airlines and Toronto on Air Canada. Some of the more specific benefits from this AIA project, thus far, are:

(1) During 2017, arrivals from the two destinations with international connections, Canada and USA, grew by 8.5 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively. This growth was strengthened in 2018, with the Canada and USA markets expanding by 12.2 percent and 13.2 percent, respectively over the period January-October.

(2) There has been a historic shift in cargo transportation. In May 2017, American Cargo Airline, Amerijet International, upgraded its operations to St. Vincent and the Grenadines with a 767 Boeing aircraft possessing a capacity of 110,000 pounds of cargo, from a 727 aircraft with a capacity of 55,000 pounds.

(3) Following the improvements in cargo transportation, there was an increase in the export of agriculture produce and more noticeably, fish, to new markets including North America. Earnings from the export of fish increased/grew from EC$1.76M in 2016 to EC$3.9M in 2017 and to EC$10.31M in 2018.

(4) Following the devastating passage of category 5 Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean in September 2017, AIA easily accommodated large aircrafts from the British Military, which took emergency supplies to the affected islands.

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

One of the most critical factors to the successful implementation of the AIA project was the adoption of a corporate governance approach in a public sector setting. A corporate entity – the International Airport Development Company Limited (IADC) - was established to manage the construction of the airport . . In addition to all the X-efficiency gains associated with a corporate governance model, the establishment of the IADC allowed for a dedicated and focussed approach towards the project implementation and a fast track to decision-making.

Another key factor to the successful implementation is that the project embraced the tenets of a smart facility which encompasses the effective and efficient use of energy and water resources. AIA electrical fixtures, including air-condition and lighting systems, are designed to generated maximum energy-efficiency. The ground handling equipment are electricity instead of diesel-powered, and the roof of the building is properly insulated to reduce heat transfer. Further, the facility incorporates a solar photovoltaic farm with a capacity of 520kWh and a solar charging station to provide energy to electric vehicles. In addition, the washrooms are equipped with automatic water taps which allow for the sustainable use of water resources.

The construction of the AIA incorporated extensive social and environmental analyses, the building codes of the country and as such, utilized building materials and designs that can better withstand the vagaries of the environment, climate events and the corrosive nature of the seascape. These initiatives are consistent with the mandates of the Sustainable Development Goals and SAMOA Pathway.

Sustainable energy

In keeping with paragraph 50 (a) of the SAMOA Pathway to develop a strategy and targeted measures to promote energy efficiency and foster sustainable energy systems in renewable energy sources, the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has made progress with investments related to solar, hydroelectric and geothermal energy.

Dependence on imported fossil fuels (SAMOA Pathway para 47) continues to be a major source of economic vulnerability and a key challenge for small island developing states. Cognizant of this the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues its quest towards investing in renewable energy and supporting cleaner energy solutions, as well as reducing greenhouse gases.
Committed to achieving Objective 4.9 of the NESDP 2013-2025 (to reduce the dependence on imported fuel), the government, through the implementation of various projects, continued to pursue initiatives to achieve this objective.

One of the main investments in renewable energy is the development of a 10- 15 MW geothermal plant. During the review period, work continued on the US$90.1m Geothermal Development Project with the completion of the civil works contract. The contract included the construction of the production drill well pad and the reinjection drill well pad. Other works included the completion of a cofferdam for water intake facilitation and the installation of pipes for the required process water. The drilling phase is the next major highlight of this project and is expected to commence in the second quarter of 2019.

Another initiative geared at reducing greenhouse gases and supporting cleaner energy solutions was the US$1.7m Promoting Access to Clean Energy Solutions (PACES) project. During the period under review, this project successfully implemented the following:

- Installation and commissioning of a 160kWh solar PV system at the Argyle International Airport with a total capacity of 520kWh. The remaining 260kWh was financed by VINLEC.
- Installation of a bio-digester at the Belle Isle Correctional Facility to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions and foster a cleaner environment. This initiative is expected to result in a decrease in the monthly gas bill.

Other notable investments included:

- The $2.3m Mayreau Micro-grid project which commenced works to install a 150 kWh Solar PV system with 200 kWh battery storage.
- Under the Energy Efficiency Solar PV Plant Project, energy audits were conducted on 20 government buildings with the view to implement energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies.

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**).

SVG has experienced several challenges in implementing SAMOA Pathway. Gaps and challenges to implementation relate to the absence of strategies and actions that are necessary for the achievement of the objectives outlined. The following are challenges to implementation of the SAMOA Pathway:

- Financial constraints;
- Inadequate legislative enforcement;
- Absence or inefficiency of data collection systems;
- An absence of a systematic approach to implementation;
- Insufficient documentation and monitoring and evaluation.

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)?

To implement the SAMOA Pathway there is a need to develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for the NESDP. During 2019 efforts will be strengthened to update and align the NESDP with the Sustainable Development Goals and other SID development agenda including the SAMOA Pathway.

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.

No specific link to annual progress reports prepared on development/sustainable development .

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. What is the answer?

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

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is inscribed on the list of Countries to present its first Voluntary National Report on the SDGs at the HLPF in 2020. In addition, the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013-2025) will be aligned with the SDGs, SAMOA Pathway and other agreements relevant to SIDs.

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

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	1,060,095			39;44a,c; 63a,d; 64;96;97;98; 99.
Sustainable Energy		239,100 2,300,000 12,539,100 10,750,000	2015 2016 2017 2018	47 & 50 (a)
Disaster Risk Reduction				
Oceans and seas				
Food Security and Nutrition	84,403,480	20,320,130 26,689,100 20,065,730 19,328,520	2015 2016 2017 2018	59,60,61,62, 63,76
Water and Sanitation				
Sustainable Transportation				
Sustainable Consumption and Production				59,60,61,62, 63,76
Chemical and Waste management				70;71a,b;
Health and NCDs	54,134,744	25,984,910 11,355,327 5,424,107 11,370,400	2015 2016 2017 2018	72,73,74, 75,76
Gender equality	1,784,243	382,483 319,666 356,487 725,247	2015 2016 2017 2018	76,77
Social development		9,293,020 10,760,070	2015 2016	78,79,80,81, 82,83,84,85, 86,87,88

		5,552,030 12,287,610	2017 2018	
Biodiversity	$200,000 USD			89;90
Means of implementation				