

# **COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE** **by the Government of Curaçao**

## **Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS**

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new, updated or on the *most critical/noteworthy* information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will also not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> under reports.

### **1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway<sup>1</sup>**

Does your entity/organization/Government have a SIDS Strategy? If not, are there any plans to establish one, including with the appropriate resources for implementation. (**1000 words**)

*Curaçao has furthermore conducted a Rapid Integrated Assessment of the island's planning framework and a MAPS mission together with the UNDP to assess the alignment of Curaçao's development plans with the SDG targets. 69% of the SDG targets were aligned with national targets. From this mission a roadmap was elaborated and 5 priority areas have been identified with their positive drivers and priority interventions that have a multiplier effect on the SDG implementation.*

#### ***Water management:***

*With respect to water management the Government of Curaçao has installed a commission for integrated water resource management tasked with the development of a water management policy. The commission has completed a baseline study based on the indicators of SDG 6, elaborated an integrated water management policy and is currently having stakeholders consultations with respect to the proposed policy interventions. The priorities identified in the SAMOA pathway for water-use efficiency, capacity building, and wastewater treatment all are part of the proposed interventions.*

#### ***Ocean management***

*Regarding Ocean management, the Government of Curaçao has established the programme, Blue Halo Curaçao, which is a partnership between the Government of Curaçao and the Waitt*

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<sup>1</sup> This question seeks to examine the extent to which each respondent mainstreamed SIDS and the Samoa Pathway into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, national development plans etc, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national levels in SIDS.

*Institute (through an MOU) to develop and implement solutions for sustainable ocean management. The Blue Halo Curaçao is a comprehensive ocean and coastal management project that focuses to create policy in a 5 year period on marine spatial planning, sanctuary zones, and fisheries regulations. The policy is based on scientific, social, and economic data, and engages stakeholders and the people of Curaçao. The Blue-Ribbon Committee was also established in order to implement all the above mentioned actions. The Blue Halo Programme mainly focuses on the ecological part of this policy domain. Transport aspects (shipping) will be addressed at a later stage of the programme.*

*Furthermore, the Government of Curaçao drafted a Steering note in preparation for the UN high level conference on SDG 14 in 2017. The Government of Curaçao made a commitment, while participating at this conference to develop a sustainable ocean policy within 5 years, in collaboration with the WIATT Institute (Inclusive and Participative Ocean Policy), and to reserve funds to develop Curaçao as the regional leader in marine science and innovation in collaboration with CARMABI and Curaçao Marine Research Center.*

### ***Sustainable energy***

*One of the most important aspects of the Economic Recovery plan which aligns perfectly with one of the Sustainable Development Goals, is the implementation of the National Energy Policy. This policy was developed in February 2018 and will be the blueprint to give guidance on how Curaçao will handle energy management and production. One of the goals of this policy is to have a more independent energy production that does not have to entirely rely on petroleum production. The National Energy Policy has 3 focus areas: 1. Increase the production of renewable energy by 50% by 2035; 2. Reduce the national energy consumption; 3. Facilitate and establish institutions, rules and instruments to help the energy sector. Solar energy and blue energy from the oceans are definitely areas on which Curaçao will be focusing. A pilot project on solar energy was also launched in 2018, and solar panels were installed in five schools.*

*The Omega Engineering Curaçao (OWAC) and Zakito District Cooling Consortium (ZDCC) are also offering innovative and convenient cooling technology that can reduce energy costs through Sea Water Air Conditioning and Ocean Water Assisted Cooling. Many hotels and other big Cuban companies are already interested in using this type of technology. These new technologies have great economic growth potential for the island. That is why the Government of Curaçao has created a platform that will develop many other economic opportunities around this cooling technology. The Government wants to develop this new sustainable pillar to have a more diverse economy, since after the residual water will be used to develop other economic opportunities like shrimp hatchery.*

### ***Inclusive sustainable economic growth***

*Curaçao is at a crossroads. Two of the three economic pillars sustaining the economy – oil refining and financial services – are in simultaneous decline. Consequently, economic performance has stagnated, and per capita incomes are falling, while up and coming sectors such as professional services and tourism, meanwhile, have struggled to compensate. It is safe to say that Curaçao is currently facing different challenges in this area, and prioritization is even more important now, in our small island state, where institutional capacity is limited.*

*To counteract the less positive factors affecting the local economy, the Government of Curaçao is implementing a growth strategic plan. This plan focuses on direct and quick developments on different economic areas. Some of them are:*

*Tourism, Information Technology, entrepreneurship, micro-, small- and medium businesses, cooperatives, export development and implementation of the energy management policy, just to mention a few.*

### ***Improved education system***

*To improve the educational system, the Government of Curaçao is strengthening its early childhood participation through the inspection and endorsement of pre-schools for complying with the criteria provided by the Inspectorate of Education. The Government is also revising its current law on early childhood education and working with the preschools to train the teachers in a specific method to deliver education.*

*Other educational reform currently in progress is the design of the education agenda. A policy has already been written for distant education and the Government has also revised the education curriculum. In light of the current COVID-19 crisis a post-COVID analysis will be conducted to gather input for further educational reforms, based on the urgent needs due to the crisis.*

*For the primary, secondary and higher education the Government of Curaçao is currently working on a policy and law for higher education and the revision the final terms and curriculum of secondary vocational education. For the primary schools the Government has identified and approved core educational goals and is developing formative assessments in order to assess the level of students during the course of their educational career. The Government of Curaçao is also conducting a revision of the education funding framework, to improve this mechanism to better serve the educational goals.*

## **2. Financial Arrangements**

Please give an indication of the budget allocated to SIDS SAMOA Pathway programme areas in your Government/organization/entity, if applicable, for the period Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2020 or the fiscal cycle that best fits this period. If the priority areas cannot squarely fit this chart, please report as closely as you can.

<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Investment (USD)</b>	<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>FY/ Cycle/ Period</b>
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth			
Climate Change	<b>8.000</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Jan 2020- Dec 2020</b>
Sustainable Energy			
Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>110.000</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Jan 2020- Dec 2020</b>
Oceans and seas	<b>+/-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2020 -2021</b>
Food Security and Nutrition			
Water and Sanitation	<b>165.000</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Jan 2020- Dec 2020</b>
Sustainable Transportation	<b>1.650.000</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Jan 2020- Dec 2020</b>
Sustainable Consumption and Production	<b>The same as Waste Management</b>		
Chemical and Waste management	<b>20.000</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>2020</b>
Health and NCDs	<b>-</b>	<b>Budget neutral</b>	<b>2020 -2021</b>
Gender equality			
Social development			
Invasive Alien Species			
Biodiversity	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Means of implementation			
Etc.			
<b>Total</b>			

### **3. Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Support to SIDS over the remaining life of the SAMOA Pathway**

Based on the call for action and other priority areas contained in on A/Res/73/4, please

provide an indication of your entity's/organization's/Government's proposed focus in the remaining life of the SAMOA Pathway. What outcomes are you seeking to achieve? (1500 words)

*The ultimate goal of sustainable development is securing a better quality of life for all, both now and for future generations, by pursuing responsible economic growth, equitable social progress, and effective environmental protection. The island, although small in size, operates among others as an international harbor, with a free zone, a dry dock, an oil refinery, and an international airport. Its aim for the future is dynamic growth on a sustainable basis, resulting in a balance between the economic, social and ecological dimension. As a small island and a developing state in the Caribbean, the island faces specific challenges and needs to take several risks into account with respect to vulnerability when planning for sustainable development. The Government of Curaçao has developed several strategic plans to guide Curaçao toward a long term sustainable development. In 2013 it launched the Long Term Economic Development Strategy for Curaçao which functions to this date as the compass which will take us to a better Curaçao on the economical level, while not compromising our environment and empowering our people. In 2016 the Government adopted another important high-level strategic plan, the National Development Plan (NDP), which was based on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015. The NDP of Curaçao focuses on 4 of the 17 goals, while giving the space to broaden the scope in the course of the implementation of the NDP. The 4 Goals of the NDP are 4, 7, 8 and 14. This National Development Plan is based on a long-term vision of change for Curaçao in five interlocked themes – Education, Economy, Sustainability, National Identity and Good Governance – all working together to build a thriving nation.*

*The NDP incorporates a long-term vision, it is a plan focused on the execution of those catalytic short-term initiatives, which will put Curaçao on the path towards resiliency and attainment of its long-term vision. Integration with four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides a framework of measurable goals and targets at a critical time of global development, rooted in local challenges.*

*Based on the NDP and other national policy plans the Government of Curaçao developed together with the UNDP a Roadmap to achieve the SDGs. This Roadmap also covers many if not all of the priorities defined in the SAMOA pathway. The Main focus for the Government of Curaçao in the remaining life of the SAMOA Pathway and the conclusion period for the SDGs are:*

- *Agriculture, Sustainable Ocean Policy, Proper Solid and Chemical Waste Management, Enforcement and Health Indicators.*
- *Sustainable Transportation, the realization of integrated water resource management, and increase the awareness of the impact of climate change and the development and*

*implementation of a climate mitigation and adaptation policy.*

- *Improved education system by strengthened early childhood participation, educational reform, and strengthen primary, secondary and higher education*
- *Inclusive sustainable economic growth through strengthened institutional setting, broadening ownership of economic process, supporting employment, generating sectoral growth, implementing cross-cutting measures to support investments, and energy and renewable energy*
- *Poverty reduction through improved urban infrastructure, adapt laws and institutional framework, improved education system, decent jobs for all, and welfare and care*
- *Youth empowerment through decent employment opportunities, good health and wellbeing, home and living environment, sense of safety, and quality education and care.*

*The country does however still need to yield certain steps with regards to establishing a consistent/integrated approach to address the priority areas within the Samoa pathway. Accordingly, there is a need to:*

- 1) Establish a consistent and coordinated involvement of stakeholders from civil society, business organizations and the Government;*
- 2) Create and disseminate mechanisms, programs and projects to create a Sustainable Mindset within the community;*
- 3) Formulate and implement a Plan of Action for the critical and urgent priority areas.*

**What specific actions, if any will your entity/organization/Government take to address any of the gaps and challenges identified in the political outcome (paras 15 ~29), section on “Call for Action” in the document A/RES/74/3<sup>2</sup>? (1500 words)**

*When it comes to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions our ministry of social development is building on a program that aims at fostering social resilience and eradicate poverty by increasing the amount of physical, social, psychological, spiritual and cultural resources within the community. This program is based on a social ecological model of resilience where resources in all sense of the word are being enhanced based on supporting research.*

*The Government of Curaçao puts a high level of priority on promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as a means to accelerate growth and promote economic diversification, as well as creating jobs and income earning opportunities for its citizens.*

*In order to promote entrepreneurship and SMEs, the policy follows seven principles: improve*

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<sup>2</sup> The document can be accessed at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/3>

*the business environment, design rules according to a “think-small first approach”, make public administration responsive to SME needs, facilitate SME participation in public procurement, facilitate SME access to finance, promote skills, and support SME internationalisation. To coordinate the provision of business support services, the establishment of a Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) was recommended. The policy also explicitly called for an export strategy. SMEs are also being supported via an organizational and online platform ([www.MiNegosh.org/My Business](http://www.MiNegosh.org/My Business)) with various tools and instruments including but not limited to: access to funding, support and guidance on business development (business plans), administrative and tax guidance/support, training and capacity building and also on technology. “Mi Negoshi” is currently fulfilling the role of the SBDC.*

*Technology is the driver of the future economic development and growth for Curaçao. That has been ratified in a Strategic Trade Development Roadmap in light of a National Export Strategy which is being developed with the support of International Trade Centre. Curaçao is positioning itself as a testbed for new technologies (e.g. green, blue and smart technologies), and is working towards building an innovation sector supported by students and start-ups.*

*Curaçao is one of the founders of the UN Local 2030 Island Network. The Local2030 Islands Network brings together a diverse set of island nations, states, and communities from all regions of the world - islands tied together by their shared island experience, cultures, strengths and challenges. The Network aims to promote island solutions and leadership based on shared island experiences and perspectives.*

*To support the national institutional capacities Curaçao has developed the Eu-desk. The overall objective of the EU Desk Curaçao is to create awareness about the existence of the Union, non-EDF or Horizontal programs, assist to increase the participation of Curaçao in the Union programs or non-EDF programs for which Curaçao is eligible and so to make more effective use of the available EU funding. This EU desk is focusing in particular on the provisions of Article 77 in the OAD that the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) are eligible for Union programs and instruments provided for in the general budget of the European Union. The Government through its responsible division is also assessing other sources of funding besides the EU.*

*The Government through the Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten has also engaged into an inclusive finance trajectory to ensure everybody has access to the financial infrastructure in Curaçao.*

*Curaçao has just recently been promoted to the status of accession member of the WTO. Additionally, Curaçao is completing its National Export Strategy (NES) and consequently has*

*finished a National Export Strategy Trade Development Roadmap which will be ratified shortly by the Council of Ministers and serve as the first concrete output of the NES including priority sectors and an implementation structure.*

*To broaden participation further the National SDG Commission has already organized two Round Table Sessions on two (People and Planet) of the three (People, Planet and Prosperity) main sub commissions established according to institutional coordinating mechanism for SDG implementation in Curaçao (according to the SDG Roadmap). These sessions include Government representatives but also representatives from the private sector, academia, civil society and youth groups. The Government of Curaçao has also established a National Dialogue platform and the Social Economic Council to develop partnership with its stakeholders. The National Dialogue has a tripartite character and consists of representatives of Government, employee, and employer organizations and is chaired by the Prime Minister of Curaçao. This platform discusses the plans and wishes with regards to long term economic and social policy, and the issues of labour and employment in its broadest sense. The Social Economic Council is a permanent board of advice of the Government on matters of socio-economic nature.*

*The Government is constantly working on improving the investment climate and developing an enabling environment to facilitate and attract FDI and Financing to Curaçao. The Curaçao Investment and Export Promotion Agency promotes, attracts and facilitates investments. The Curaçao Industrial and International Trade Development Agency promotes, attracts and facilitates investments in the Free Zones and Industrial Parks, the Curaçao Tourism Board promotes and attracts investments for the Tourism Sector and The Dutch Caribbean Security Exchange facilitates financing and access to capital markets worldwide. Banks and Institutional investors are well positioned to finance large and small projects. The Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and all the Government entities are equipped to facilitate. E-Government for business is set as a priority for the Government.*

*With respect to disaster risk reduction the Government has established a new organization under the Ministry of General Affairs responsible for the preparedness and mitigation of disasters. This organization works closely with both public and private sector to enhance the resilience of the island to disasters. The organization has already developed a risk profile for the island and has held many capacity development activities in disaster risk reduction for both the private and public sectors.*

*When it comes to national health systems for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) the Government of Curaçao has implemented a Curaçao's National Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD MAP), which outlines the strategic direction and outcomes that Curaçao will take, agreed by stakeholders, in tackling*



*NCDs and its risk factors over the period 2020-2028. This plan addresses Curaçao's four leading NCDs: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases; their five shared risk factors: tobacco use, the harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and air pollution; as well as the underlying determinants. Mental Health is covered by a specific plan covering the period 2019-2022. This NCD MAP is aligned with international (WHO) and regional (PAHO and CARICOM) frameworks on NCDs. It presents a summary of these frameworks, the methodology used in developing the MAP, a summary of Curaçao's 2018 Situation Analysis, the Strategic Framework (and Action Plan Matrix), as well as considerations on managing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan. The Strategic Framework sets out the Vision, Goal, Guiding Principles and four Strategic Action Areas agreed for the prevention and control of NCDs in Curaçao.*

*For the promotion of sustainable food systems the Government of Curaçao has developed an awareness and educational programme named "Kunukito di kas i bario" ("Community and home farm"). The main focus of the "Kunukito di kas i bario programme" is home farming and healthy nutrition at home, similar to the "from farm to table" concept. This programme is aimed at prevention, with the main focus of advancing human health to a higher level. This vision creates a wellness society with a proactive approach from the Government, care providers and companies that promotes the quality of life and optimizes physical and mental health. Furthermore the Government has developed an agricultural programme to make local food production one of the economical pillars of the island and to enhance the local food security.*

*To strengthen the national education system the Government of Curaçao is currently analyzing the bilingual education system (CXC-System) and k-12 education systems to gain insight into what can be used to enhance the Dutch education system. In a consultation between the four Caribbean countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten and Caribbean / European Netherlands) a training school is being set up between the countries to raise the level of teachers.*

*In order to explore the possibilities, to work out realistic and feasible options for a new way of waste processing and also taking into account all related waste management conditions, the Curaçao Government recently established the Tiger Team Waste Management Processing Plant (TT-WMPP). This Tiger Team is composed of expert representatives from the key stakeholders and Government. The TT-WMPP will take into account that the Government of Curaçao has adopted a waste management policy for the disposal of different waste categories, for which legal regulation still has to be implemented, and will execute a detailed waste classification study which will result in defining in detail per waste stream the calorific value, estimated waste quantities and waste characteristics & composition. Information from this study will be used to determine the most effective separation, collection & recycling*

*options for each waste stream and future projections to plan for effective future waste management.*

Data and statistics remain a significant challenge for SIDS. It hinders the ability of SIDS to report on key international commitments. Most SIDS are currently able to report on less than 50% of the SDG indicators. Please give an indication of any proposed targeted action at national or sub regional levels, to address this area in SIDS (**1000 words**)

*Currently the Government of Curaçao, through its Bureau of Statistics Curaçao (CBS Curaçao) does not have all the required SDG indicators available. It is a challenge to produce the required SDG core set due to lack of personnel capacity and limited financial resources. With the available resources the required data is processed and published according the International guidelines for the SDGs.*

*To address this area a National Statistical Commission for the Agenda 2030 and SDG is in development, in which CBS Curaçao will take the lead. The National Statistical Commission will have specific roles and responsibilities with regards to monitoring and reporting on progress on the SDGs, and will consist of the current producers of official data. After the formalization of the cooperation between the entities, the planning of the different targeted objectives will be discussed and implemented. The target is to have an action plan by the end of 2020 for the targets of the National Statistical Commission.*

#### **4. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS**

Access to low cost development financing is a longstanding concern and priority for SIDS. Please indicate any plans or approaches which your entity/organization/Government may have to support or enhance SIDS access to concessional finance, including the broadening partnerships, to address capacity constraints and enhance SIDS ability to mobilise, manage and spend financial resources from a wider array of sources (**1500 words**).

*There is experience with mobilization of funds in Curaçao. There is however a lack of coherent and active search of funds. As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands a majority of the international funding programs are not accessible to Curaçao. By joining the WTO as an independent member and as a Small and Vulnerable Economy and also by being recognized as a SIDS by the UN, we may be able to be categorized appropriately and therefore become eligible for more financial support other than those we currently have access to.*

Please elaborate on any specific plans or programmes at national and or sub regional levels to support SIDS to explore approaches and financial instruments that can help SIDS maximise resources for sustainable development from a broader array of resources, in

particular through innovative financial instruments such as green bonds, blue bonds, and blending arrangements **(1500 words)**.

*This is currently not in place and is an area of development for the island.*

## **5. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience**

Please elaborate on any specific or planned programmes which your entity/organization/Government intends to engage to support SIDS to build climate resilience, including building back better in the aftermath of disasters? **(1000 words)**

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction serve as the centrepieces for national and international policymaking and action on Curaçao as well to achieve SDG 13. Initial activities being part of this programme were: Survey - Climate Change Policy Assessment, Stakeholders consultations, a Road Map and a Strategic Plan. The overall objective of the Road Map is to develop a Strategic Plan that includes major steps to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of Curaçao for the adverse impacts of climate change. Furthermore, to build capacity of national experts and organizations in the fields related to climate change, in order to make its implementation sustainable at national level and enhance opportunities for our experts at international level. During the implementation of this Road Map, the collaboration between the Government agencies, the private sector and the NGOs will be fortified and guiding principles for the development of the national mitigation and adaptation plans will be established. In order to accomplish this plan, a Curaçao Climate Change Network (CCCN) will be established with the objective to facilitate a scientific and/or evidence-based platform for the harmonization of expertise related to the adverse impacts of climate change, its mitigation and adaptation options for Curaçao.*