

# **QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **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)

#### **DPIDG (777 words):**

DPIDG and its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) have made consistent efforts to support SIDS by conducting research, implementing capacity development activities and providing inter-governmental support to raise awareness of the unique challenges of implementing the SAMOA Pathway. In line with the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway, DPIDG's new overall capacity development strategy puts emphasis on providing support to SIDS in the area of governance and public institutions. In undertaking its activities to support SIDS, DPIDG works in partnership with the SIDS Unit of UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) and other relevant agencies.

DPIDG will continue focusing its capacity development work on SIDS in an effort to advance the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. For this purpose, DPIDG and UNPOG will continue to allocate adequate budget in their annual work plan to SIDS related activities. Meanwhile, DPIDG/UNPOG will also work together with the DSDG/SIDS Unit and other development agencies and select donor countries to mobilize additional funding for capacity development capacities in support of SIDS.

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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.

DPIDG has taken a holistic approach to implementing programme activities that support SIDS in their efforts to advance the SAMOA Pathway. A few key activities are listed below for reference.

### **Inter-governmental Support**

12 April 2019, New York. SIDS Special Event on ‘Building Capacities of Public Institutions in SIDS to Implement the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, which was held during the 18th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA).

14 November 2014, New York. 69th Session of General Assembly 2nd Committee Special Event on ICT and E-Government in SIDS: Responding to the SAMOA Pathway Call for Action.

### **Research**

2019 – 2020. Ongoing research on ‘The Critical Role of Youth in Building Resilient Societies—Engaging Youth to Strengthen Resilience in Countries in Special Situations’, with a focus on the SIDS Group.

2017-2018. Capacity Needs Assessment of Government Institutions to Implement the 2030 Agenda in the Asia and the Pacific Region and Eastern Africa has a special group survey on SIDS and identified the unique challenges and priority areas for capacity development in SIDS.

2018. UN E-Government Survey focused on ‘Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies - The Situation of SIDS’.

2014. Research on E-Government for Promoting Sustainable Development in SIDS. The research was conducted through doing a SIDS country survey and field missions to Fiji and Timor-Leste. The research findings and policy recommendations were introduced during the 2014 UN Public Service Forum and presented at the Special Event of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly’s Second Committee in New York.

### **Capacity Development**

November 2019, Incheon. UN DESA Regional Symposium on ‘Leveraging Public Governance to Accelerate the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals—Transformation, Innovation and Inclusion’, which was held in collaboration with Government of the Republic of Korea.

June 2019, Incheon. Expert Group Meeting on “The Future of Digital Government for Sustainable Development in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs”.

April 2019, Incheon. ‘Webinar on Government Innovation and Disaster Risk Reduction: Frontier Technologies for Resilience’ was co-organized with UNDRR and attended by many SIDS participants.

January 2019, Shanghai. ‘Learning Conference on Holistic Approaches to Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region’ was co-organized with UNITAR.

October 2018, Incheon. UN DESA Regional Symposium on ‘Strengthening the Capacities of Public Institutions & Developing Effective Partnerships to Realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, which was held in collaboration with Government of the Republic of Korea.

August 2018, Sri Lanka. ‘Practitioner-to-Practitioner Forum on Strengthening Capacities of Public Administration in Island States’, which was co-organized with UNDP, UNDRR and the Government of Sri Lanka.

April 2018, Singapore. ‘Executive Development Course on Digital Government for Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies – The Singapore Experience’, which was co-organized with UNDP and the GovTech of Singapore.

December 2017, Incheon. UN DESA Regional Symposium on ‘Building Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions and Public Administration for Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ was held in collaboration with Government of the Republic of Korea.

February 2017, Bahamas. UN DESA Symposium on ‘Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Equipping Public Institutions and Mobilizing Partnerships’, which was held with the support of the Government of the Bahamas.

November 2015, Suva, Fiji. Capacity-Building Workshop on E-Government Development in Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), which was held in collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Communications of Fiji.

February 2015, Seoul. Capacity Development Workshop for SIDS - ICT and E-Government in SIDS: Responding to the SAMOA Pathway Call for Action, which was co-organized with the

National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea.

## 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.

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
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	US\$ 300,000 (Fiji/Vanuatu) US\$ 50,000	Dev. Account XB \$80,000	2019 to 2021 2020
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)

#### DPIDG (136 words):

DPIDG will continue to provide support to SIDS with a focus on the following areas:

- i) Government innovation for disaster risk reduction and building resilience – providing hands-on tools on leveraging ICTs and digital government for disaster risk reduction and enhancing risk-informed governance.
- ii) Strengthening Institutional effectiveness and national-to-local governance – considering the disperse-location of many islands and the importance of decentralization and localization of SDG implementation in SIDS.
- iii) Digital government development – the digital government plays a critical role in supporting the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.
- iv) Government innovation for promoting gender equality in SIDS – with a view to the comparatively low societal status of women in SIDS, as evidenced by a large share of women employment in informal sector, low participation by women in policy making, inequality in receiving education and health services, among others.

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)

#### DPIDG (578 words):

DPIDG is implementing a Development Account Project focusing on improving capacity and institutional arrangements to implement the SDGs. In view of the fact that the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are closely connected, DPIDG addresses both simultaneously – particularly considering that the Development Account

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

Project is focusing on SIDS (Fiji and Vanuatu) and landlocked countries (Bhutan and Laos). The activities include scoping and institutional engagement missions, national workshops, advisory services and demand-driven training. The amount stated above (US\$ 300,000) will be indirectly invested in SIDS by promoting these activities following consultations with senior Government officials.

Example of activity: DPIDG and the SIDS Unit of DSDG undertook a mission from 10-14 March 2020 in Suva, Fiji, in response to a high-level invitation by the Ministry of Economy, which is the focal point for the SDGs in the Republic of Fiji. The Mission met with the RC Office and with the UNCT, including UNESCAP, UNDP, WHO, ILO, UN Women, UNCDF. The Mission also met with 18 Ministries and agencies of Government, including the Office of the Prime Minister, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, Auditor-General and various line Ministries including Economy, Health and Medical Services, Infrastructure and Transport, Civil Service, Rural and Maritime Development, Local Government, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, among others.

The Ministry of Economy and the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN expressed appreciation for UN DESA's support. UN DESA managed to identify a few entry points to contribute to the enhancement of institutional arrangements for improving public service delivery in Fiji. Line Ministries responded to a questionnaire prepared by both DPIDG and DSDG/SIDS Unit based on the ECOSOC Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development. Senior Government Officials also expressed appreciation to UN DESA for undertaking the mission while sharing a consensual view that inter-Ministerial dialogue could and should be improved through a permanent, periodic and systemic mechanism. The Government agreed to discuss options and possibly launch a new initiative in a National Workshop to be held in the second part of the year.

In addition, DPIDG in partnership with the SIDS Unit/DSDG, ECLAC and UNITAR held a regional workshop on integrated policies and policy coherence from 13-15 November 2019 in Trinidad and Tobago. The target audience was senior policy makers, economists and senior planning officers. Thirteen Caribbean SIDS took part in the training workshop, including St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and others.

Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago, Ric Javed Ali, recognized the timeliness of the initiative, coming amidst Trinidad and Tobago's preparation of its first Voluntary National Review on sustainable development to the High-level Political Forum in July 2020.

ECLAC, UNITAR and DPIDG will look into possibilities to hold workshops on the same topic at national level, based on the request of the majority of participants.

UNESCAP has also requested DPIDG to test the toolkit on institutional arrangements for policy coherence in SIDS states like the Maldives in 2020.

DPIDG/UNPOG will continue to conduct thematic research and expert group meetings to identify emerging and unique challenges confronting SIDS and provide policy recommendations and innovative solutions in the area of governance and public institutions. DPIDG/UNPOG will also further capacity support to SIDS through organizing study visits, regional training workshops, conferences, webinars, conducting advisory services, and other forms of capacity support if requested. Focus will also be on facilitating peer-to-peer learning and south-south cooperation through match-making among SIDS to promote the adaptation of innovative practices

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**)

**DPIDG (184 words):**

Lack of statistical capacity in the social and environment spheres has been great challenges for SIDS to track SDG implementation. Through organizing thematic sessions on data and statistics for SDG tracking during its capacity development activities, such as the SIDS Training Workshop and Regional Symposium, DPIDG will further highlight the importance and promote sharing of good practices in producing and communicating data and statistics on SDG indicators through i) institutional coordination for data gathering, data sharing and data dissemination, ii) leveraging ICTs, digital devices, and big data for data production, iii) better use of business register and other administrative data for avoiding duplicate data collection, iv) prioritizing the production of data and statistics for SDG indicators and targets in line with the mainstreaming SDGs in national planning and strategy, and v) strengthening civil administration and vital statistics and identity management to ensure that everyone is counted and can access public services.

Particularly, DPIDG will highlight the prominence of producing disaggregated data, especially at the local level, for identifying and tracking the unique vulnerabilities of different vulnerable groups to ensure no one is left behind.

#### **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**).

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**).

#### **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**)

#### **DPIDG (278 words):**

DPIDG is preparing a series of Toolkits for whole-of-government training approaches. One of these Toolkits focuses on innovation and public service delivery, identified as a priority area in Fiji. Another one is about Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Resilience (DRR) and could be applied in Fiji, Vanuatu and various other SIDS, upon their request.

In addition, DPIDG intends to conduct hands-on training for SIDS on how to leverage frontier technologies for climate resilience and risk-informed governance, based on the Training Toolkit on “Government Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience - Leveraging Frontier Technology for Risk-informed Governance”, which is currently under development.

DPIDG/UNPOG also intends to conduct a 2<sup>nd</sup> Capacity Needs Assessment of SIDS in 2021/2022 for the purpose of better identifying their emerging needs to build climate resilience including strengthening resilience of e-infrastructure. After conducting the survey to assess the SIDS capacity needs, DPIDG/UNPOG will further streamline its capacity development programme and work in synergy with other UN agencies to provide more customized support to SIDS for climate resilience.

DPIDG/UNPOG will continue to provide continued capacity support to SIDS, as priority

beneficiary countries, through study visits, regional symposium, training workshops and field missions, in advancing their digital government development, particularly their capacities to ensure delivering essential public services to vulnerable groups, responsiveness in times of emergencies and building back better in the aftermath of disasters.

Finally, DPIDG/UNPOG will continue its collaboration with UNDRR to facilitate south-south cooperation among SIDS and between other developing countries and SIDS in terms of knowledge sharing and exchange of good practices in climate resilience. In this regard, DPIDG/UNPOG will further enhance the functions of its website as knowledge platform for climate resilience.