

QUESTIONNAIRE

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

Agency: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Reporting period: January 2019-January 2020

A. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway¹

ECLAC's maintains a focused programmatic and institutionalized structure dedicated to supporting the national and regional sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean SIDS.

Principal ECLAC offices servicing the Caribbean SIDS are:

- ECLAC's Head office, Santiago, Chile
- ECLAC's Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port of Spain-Trinidad and Tobago (ECLAC POS)
- ECLAC's Subregional Headquarters in México D.F-México

ECLAC contributes to advancing the sustainable development process in the countries of the subregion and supports the shaping of the Caribbean response to the mandates articulated in the major global and regional development platforms to which they have committed. Additionally, the ECLAC POS responds directly to the most urgent development imperatives identified individually by the member States, offering technical and advisory services for capacity building and institutional strengthening, and by undertaking necessary research to guide appropriate policy intervention.

The ECLAC POS leads in various Caribbean centred forums, committees and regional coordinating mechanisms bringing to the forefront the sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean SIDS. ECLAC POS services for the Caribbean SIDS extend to economic and sustainable development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of natural disasters, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies. ECLAC POS conducts research; upon request, provides technical advice to governments; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels. ECLAC POS also functions as a subregional think tank and facilitates increased networking and cooperation among its membership and developmental partners.

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Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC): ECLAC the Secretariat to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). This inter-governmental body established since 1975² has the responsibility of promoting and strengthening economic, social cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean and in the region as a whole. The CDCC through the Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) fosters new and emerging opportunities, challenges and thereby providing a platform for cross-fertilization of ideas in support of the sustainable development priorities for the Caribbean SIDS.³ In 2006 the CDCC established the Caribbean SIDS- Regional Coordination Mechanism (CDCC-RCM). The CDCC-RCM has to responsibility for acceleration of implementation and monitoring the implementation of the development agenda as outline under the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA). It has been retained for the coordination of all subsequent SIDS Sustainable development programmes including the MSI, and SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. At the 19th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC (May 2019), it was recommended that the CDCC-RCM be repositioned to be the Caribbean (SIDS) Forum on Sustainable Development.⁴

With respect multi-lateral agreements, ECLAC is the Secretariat to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), adopted on 4 March 2018). The Escazú Agreement specifically refers to the MSI, BPOA and SAMOA Pathway in its preamble (see seventh preambular paragraph). Furthermore, in its article 11.2 on cooperation, Parties commit to giving particular consideration to small island developing States from Latin America and the Caribbean.⁵ The Escazú Agreement supports the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a whole, focusing on peaceful, prosperous, inclusive societies and safe communities on their paths toward sustainable development.

B. 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?) and 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

² The CDCC was established in 1975, pursuant to ECLAC resolution 358(XVI), The CDCC further established the CDCC- Regional Coordination Mechanism (CDCC-RCM) with responsibility for supporting member countries in the accelerating of implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SIDS sustainable development agendas.

³ See for example the 2018 meeting on promoting climate resilience at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/fifth-meeting-caribbean-development-roundtable-promoting-climate-resilience-and-sustainable>

⁴ CDCC- Report in the 19th meeting of the Monitoring Committee CDCC- <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/nineteenth-meeting-monitoring-committee-caribbean-development-and-cooperation-committee>

⁵ ECLAC's Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division manages the [Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), which fosters increased knowledge, dissemination and implementation of rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Observatory contains selected policy instruments, data and resources on environmental access rights of all SIDS in the region

A/RES/74/3⁶?

ECLAC is committed in supporting the Caribbean SIDS in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The main priorities will be centered on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development processes in the Caribbean. In the delivery of this service to policy makers, ECLAC will undertake research and analysis of the emerging issues and challenges facing the Caribbean, provide technical assistance and advisory services to member States, and conduct training activities, seminars and workshops for knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. These priorities on the Caribbean SIDS services will also be guided through the decisions of the CDCC and to be delivered in collaboration with development partners, other subregional intergovernmental organizations, international partner institutions and in coordination with the resident coordinator system. This will support further building of the required national and regional support for the implementation of the national sustainable development actions plans, SAMOA Pathway in synergy with the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development priorities for the Caribbean region. The main beneficiaries are the Caribbean government, authorities, officials from the region's countries, civil society entities, academic and private sector institutions, and subregional entities

The expected out-come of this service to the Caribbean SIDS are:

- Promotion of sound fiscal management and market diversification;
- Promotion of wider application of Information, Communication and Technology for development;
- Improved monitoring and reporting mechanisms at national levels for measuring progress in the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway
- Enhanced social development, including issues on gender;
- Promotion of the integration of disaster risk reduction measures into national planning; and
- Strengthened statistical capacity of Caribbean countries to support more effective evidence-based policymaking.
- Provision of timely support on new and emerging subjects for sustainable development and guided through UNGA outcomes and other inter-governmental decisions.

Specific to Subprogramme 12 (ECLAC POS), this section will seek to present on institutional support to the Caribbean SIDS and including:

1. Voluntary National Reviews (VNR):

ECLAC Caribbean is implementing a Development Account project on “*Strengthening institutional frameworks in the Caribbean for an integrative approach to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda*”. Through this project, beneficiary countries are receiving support to improve their capacities to design and implement evidence-based development planning and be better positioned to review and follow-up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda⁷. Activities include technical assessments and a series of training workshops on

⁶ The document can be accessed at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/3>

⁷ One of the biggest challenges faced by all Caribbean SIDS countries is to strengthen the statistical capacity of countries to measure and monitor progress towards the SDGs. In this line, it is necessary to continue to provide resources for improving the quality of census, surveys and vital statistics, as well as for training on the use and analysis of these information sources. Alliances with the private sector, civil society and research institutions could accelerate action – support to promote such coalitions is critical, both in form of guidance and capacity development to staff and

evidence-based approaches to national development planning and monitoring and evaluation methodologies. The project is currently being implemented through a stakeholders' engagement strategy that puts national ownership as the basis of project implementation and that focuses on policymakers, development planners and statisticians as key stakeholders. The project is being implemented by ECLAC Caribbean, in collaboration with ECLAC's Planning of Public Administration Division (ILPES) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Unit of Division of Sustainable Development (DSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). In this context, several initiatives have been undertaken. These include

- a. Country support:
 - The Commonwealth of Dominica received technical assistance in the integration and alignment of the country's Sectoral Strategic Plans with the long-term national development plan (The National Resilient Development Strategy 2018-2030) and the SDGs. Sensitization workshops were conducted on the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Agenda, as well as the status of SDG implementation in Dominica. The workshops were held in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and Investment, Commonwealth of Dominica and was attended by all Government Ministries.
 - St. Lucia: ECLAC in collaboration with other UN agencies and civil society groups held a MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support) mission in Saint Lucia in May 2019, which contributed to the preparation of an SDG Roadmap for Saint Lucia. Technical Assistance was also provided in the preparation of the country's first VNR to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
 - Aruba, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Sint Maarten: Technical missions were conducted to assist with the establishment of an institutional framework for SDG implementation and the integration of the SDGs in the national development planning process in these countries.
 - b. Regional training and capacity building in assisting member countries on the Agenda 2030 implementation include: ECLAC POS in in collaboration with UNITAR and UNDESA delivered on two (2) regional as (a) Learning Conference on Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean Region, and (2) Regional Workshop on Integrated Policies and Policy Coherence for the SDGs
2. Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordination Mechanism (CDCC-RCM): In light of the firm commitment of the Caribbean countries to the implementation of Agenda 2030, at the 19th Monitoring committee of the CDCC (May 2019) recommendations has made for a repositioned and revitalized CDCC-RCM. This proposed new mechanism would work to provide broad support for the implementation of both the Agenda 2030 and the SIDS sustainable development agenda. It is envisaged that the revised architecture and mandate of the CDCC-RCM will ensure that SIDS specific priorities are entrenched and consistently addressed within the national and regional sustainable development platforms of relevance to the Caribbean. This proposed repositioned CDCC-RCM will be presented for consideration to the 28th Meeting of the CDCC (2020)

beneficiary countries. Greater support to local level engagement and decentralization efforts is a key area for localizing the SDGs. In addition, e-governance and investment in technology and innovation should form part of a strategic direction for Caribbean SIDS.

3. **ECLAC Caribbean’s flagship publication**, the “*Caribbean Outlook*”, provided a comprehensive assessment of the critical challenges facing the Caribbean, and their impact on the development trajectory of these countries. The 2020 edition will focus on recommendations addressing sustainable development priorities in the Caribbean SIDS region. The Caribbean Outlook not only offers perspective on the threats and challenges faced by the Caribbean, but also proposes a rich body of innovative solutions to issues which must be confronted resolutely if the subregion is to achieve these sustainable development paths (available at (<https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/43581>))
4. **Caribbean First Initiatives**: At the 37 Session of the ECLAC (Havana, May 2018) presented on its “Caribbean First Initiatives”. The intent of the strategy was to give focus to persistent Caribbean development challenges including disaster assessment; to raise levels of national and regional advocacy in the search for solutions; to give prominence to discourse on critical Caribbean issues in all ECLAC forums; to leverage financial support and technical assistance for agreed Caribbean priorities; and to promote wider Caribbean engagement in ECLAC’s forums and initiatives.⁸
5. **Escazú Agreement**: ECLAC is committed to provide technical assistance and support to SIDS at the national and sub-regional level in matters related to the Escazú Agreement, supporting national assessments, multi-stakeholder dialogues and processes, gap analyses and implementation plans to meet international commitments. In 2019, technical support was provided to Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the OECS. In 2020, technical support is expected to be provided to Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and the OECS Secretariat.

C. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS

1. **ECLAC Debt Swap initiatives**: ECLAC’s *Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap initiative* and the proposal for the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund is part of a debt alleviation strategy which can support small island economies in leveraging resources to finance sustainable development. The twenty-seventh Session of the CDCC and the fifth Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) (March 2018) agenda was dedicated the issues of climate resilience and sustainable economic growth, and a broader outlook on sustainable development in the Caribbean. CDCC meetings have put focus on the topic, reflecting on implementing the ECLAC debt swap initiative; financing green investment for resilience building and structural transformation in the Caribbean; promoting fiscal responsibility and financial management within the context of the region’s high debt burden; and addressing the vulnerability of Caribbean economies caused by de-risking and challenges to the off- shore financial sector.

D. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience

1. Technical support in connection with disaster and loss assessment (DaLA) and training in DaLA is a continued support to countries of the subregion and served as an important basis to

⁸ LC/CAR/2019/6: Nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the LIMITED Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

- leverage financing for reconstruction in several Caribbean countries.
- a. Disaster Risk Management: ECLAC as one of its core services provided expert assistance in disaster assessment and disaster risk reduction to Caribbean SIDS. ECLAC's work in post-disaster assessments in the process of disaster risk management (DRM) and provided policy guidance on identified deficiencies and promote a resilient reconstruction. ECLAC provided guidance on sectoral data availability for decision making. The standardised nature of the methodology promotes multi-sectoral evaluations, inter-operability, and creation of local and national databases. This service on assessment of the effects and impacts of disasters is critical to Caribbean SIDS to allow them to build a clear disaster profile and to quantify the impacts of disasters on national finances. By understanding past events, it is possible to incorporate changes in future projects and identify risk-prone areas. Highlighting the effects and economic impacts of disasters also create a momentum for establishing more comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies, such as the incorporation of multi-hazard analyses in public investment project. The disaster assessment reports also include a recommendation section with the aim of giving the country specialized inputs to ignite the process of resilient reconstruction.
 - b. In 2019, the government of The Bahamas through Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) worked with ECLAC for technical assistance with the Disaster and Loss Assessment (DaLA). ECLAC's conducted the DaLA in October 2019 and the final report was presented to the Bahamian government in November 2019.
 - c. In addition to the post-disaster assessments, ECLAC also designs, plans and delivers periodic tailor-made training courses to the Caribbean SIDS on the DaLA methodology. Two training sessions were delivered in 2019. In the period under review,
 - d. ECLAC also published several researches with a focus on Caribbean SIDS challenges related to disasters and climate change. In 2019, the office published the paper "*An economic analysis of flooding in the Caribbean The case of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago*" and had a chapter dedicated to resilience planning in the Caribbean in the publication "*Planning for sustainable territorial development in Latin America and the Caribbean*", which analysed specific identified structural vulnerabilities in Caribbean SIDS and proposed measures for improvement in overall planning and disaster risk management in the region.
2. ECLAC has produced an assessment and methodology to measure the [impacts of climate change on the coasts of Latin America and the Caribbean](#). (Cuba in 2018-2019). The studies and training activities provided the current state of knowledge about the most commonly used methodologies and tools for assessing the risks and consequences of climate change on the natural and socioeconomic systems, particularly those associated with the effects of the flood and the erosion of coastal areas. They also expanded the adaptation options through the assessment of the coastal protection role of ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs. Recovering mangroves and coral reefs offers a flexible response that is easily adapted to long-term changes, such as sea-level rise, at a much lower conservation cost than artificial solutions.

3. **Building Back Better: Reckoning with Size in Pursuit of Resilience.** ECLAC (POS) and UNDESA organised a Caribbean SIDS side event in the margins of the UN HLPF (July 2019) titled “Building Back Better: Reckoning with Size in Pursuit of Resilience”. This meeting was attended by high level officials, other dignitaries and developmental partners. The objective of this side event was to bring into attention the approaches and challenges of the Caribbean SIDS in resilience building and in particular in the planning and rebuilding following on the impact of extreme climatic events.

4. **Caribbean SIDS relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based policies”** is being implemented in partnership with UNDRR, UNEP, FAO and UNSD. The project aims to promote improved capacity among national climate change and disaster risk reduction stakeholders to produce, sustain, disseminate and use relevant internationally agreed climate change and disaster risk reduction indicators and its underlying statistics. It is planned that this project will begin implementation in the Caribbean SIDS in 2020.

[evaluación de impactos de la inundación y la erosión por efecto del cambio climático; Efectos del cambio climático en la costa de América Latina y el Caribe and Reconstrucción histórica y proyecciones del efecto del cambio climático sobre el oleaje en la costa de Cuba](#)

- [The effects of climate change in the coastal areas of Latin America and the Caribbean: evaluation of systems for protecting corals and mangroves in Cuba](#)