

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 Pathway¹

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)**

In addition to providing advocacy for SIDS, UN-OHRLLS' mandate is to ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway and SIDS related issues in the work of the UN system and to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels. OHRLLS' mandate also includes the mobilization of international support and resources to support SIDS implementation.

The implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is embedded in the Programme of Work of the SIDS Unit of OHRLLS. The overall programme of work supports the objectives set for each year, which are informed by mandates given by member states. The programme of work is underpinned by concrete deliverables, indicators and performance measures.

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.

¹ 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.

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: Institutional support for SIDS	USD 113,800 for SIDS National Focal Points Network as part of UN-OHRLLS's effort to enhance the coordination between national, regional and global levels (Funded by Italy) USD 105,655 for Island Voices Journalism		2019-2020

	Campaign (Funded by the Netherlands)		
Etc.			
Total	219,455		

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 proposed focus of OHRLLS in the remaining life of the SAMOA Pathway is to address, within its mandate, the SIDS priorities identified within the context of the midterm review process:

OHRLLS will provide strong and targeted advocacy support, bringing greater visibility to the concerns and needs of SIDS on the global and regional stage, and ensuring, as far as possible, that they are adequately reflected in all global agreements and frameworks.

Through active engagement with a number of development partners and major stakeholders, OHRLLS will contribute to scaling up efforts to mobilize adequate and timely resources both for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.

Together with UN-DESA, OHRLLS will continue to revitalize the inter-agency consultative Group on SIDS in order to provide coherent and coordinated support to SIDS over the remaining years of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. OHRLLS will also continue efforts to ensure that all UN entities integrate the priorities of SIDS in their strategic plans and work programmes.

In this context, we will also build on the consultative work that the Office has led to support the Multi Country Office review process. We will leverage the work of the inter-agency consultative group on coherence and coordination, with a view to ensuring that the implementation of the proposed reforms under the Multi Country Office review will only help us deliver an even stronger UN development system to SIDS.

OHRLLS will continue to strengthen the SIDS National Focal Points mechanism, which was launched in 2018 to strengthen coherence and coordination at the national, regional and global levels on SIDS-related issues. OHRLLS will also strengthen coherence and coordination through

the establishment of the SIDS Resident Coordinator Network.

OHRLLS will provide structured, continuous and substantive support to SIDS in the creation and strengthening of meaningful and durable partnerships toward the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway including through the activities of the SIDS Partnerships Framework and the SIDS Global Business Network.

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/74/3²? **(1500 words)**

OHRLLS will launch a more targeted advocacy and resource mobilization strategy aiming to galvanize more support in response to the gaps and challenges as identified in the political declaration. Priority will be given to areas including, but not limited to, data and statistics, disaster reduction and resilience building, access to finance, sustainable transport and energy. This will include organizing targeted events of the GBN, Climate Change, Oceans etc.

Regarding Oceans, SIDS face significant challenges in harnessing the full potential of the blue economy due to their lack of human, institutional, financial and technical capacities in areas. In recent years, these challenges have been further compounded by increasing impacts of climate change including ocean acidification, coral bleaching and reef degradation, which makes it more difficult for island communities to reap the full benefits the ocean provides. The capacity gap is also significant in new and emerging sectors, including in harnessing ocean-based climate solutions.

OHRLLS will convene the 2020 SIDS GBN Forum, to support SIDS in leveraging partnerships, in particular with the private sector that can contribute towards achieving SDG 14 (conserve ocean and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources) and its targets and overall sustainable development priorities of SIDS and that of the SAMOA Pathway.

The 2020 SIDS GBN Forum will support a consultation of SIDS governments, civil society and private sector in the margins of the Second UN Ocean Conference, and the convening of the 2020 SIDS Global Business Network Forum in Palau in August 2020.

Over the next five years of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (2019), OHRLLS will also organize more targeted annual meetings, which will continue to provide an opportunity for NFPs to:

- i) share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway and

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

- SDGs into national development processes as well their implementation and follow up,
- ii) ii) network, and
 - iii) iii) better understand existing means of implementation, including viable financing and business models in response to the gaps and challenges, and call for action and to ensure coherence at the local, regional and global levels.

Together with UN-DESA, OHRLLS will coordinate an examination of the disaster-related funding and support environment, in consultation with Member States, all relevant UN system entities and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to the possible development of a targeted voluntary disaster fund, mechanism or financial instrument.

The two SIDS Units will also coordinate an alignment exercise of the SAMOA Pathway, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework, with a view to identifying any existing gaps in these frameworks, as it regards the priority areas of SIDS. Through the exercise, and again in consultation with Member States, all relevant UN system entities and other relevant stakeholders, we expect to develop targets and indicators for those priority areas where gaps exist, in order to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

This exercise will build on the work undertaken by OHRLLS, in the context of the SIDS National Focal Point network, to develop a toolkit for a harmonized approach of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Together with UN-DESA, OHRLLS will also jointly organize a number of events in support of SIDS at key meetings and conference addressing their priorities, including UN Oceans Conference and UNCTAD XV. On climate change, OHRLLS and DESA will cooperate with AOSIS and other SIDS groups to advocate for urgent climate action at relevant international for a including in particular the COP26 to UNFCCC in Glasgow, UK.

Further, OHRLLS together with UNDESA will continue to support the work of the steering committee on SIDS partnerships to foster new partnerships and follow-up on existing SIDS partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

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**)

OHRLLS will continue to strongly advocate for SIDS on Data and statistics. This will include

OHRLLS advocacy for the Paris21 Secretariat, other relevant institutions and development partners to support National Statistical System Assessments in SIDS and the development of National Strategy for Development of Statistics in the SIDS that do not yet have one.

OHRLLS has led the drafting of a toolkit for a harmonized approach for the monitoring and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway and other global frameworks, with a view to reduce the reporting burden on already small and stretched limited financial, human and other capacities of SIDS.

OHRLLS will work with UNDESA and the Statistics division to ensure the toolkit contributes to strengthening monitoring and evaluation, including the identifying the SAMOA Pathway priority areas not covered by the Sustainable Development Goals or the Sendai Framework, to develop forthwith targets and indicators for those priority areas as requested in the Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review the SAMOA Pathway. Ultimately the toolkit will help strengthen the monitoring and follow of global frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway.

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**).

Resource mobilization and advocacy for sustainable development in SIDS is central to the mandate of OHRLLS. GDP per capita in 2018 on average weighted by population was 11,200 USD, ranging widely from about 64,600 USD in Singapore to 800 in Guinea Bissau.³ From 2014, this is an overall increase of 2%. Major external financial inflows to SIDS include remittances, FDI, ODA, World Bank and IMF and other funds. Remittance inflows to SIDS amounted to 15 USD billion in 2018, an increase of 23% from 2014⁴. Remittances worldwide have grown to a record high in 2018⁵. In absolute terms, the Caribbean SIDS received 13.4 USD Billion and Pacific 0.85 and the AIS region received 0.8. In comparison, in 2018 the net inflow of Foreign direct investment was 7 USD billion to SIDS in 2018, of which most went to the Caribbean region (not including Singapore which received 83 USD billion),⁶.

³ World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files, GDP per capita (USD current) 2018 and 2014, NY.GDP.PCAP.CD, 2014 figures deflated to constant USD 2018.

⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/bx.trf.pwkr.cd.dt>, No data Bahrain, Seychelles and Singapore.

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/08/record-high-remittances-sent-globally-in-2018>

⁶ International Monetary Fund, 2018, Balance of Payments database, supplemented by data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and official national sources.

The total official development assistance (ODA) and official aid to SIDS in 2018 amounted to 4.7 USD billion, which is a 6% increase since 2014⁷. Climate and environmental finance are increasing, but remains relatively low. The Green Climate Fund for example, has provided about 0.877 USD billion to SIDS from its inception in 2010.⁸ Significant differences exist between SIDS, each year and between regions on the amounts of ODA received from international donors. The Pacific region continues to receive the most ODA per capita on average weighted by population (160 USD)⁹. Papua New Guinea has the highest population, about 70% of the total, and received the lowest ODA per capita in the region (91 USD)¹⁰. Not including PNG in the calculation, the Pacific region received on average 320 USD per capita. AIS SIDS received 105 USD, not including Bahrain and Singapore, and the Caribbean 56 USD. Some relatively small Pacific SIDS received high ODA in per capita terms in 2018, including Palau (4711 USD) and Nauru (2492 USD), however both have a population below 20 thousand and some years receive significantly less.

Concessional finance is also increasingly needed for the financing of resilience to climate and natural disasters, to which SIDS are particularly vulnerable. OHRLLS will continue to broaden partnerships to enhance SIDS access to concessional finance. OHRLLS works across the international financial institutions to sensitize them to the needs and priorities of SIDS, including as it relates to going beyond the income criteria to assess eligibility for concessional finance. OHRLLS also works in relevant climate change fora, such as through UNFCCC to increase funding for climate action in SIDS. This includes mitigation, adaptation as well as funding on Loss and Damage as outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement.

OHRLLS works to enhance of policy instruments relevant for SIDS, including on debt sustainability and financial resilience. Many SIDS struggle with significant external debt. As highlighted in the Political Declaration of the SAMOA Pathway midterm review, increased support is needed to support SIDS in reducing their debt burden. SIDS, for which the WB has data for 2018, have a present total external debt, private and public, of 92 USD billion. This amounts to about half their gross national income on average – significantly higher than the average for middle- and low-income countries^{11,12}. The IMF and World Bank regularly assess the debt

⁷ DAC of OECD, 2018. DT.ODA.ODAT.CD, Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Developing Countries, Development Co-operation Report, and International Development Statistics database. Data are available online at: <https://stats.oecd.org/>.

⁸Green Climate Fund, 2019, SIDS Factsheet, <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-small-islands-developing-states-factsheet>

DAC of OECD, 2018, DT.ODA.ODAT.PC.ZS, Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Developing Countries, Development Co-operation Report, and International Development Statistics database. Data are available online at: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline. World Bank population estimates are used for the denominator.

¹⁰ United Nations Statistics Division, 2018, Demographic Yearbook, <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/dybsets/2018.pdf>

¹¹ World Bank, 2018 International Debt Statistics. DT.DOD.DECT.GN.ZS

¹² World Bank, 2018. International Debt Statistics External debt stocks, total 2018, (DOD, current US\$)

sustainability in countries eligible for concessional financing from the two. As of Nov 30th, 2019, out of the 21 SIDS eligible for IDA, 2 are in external debt distress (Grenada and Sao Tome and Principe), 11 are in high risk of debt distress, 7 are in moderate risk and only Timor Leste is at low risk.¹³

OHRLLS also works with partners to strengthen advocacy for Small States as it relates to enhancing access to concessional financing across the international financial institutions. Together with UN-DESA, OHRLLS will also partner with international donors, including on a SIDS Financing Conference aimed at

- (i) improving access to concessional finance, transition mechanisms and support during the graduation and transition process, and
- (ii) developing private finance and innovative financial instruments, such as blue and green bonds.

Within the context of the SIDS NFP network and GBN activities, OHRLLS, together with Resident Coordinators, regional commissions, private sector and other key national, regional and global stakeholders/partners, will work to address capacity constraints and enhance SIDS ability to mobilize, manage, and spend financial resources from a range of sources and instruments.

The financial situation globally is currently highly uncertain due to the outbreak of the Covid-19, and related policy responses. In addition to the obvious risk to lives and health, there are significant financial risks for SIDS. For example, should the reduction in trade and the collapse in international tourism and travel continue for an extended period of time, many SIDS will lose substantial revenue. SIDS rely disproportionately on a narrow economic base. For example, in terms of inbound tourism expenditure over GDP, in Antigua and Barbuda the share was 59% in 2018, followed by 57% in Maldives¹⁴. These are among the highest in the world. SIDS external debt and trade are also highly vulnerable to external shocks, which could result from an extended pause of the global economy, currency fluctuations and other external effects, over which they have limited control.

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**).

(DT.DOD.DECT.CD)

¹³ International Monetary Fund, 2019, List of LIC DSAs for PRGT-Eligible Countries As of November 30, 2019, available at: <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/dsalist.pdf>

¹⁴ World Tourism Organization (2020), Compendium of Tourism Statistics dataset [Electronic], UNWTO, Madrid, data updated on 20/01/2020.

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**)

UN-OHRLLS works in cooperation with AOSIS and other SIDS partners to advocate for SIDS' priorities in various international fora relevant for climate change action, in particular at and leading up to UN Ocean conference and COP26 in Glasgow, UK. The SIDS Package presented by AOSIS to the SGs Climate Action Summit in 2019 included ambitious NDCs in line with the 1.5 target, with a particular focus on renewable energy production in SIDS including through the SIDS Lighthouse Initiative. OHRLLS organized an Expert Group Meeting with AOSIS and UNDP for COP25 to UNFCCC in Madrid, 2019 and continues to provide coordination and support for enhanced support for the implementation of SIDS NDCs.

SIDS ambitious climate mitigation targets will not be met without substantially increased climate finance from major emitting countries. OHRLLS is working with SIDS partners to mobilize resources and to facilitate partnerships for SIDS, in particular for financial and technical support in priority areas on climate change, including support for the establishment of renewable energy systems. OHRLLS is also working through the Inter Agency Working Group and other relevant fora to enhance the support for SIDS from the UN System.

Operationalizing the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage is of particular concern to SIDS and will be an important component of post disaster reconstruction as well as addressing slow onset events. UN-OHRLLS is actively advocating for progress on loss and damage in the UNFCCC as well as in climate financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund. OHRLLS also cooperated with AOSIS to organize a side-event on the topic of Loss and Damage from a SIDS perspective at COP25 to UNFCCC in Madrid, Spain.

UN-OHRLLS and UN-DESA are also working together to coordinate and conduct an examination of the gaps and needs for disaster related financial mechanisms for SIDS, with the view of the possible establishment of a voluntary disaster fund, mechanism or other financial instrument. This mechanism is intended to compliment rather than duplicate ongoing efforts.