

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)**

The UNOPS strategic plan, 2018-2021 ([DP/OPS/2017/5](#)) recognizes that the midterm review highlighted a strong correlation between UNOPS in-country activities and the challenges people face in different countries and contexts. The assessment confirms that UNOPS services are in demand for expanding partners' implementation capacity to address challenges and build better lives in many contexts, including small island developing states, and that the majority of its activities are concentrated in countries ranking lowest on the sustainable development goals index.

UNOPS doesn't have a specific SIDS Strategy as UNOPS is a demand-driven,

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.

self-financed organization that works jointly with or on behalf of partners to implement projects, based on their needs and priorities. As such, UNOPS does not set programmatic goals and targets for its activities.

Notwithstanding, UNOPS is mandated to expand the implementation capacity of its partners across all SDGs. Its services are, amongst others, particularly in demand in contexts of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states. Through its specialized technical and context-specific solutions in the areas of infrastructure and procurement, UNOPS is well-positioned to support the SAMOA Pathway ambition of enabling Small Island Developing States to establish resilient, sustainable infrastructure.

In order to enhance coordination and improve coherence of its delivery in Small Island States, in 2018 UNOPS tasked New York Liaison Office (NYLO) to serve as an Info Bank for the organization when it comes to SIDS. NYLO's mandate is to collect data on ongoing UNOPS projects in SIDS, communicate with SIDS permanent representatives in New York, identify needs and opportunities for improved UNOPS support to this group of countries.

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	N/A	N/A	N/A
Climate Change	N/A	N/A	N/A

Sustainable Energy	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disaster Risk Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oceans and seas	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Security and Nutrition	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water and Sanitation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sustainable Transportation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sustainable Consumption and Production	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chemical and Waste management	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health and NCDs	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gender equality	N/A	N/A	N/A
Social development	N/A	N/A	N/A
Biodiversity	N/A	N/A	N/A
Means of implementation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Etc.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A

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)

As UNOPS strategic plan 2018-2021 states, "UNOPS is an operational resource for Member States and the Secretary-General, supporting their broad vision for the future we want". "The UNOPS strategic goals are not directed towards one or two global goals. Rather, they frame its aspirations to contribute direct and indirect

value to expand partners implementation capacity”. “Three contribution goals in the UNOPS Strategic Plan express the overall value proposition for the UNOPS services and frame how it will provide a focused, differentiated account of the direct and indirect value it adds:

- Enable partners to do more with less through efficient management support services, delivered locally or as global shared services.
- Help people achieve individual, local, national and global objectives, through effective specialized technical expertise grounded in international norms and standards.
- Support countries in expanding the pool and effect of resources available to achieve the 2030 Agenda.”

As further outlined, “UNOPS can provide integrated service offerings and engage strategically with partners, identifying focused, comprehensive solutions to the challenges people face in different countries and contexts.”

In its decision 2017/26 on the UNOPS strategic plan, 2018-2021, the Executive Board “Urges entities of the United Nations system to recognize the comparative advantages and technical expertise of UNOPS and engage in collaborative strategic partnerships for efficiency and effectiveness, including at the country level;”.

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)

Gender (A/RES/74/3 - op: 15): In line with the sustainable implementation approaches outlined in its 2018-2021 strategic plan (para 16), UNOPS aims to mainstream considerations to gender equality and the empowerment of women into all its implementation activities. For this purpose, the organization in 2018 developed a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, and further supplemented it with a set of dedicated internal

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

guidance material, while also ensuring relevant prescriptive and guidance content was integrated with key policies and standard frameworks, for e.g. project management.

As one key example, UNOPS is committed to addressing gender equality and the empowerment of women (SDG 5). Gender-blindness in infrastructure can lead to reinforcing inequality and non-inclusivity for decades. To ensure decision-making, planning and design of infrastructure is inclusive, UNOPS has stepped up its engagement in conversations, and developed tailored approaches to help partners plan, implement and manage gender-sensitive infrastructure.

Prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases (A/RES/74/3 - op: 19-20): In response to needs of SIDS, UNOPS delivered life-saving medical equipment to healthcare facilities throughout SIDS, including in Dominica, Haiti, Palau and St. Lucia. UNOPS is also providing training for medical and technical staff to ensure that countries have enough capacity to maintain and run the hospitals long into the future.

Innovative financing (A/RES/74/3 - op: 19-20): The achievement of global goals and local objectives will require significant investment. As framed by its third contribution goal, UNOPS aims to support countries in expanding the pool and effect of resources available to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In line with Executive Board decisions 2016/12, 2017/16 and 2017/26, UNOPS continues to develop its social impact investing initiative and explore opportunities for collaborative partnerships to mobilize alternative funding sources for the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the areas of affordable housing, renewable energy, and water and sanitation.

2019 saw a breakthrough in this regard, transforming the pilot of the Sustainable Impact Investment Initiative into the formally established UNOPS Sustainable Infrastructure Impact Investment (S3i) initiative with headquarters in Helsinki under leadership at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. The S3i model for channelling private sector investment towards meeting critical national needs within affordable housing and renewable energy and was featured prominently in the United Nations Secretary-General's Financing for Development Strategy.

As of 2020, S3i is committed to support the construction of over 860,000 affordable

housing units over the coming decade, across Kenya, Ghana, India and the Caribbean.

Science, technology and innovation (A/RES/74/3 - op: 29): The organization continued its engagement in collaborations with governments, and academia and research institutions, to encourage start-up, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and youth in innovation for a more sustainable society. Recent examples include the launch of a Global Innovation Centre in Lund, Sweden, in 2019 jointly with Sweden's innovation agency Vinnova; and the continuation of a science and innovation centre in Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to develop new ways of addressing climate change. With support from the City of Kobe and the Hyogo Prefecture in Japan, UNOPS will launch a new Global Innovation Centre in Kobe, providing valuable opportunities for public-private sector collaboration to address global challenges. The centre is expected to open around the summer of 2020.

Establishment of a collaboration between GICs in developed and GICs in developing countries, including SIDS is one of UNOPS main goals.

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**)

N/A

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 see response to question 3 under the heading "Innovative financing"

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**).

Please see response to question 3 under the heading “Innovative financing”

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**)

In its 2018-2021 strategic plan (DP/OPS/2017/5), UNOPS emphasizes its readiness to support the Secretary-General’s vision of the United Nations as a platform for prevention, addressing particularly the challenges for countries in fragile situation to manage risks and shocks effectively. Concretely, this includes capacity-building for resilience, integration of DRR-principles in UNOPS infrastructure work, transfer of proven solutions to fragile contexts, improved knowledge management, and continued agility in responding rapidly to need for prevention.

UNOPS delivers a significant share of its annual portofolio in fragile, conflict-affected or otherwise vulnerable countries. While many of the organization’s projects support the mitigation of negative effects of vulnerability, both to natural and man-made disasters, it also aims to specifically support governments in the long-term planning, implementation and maintenance of infrastructure that is evidence-based, resilient, and inclusive. Such infrastructure may be aligned to existing national or subnational development strategies, where applicable.

A key aspect of quality infrastructure is inclusiveness, given that infrastructure investments tend to shape development for decades into the future. Gender-blind

infrastructure, or infrastructure that does not take into consideration the needs of other vulnerable groups, such as people with a disability, further entrenches exclusion and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. As such, UNOPS in its infrastructure work aims to actively address and plan for inclusivity, in close collaboration with our partners and other project stakeholders. For example UNOPS in collaboration with UN Women has developed a series of guides on integrating gender into infrastructure development in the Asia-Pacific region. Activities like these aim to inform and guide policy-making and national strategies with regards to cross-sectoral infrastructure investments.

Quality infrastructure plays a significant role across most SDG goals and targets. In 2019, UNOPS supported a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit on “The critical role of Infrastructure for the Sustainable Development Goals”. The report outlines how the right infrastructure, well-planned, implemented and maintained, can not only support countries in achieving the targets of the SDGs and contribute to national development, but also is key in ensuring sustainability across the environmental, economic and social dimensions.

Already a 2018 study by the Oxford University’s Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortium (ITRC), supported by UNOPS, showed that 92 per cent of targets across all SDGs are impacted by quality infrastructure. With its core mandate in infrastructure, UNOPS can support governments in leveraging this cross-target potential of quality infrastructure.

For this purpose, the organization has initially devised two key tools as part of an evidence-based approach to infrastructure (EBI).

One of these two tools - the National Infrastructure Systems Model - International (NISMOD-Int) supports governments to make infrastructure planning decisions (projects and policy) based on future demand and current supply. A full assessments were carried out in Curaçao and Saint Lucia. in 2019 UNOPS and Oxford expanded the models capability to link attainment of SDG targets to long term infrastructure performance, enhancing the ability of governments to choose investment pathways in attainment of the Goals.

UNOPS also aims to contribute to high-level conversations on the topic of resilient

infrastructure, in line with its unique mandate and core expertise. It has also, in 2019, provided UNOPS with the opportunity to advise the G20 working group on quality infrastructure, in close collaboration with the government of Japan and the European Union. This has, amongst others, resulted in the G20 principles for quality infrastructure investments, which includes the integration of social considerations in such investments.