

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI of the 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 or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> and <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states> under reports.

PART A VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Vulnerability is one of the most crucial challenges faced by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any ex-ante interventions or proactive/preventive strategies that have been or are being implemented at national and/or sub-regional levels that aim specifically at reducing exposure to external shocks and improving resilience in SIDS. Please include information on any financial resources expended in this regard, if available **(750 words)**.

Regional initiatives are emerging to close the financial gaps known to constrain African SIDS's efforts to scale-up actions on SAMOA Pathways and SDGs. Continued political will and strategic support from the development partners in the process of building efficient institutional arrangements and structures are needed to move those initiatives to the expected scale

The success of Seychelles in running debt-for-nature swaps projects and issuing blue and green bonds is now in the process of being extrapolated by UNECA to Cabo Verde and other SIDS that have expressed interest in those sustainable financial instruments recognized to address some constraints in advancing progress on access to clean energy, conservation of land, and water ecosystems, support progress in youth and women employment plans, and build climate-resilient blue economies. UNECA in collaboration with UNCTAD will also start building the human and institutional capacities in SIDS, particularly in Comoros, and Cabo Verde to accelerate the flow of ODA to address further those constraints and green and climate-resilient growths focusing on fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.. UNECA is in the process of building the institutional capacity of Mauritius to assess the socio-economic effects of disasters such as the recent marine oil spills, that have devastated the blue economy, and allow Mauritius to develop a plan to rehabilitate and recover the biodiversity losses including losses of coral reefs and mangroves, and related services including ecotourism, fisheries, aquaculture, and livelihood of ocean-dependent communities.

The ongoing intervention of UNECA in the member countries of the Congo Basin Climate Commission that is inter alia harmonizing the protocols for carbon accounting, certification, and supporting carbon market integrity and trading of carbon credits in 16 countries members of the Commission has been recognized as an important mechanism that will also support several SIDS including São Tome & Príncipe (Party to the Commission), and Guinea Bissau collaborating closely with the Commission that has demonstrated a strong interest in such processes to support their national plans on coastal adaptation, ecotourism, energy access, fisheries, agriculture, and conservation of marine ecosystems in addition to providing additional revenue streams to communities and other organizations. The work done in the Congo Basin will also allow future similar support to be extended to the continents SIDS in other regions.

UNECA together with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are collaborating with the African Union Council and the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and their development partners to promote the concept of a Great Blue Wall to facilitate the regional integration of, and coherence among, their coastal plans, including on such matters as the restoration and resilience of coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, blue carbon markets, ecotourism, fisheries, food processing, disaster risk management, and others. The Great Blue Wall will equally benefit all African SIDS.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need to ensure that responses to vulnerability must be at the heart of international policy aimed at supporting SIDS, and that better-tailored development cooperation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS, are necessary. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/ approaches to improve and deliver more tailored development support to SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (750 words)

Global and regional partnerships are contributing to climate, and disaster-resilient green and blue economies, and societies.

The “Building disaster resilience to natural hazards in Sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities” Program, implemented within the framework of the Organization of African Caribbean Pacific States (OACPS) – European Union (EU) Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program, funded by the EU and managed by the World Bank-led Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) has been building resilience to natural hazards of disasters in the Sub-Saharan African region and countries over the past five years. Particularly, the program has strengthened the capacities of African RECs to advance regional disaster management, covering post-disaster need assessment, recovery frameworks, reconstruction, and resilience building. Many activities aligned with the strategic approach established by the African Union Commission program of action, the RECs disaster risk reduction strategy, and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction (2015-2030) were beneficial to African SIDS. The following initiatives in that regard are worth noting.

The capacities of RECS have been improved to upgrade the hydrological and hydro-meteorological services they provide to countries including SIDS to forecast, prevent, and mitigate some adverse effects of floods. Over the period 2019-2021, the World Bank Group has implemented coordination with several ministries of Cabo Verde a project that integrated disaster and climate risks into schools’ infrastructure investment aimed at increasing the quality of infrastructure and reducing exposure to hazards. A regional risk-financing framework for agriculture and food security has been established to help several SADC countries, including Madagascar, Comoros, and Seychelles to safeguard the incomes of rural poor and avert large economic-scale shocks to national and regional economies. With a loan approved by the World Bank for the period 2019-2021, ACP-EU NDRR has provided Seychelles with support to strengthen its emergency preparedness and response and climate resilience plans in the aftermath of the Tropical cyclone Felleng that affected Seychelles in 2013.

UNECA in collaboration with UNCT (SADC) is building the institutional capacities of Mauritius to assess the socio-economic effects of the recent marine oil spills and develop plans to rehabilitate and recover the losses on coral reefs and mangroves, and related services including ecotourism, fisheries, aquaculture, and livelihood of ocean-dependent communities.

To respond to ocean acidification that adversely affects fisheries and many other ocean economic activities in SIDS, several African and international organizations have been strengthening their monitoring capacities and governance responses. The OA-Africa Regional Network, affiliated with the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), was launched in 2015 as a regional hub for scientists in Africa working on ocean acidification to inform policy and adaptive strategies. The capacity of researchers working on ocean acidification is being strengthened and the impacts of ocean acidification are being documented through regional and local projects. Currently, 10 ocean acidification projects are underway, covering major ocean regions including the south-western Indian Ocean, the Benguela current system and the Gulf of Guinea, the area between the Canary Islands and Gibraltar, and the north-east Atlantic. Significant support is still needed, however, to scale up these initiatives and enable them to deliver the data and science needed to guide policy formulation.

PART B
**QUANTIFYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY:
TRENDS ANALYSIS OF ISSUE AREAS**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/217, a monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The framework is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Framework is available in **Attachment A** to this questionnaire.

The objective of the Framework is to quantify the progress made in each of the SIDS regions on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, in the lead-up to the preparations for the 4th international conference on SIDS, scheduled for 2024.

Using the data available in the Global SDG Data Portal (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>) and, where appropriate, from the UN regional commissions, Member States, custodian agencies, and other relevant stakeholders are kindly requested to provide a Thematic Area by Thematic Area status update on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, following the monitoring and evaluation Framework referenced above (Attachment A).

PART C
**ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: ASSESSMENT
OF POLICY PROGRESS**

The SAMOA Pathway contains several action areas that require policy formulation, programmes or projects to be implemented at national, subregional, and/or regional levels. These have been identified as part of the monitoring framework and are available in **Attachment B** to this questionnaire. By highlighting the changes in the national policies, their results, and their impact, the proposed analysis could further spotlight any progress in key priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway.

Using the framework referenced in Attachment B, Member States, relevant custodian agencies together with the Resident Coordinators/Offices in SIDS, are kindly requested to provide a brief status update for your country/region, under the overall coordination of the UN regional commissions, where appropriate.