



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 or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at XXXX under reports.

PART A

VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

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

Vulnerability reduction and resilience building are critical issues that must be addressed by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that have been or are being implemented at national or regional levels that aim specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include financial resources expended in this regard, if available (750 words).

A newly formulated National climate change policy, strategy, and Master Plan (NCCPSMP) 2021-2025 has been revised to accommodate new scientific findings and projections, incorporating updated mitigation and adaptation measures and mainstreaming updated national/sectoral priorities into the Nationally Determined contributions (NDC) revision. Targets include sectoral actions to build resilience and adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change in key economic sectors. Improving the health of Belize's natural resources and biodiversity is to be achieved through the successful creation of the Blue Bond through

a debt conversion agreement established with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The agreement will enable Belize to reduce its debt burden while increasing investment in conservation. The Protection Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) as an accredited entity in Belize for the green Climate Fund (GCF) is implementing readiness projects. This is to learn about the country's experience with the GCF and to collect information from stakeholders on the relevance on effectiveness of the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. Belize has a comprehensive readiness portfolio of 15 national and regional readiness projects in various areas and sectors. These projects will enable the country to meet its climate change goals and access the needed climate finance to be able to adapt and mitigate climate change impacts. Along with PACT and other grant funding agencies, the Belize National Meteorological Service (BNMS) is implementing the Energy Resilience for Climate Adaptation Project (ERCAP) aimed at enhancing the resilience of Belize's energy system to adverse weather and climate change impacts, Resilient Rural Belize (RRB) Project that aims to assist small farmers in becoming climate resilient, the Climate Resilient Smallholders Agricultural Project (CRESAP) with the World Bank, that involves research and capacity building and the GCF Readiness Project with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations that is aimed at enhancing adaptation planning and increasing climate resilience in the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize.

As a SIDS, Disaster Risk Reduction is at the forefront. Belize has signed on to the Sendai framework through the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM) with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) serving as the focal point to mitigate for disaster risk, disaster preparedness and response activities. Through the World Food Programme there is the implementation of a Social Protection Insurance Facility/Disaster Risk Financing: In the area of Disaster Risk Financing (DRF). A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between WFP and the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment to introduce a top-up facility of \$100,000 USD per year for direct cash transfers to affected families, to be mobilized in the event that its sovereign Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF SPC) is activated by its Tropical Cyclone and Excess Rainfall Policies for the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 policy periods.

The Ministry of Economic Development as the planning ministry has several ongoing interventions that aim to build resilience in country. There is economic infrastructure that build on climate resilient roads, bridges and structures. Flood control works in the Belize city are in place to assist in climate vulnerability reduction in Belize and to improve institutional capacity for climate adaptation, planning in smart- agriculture, sustainable tourism and improve gender- responsive climate and disaster resilience. In addition, there is the implementation of a Drought Recovery Scheme and Energy Resilience for climate change adaptation projects.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a US\$15 million operation to support the sustainability of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Belize that is ongoing. The project supports employment and promotes the economic recovery of MSMEs through access to production-oriented finance. This program benefits businesses in the agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors which were deeply affected due to their vulnerability to the COVID-19 crisis. The program supports MSMEs, especially those led by women, overcome temporary liquidity problems, protect jobs while allowing business continuity and operations. In addition, 30 percent of the total funding is earmarked for developing business modules that are targeted towards climate change adaptation and mitigation investments to promote a more sustainable and resilient economic recovery. (677/750- words)

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

Improved, tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS are necessary if SIDS are to effectively recover from the COVID Pandemic. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/ approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries. Please include indications of resource allocations if available (850 words)

The effects caused by Covid-19 socio-economically devastated Belize. This is due to Belize

being highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Tourism is estimated to account for at least 43% of the economy. The creation of the Plan Belize Medium Term Development Strategy (#PlanBelize) 2022-2026 sets the tone for the government's policy objectives for the next 5 years. This plan has 6 Strategic Objectives (SOs) that are aimed to transform Belize towards a more democratic, inclusive, sustainable and resilient society. The six SOs are Poverty Reduction, Economic transformation, Trade Deficit Reduction, Citizen Security, Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, and No corruption and Good governance. #PlanBelize aims to address inequalities and facilitate access, inclusion, quality and accountability. It will continue to mainstream Agenda 2030, climate change actions to minimize and manage the risks associated with climate related impacts.

There has been limited integration of the SAMOA Pathway into the national developmental plans. The lack of a clear implementation plan (institutional mechanism, required funding and M&E framework), poor coordination among implementing partners and engagement of the national SIDS focal points, lack of awareness and limited stakeholder engagement can be attributed to the low national buy-in and importance of the SIDS agenda. There is lack of financing for these actions and not enough access to development financing. Since the adoption of the SAMOA pathway in 2014, the government has not entered into partnerships specifically aimed at supporting its implementation. The main sources of financing for the implementation of policies, programmes and projects specifically aimed at advancing development have been primarily Public, Private domestic (265/850)

PART B

IDENTIFYING POLICY PRIORITIES IN SIDS FOR THE NEW AGENDA

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas which require policy formulation, programmes or projects to implemented at national, sub regional and/or regional levels. While SIDS have made a fair amount of progress with actioning these over the last decade, a number of gaps remain. As the international community prepares for the 4th International Conference on SIDS, what are the key priority policies, programes and projects that are needed to further advance

the SIDS development agenda and why? (750 words)

There have been obstacles to securing affordable international financing for the implementation of development goals as a SIDS. One main obstacle is Belize's Eligibility based on the requirements to access international financing because of its GNI ranking. Belize is ranked as upper middle income and thus does not qualify for several opportunities. There needs to be established coordination and communication with IFIs. This can be addressed when revamping the financial architecture for sustainable development.

The lengthy process to develop a project proposal from its inception of a concept note takes too long with the GCF. SIDS need to have short, medium and long-term plans that address some of the challenges in providing some of the basic needs of its population. These plans need to be informed by data at the national and local level and recommended actions need to be within the policies, frameworks of the respective SIDS. The SDU and the SIB are currently working on a state of SDG implementation in Belize data exercise, as necessary as this exercise is, it comes with several challenges. Data and statistics, availability, accessibility, data management capacity building and statistical systems must be strengthened. Data is needed for policy decision; it is a Major shortcoming.

Additionally, programs and projects need to be focused on impact on people, building human and institutional capacities to build resilience of SIDS against human and natural threats. The UN has been supporting the SDG implementation and other climate actions and as a result, the SIDS agenda has also been advancing somewhat. There are many opportunities where Agenda 2030 and the SAMOA pathway can be highlighted and sensitized to the public with the help of financing from UN systems, however, greater integration and coordination is needed. Technical assistance and support for these national sensitization and public awareness would also be of great value for proper implementation of the SAMOA pathway and AGENDA 2030.

At the national level there currently isn't an inter- agency mechanism specifically for the coordination and monitoring on the implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda. There is however a secretariat that coordinates and reports on the M,E L of the

#PlanBelize that is the midway point for Belize's Horizon 2030. The #PlanBelize is a national document that highlights the government's priorities which contains programs and policies aligned to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. There is limited policy integration and incorporation at all levels in addition to the lack of awareness of the SAMOA pathway plan itself. Given the similarities between SDG and the indicators for the SAMOA Pathway; the alignment of these programs to SDGs allows the monitoring of the SAMOA pathway indicators as well. Therefore, it is safe to say that the implementation of the SAMOA pathway is as a result of the SDG implementation.

The finance unit at the Ministry of Finance and Sustainable Development Unit in the MSDCCDRM can have a stronger presence and provide valuable assistance to SIDS. The establishment of the MSDCCDRM has brought together departments that have a vital role in advocating for and building resilience. These departments include the National Climate Change Office, the Belize National Meteorological Service, the Department of the Environment, the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the National Emergency Management Organization, the Belize National Fire Service, the Forest Department, the National Biodiversity Office, the Protected Areas conservation trust and the Sustainable Development Unit. There can be incorporation of the SAMOA indicators into the collection process for the SDG indicators in the form of a well-managed Sustainable Development Council. An implementation strategy with a budget that is specific to the SAMOA pathway does not exist. Technical assistance would be effective in creating this strategy. One of the main gaps that the SIDS agenda has encountered is its poor coordination with other regional and international frameworks. ECLAC can assist in more analysis of implementation of the SIDS agenda, reports are produced but very few if any are shared or acknowledged in the country. (657/750)