QUESTIONNAIRE

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

Please note that <u>strict word limits</u> 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).**

Due to their geographic characteristics, SIDS countries are amongst the most vulnerable to climate change In an increasingly complex and inter-connected risk and vulnerability landscape characterized by profound global transformations, such as climate change, growing inequalities, digitalization, urbanization, challenges to the multilateral system, and record levels of <u>international migration</u> and <u>displacement;</u> strengthening disaster risk governance and prevention at all levels has taken on a new urgency. In SIDS, climate-induced displacement can pose <u>economic, social and cultural challenges</u> which magnifies structural and conjunctural development challenges uniquely impacting the SIDS, such as the development funding gap due to a broken global financial system, the debt crises, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ripple effects of the Ukraine war on food, energy and cost of living.

Resilience is an important outcome of IOM's engagement with stakeholders in the **Caribbean**. In a region severely affected by multiple disasters and related displacement, IOM is building capacities to enhance coordination and improve timely response, including through stock prepositioning. IOM is also working to improve national mechanisms to

reduce exposure to environmental hazards through planned relocation in **Cuba** and the **Dominican Republic**. The larger integration of human mobility in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) plans is supported through dialogue with national counterparts and the promotion of adequate public policies. In the **Eastern Caribbean**, IOM is supporting counterparts in designing policies and programmes that address climate and environmental mobility from a human security perspective. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, IOM continues to collaborate with government agencies such as the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management of the Ministry of National Security, in efforts at increasing preparedness among the migrant population.

In the **Pacific** region, IOM is a key stakeholder on DRR, CCA and community resilience building efforts. In addition to projects reported upon in IOM's 2022 submission inputs under this report and for which implementation continued; IOM launched new projects in the **Federated State of Micronesia** and in the **Republic of the Marshall Islands** to expand resilience of vulnerable communities in outer islands, by enhancing Water Health and Sanitation (WASH) capacity in public facilities such as schools and clinics. In the **Republic of the Marshall Islands,** IOM has been supporting the development of the National Adaptation Plan by conducting community consultations in various atolls in coordination with the Government. In the **Federated State of Micronesia**, **Republic of the Marshall Islands,** and **Kiribati**, a regional program to support community efforts towards climate change adaptation through small grants allocations to civil society organizations was launched. In **Palau** a food security project targeting communities affected by Typhoon Surigae is ongoing.

In the **Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS)** region, IOM works with partners in a range of interventions that aim to improve resilience of communities. The dramatic reduction in human mobility was one of the most significant effects of the pandemic in the **Maldives**, resulting in major social and economic impacts, as the country relies heavily on tourism. Under the UN COVID-19 Socioeconomic Response and Recovery Framework's Pillar 3 that focuses on protecting jobs, small and medium enterprises, and informal sector workers, IOM initiated a project on Immigration and Border Health Management to strengthen the capacities of border management to respond to infectious diseases, at Points of Entry (POE) across the Maldives. This aims to contribute towards efficient, secure, and safer operations at POEs in tandem with the tourism sector's recovery to pre-pandemic levels of cross-border mobility. In **Bahrain,** IOM and partners undertook a study to assess the current situation on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and related issues. The study details the developments that are taking place on country-level including, human mobility trends and how they are impacted by environmental and climate factors; the current situation in terms of managing the challenges of environment and climate led human mobility; what are the key risks, level of preparedness in terms of governance, nationally determined contribution, and adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction strategies. In **Cabo Verde**, IOM is promoting the economic recovery of migrant workers, particularly migrant women, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, by implementing an entrepreneurship Start-Up Challenge enabling them to develop and implement their business ideas and restore

their self-sustaining capacity.

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**)

Tailored development approaches are required to meet the specific needs of SIDS. IOM builds on its global expertise, working in a diversity of humanitarian, development, and peace contexts, to connect proven good policy and operational practices that leverage migration and migrants' contribution to sustainable development; and to deliver tailored development support that befits each country's needs and national priorities.

In the **South-western Indian Ocean**, the increasing sophistication of criminal activities taking place by sea in the vast ocean areas along the coast of mainland Africa and the Island States of Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and French territories, has led to a renewed attention to dynamics of migrant smuggling to and from the sub-region. It is well known that transnational criminal networks maximize opportunities that mix smuggling of goods, human beings, and natural resources, weapons and drug trafficking, as well as illegal fishing activities. In 2022, IOM supported the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) and the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) to hold a simulation exercise (SIMEX) to build the capacity of border management officials to effectively manage irregular migration at sea. Participants included 51 border management officials, from **Comoros**, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, **Mauritius** and **Seychelles**, and from the two regional centers (RCOC and RMIFC). IOM also supported a regional stocktaking workshop on Maritime Security in the region; which helped enhance the capacity of stakeholders on migration and maritime security in a regional context.

The recent graduation of **Cabo Verde** from a lower- to a middle-income country has highlighted challenges to a country without any significant natural resources. Cabo Verde is highly dependent on tourism and the human, financial and other resources and capacities of its diaspora, through the mobilization of its resources both in terms of professional competencies and remittances. The number Cabo Verdeans living abroad today is estimated to be double the number of domestic residents. Yet, the situation has changed recently with an increasing number of immigrants arriving in Cabo Verde, challenging the Government of Cabo Verde. In this context, IOM is supporting an initiative to improve diaspora engagement in Cabo Verde through the revision of the Diaspora Engagement Strategy and the development and implementation of the Diaspora Investment Programme which intends to mobilize resource from Cabo Verde diaspora to develop and implement their investments projects in the country, contributing to the overall country's sustainable development, job creation and poverty reduction. At the same time, and for those that return to Cabo Verde,

IOM is supporting the deployment of electronic Readmission Case Management System (eRCMS) that allows easy data access and information on readmission cases, including real-time statistics, alongside the development of a platform for legal identity online requests, and the installation of a digitalization centre for the National Archives of Registry, Notary and Identification. ATo ensure the wellbeing and the rights of immigrants settling in Cabo Verde are fully respected, IOM is promoting the protection of migrant workers in Cabo Verde by improving labour migration governance mechanisms through awareness raising on ethical recruitment considerations and providing tools to recruiters and employers on ethical recruitment.

The migration landscape in the Gulf region is unique, with migrants accounting for an average of 70 percent of the employed population in those countries. Migration has provided countless jobs and generated billions of dollars in remittances for migrant workers and their families. In this way, and by helping to address the large labour shortages in destination countries, migration can be a 'win-win-win' for workers, employers as well as for both countries of origin and destination. However, cases of exploitation by recruitment agencies and employers often create considerable hardship for workers, and threaten to cause reputational damage to companies, employers and countries of destination. In 2022, IOM conducted a review of existing social protection measures for migrants in the Gulf region, including **Bahrain**, was conducted with the aim to map the existing system for social protection, as well as identify gaps and areas of future work. This includes a legal and literature review combined with stakeholder interviews including government, academia, civil society and migrant organizations. IOM also organized, in cooperation with the Naif Arab University of Security Sciences (NAUSS), organized an Arab-region workshop on Legal Identity, Border Security and Safe Mobility in January 2023. The workshop, brought together over thirty regional government officials and focused on strengthening cooperation on border security and identity management to improve safe migration across the region. The workshop also outlined recommendations on cross border cooperation as well as measures aimed at strengthening access to legal identity, consular support and protection of migrants, and technical capacities of governments in risk analysis, including document verification and use of biometrics technologies.

PART B

IDENTIFYING POLICY PRORITIES 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)

IOM continues to implement various operational and policy-focused interventions related to migration governance and mainstreaming of migration, to ensure the advancement of sustainable and inclusive development in the SIDS. These directly advance the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway priority action areas; and have the potential to accelerate progress of the SDGs.

The SIDS illustrate the complex and dynamic interlinkages between human mobility and development, and the full spectrum of challenges and opportunities of human mobility-focused action that can be undertaken as a development strategy. The 2030 Agenda recognized migration as a core development consideration and provides an overarching framework to address the complex and dynamic relationship between human mobility and development, and to understand how people on the move shape development outcomes and vice versa. Landmark documents that have been adopted since, and which are rooted in the 2030 Agenda provide a further blueprint for human mobility to be a powerful driver of sustainable development.

In particular, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) offers a 360-degree vision to optimize the overall benefits of migration for sustainable development in the SIDS; and the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement can transform the way displacement crises are resolved, prevented and addressed in the SIDS.

Human mobility patterns to, from, amongst, and within SIDS are increasingly complex – driven and impacted by major global transformations, including a world growing less equal; changing demographics; digitalization and the reconceptualization of the nature of work; mistrust, exclusion from decision-making and hyper individualism; conflicts; disasters, climate change and environmental degradation; a broken financing for development ecosystem; and challenges to the multilateral system. These changes are being felt everywhere, and with acuteness in the SIDS; many of which have the least of means to cope.

The new SIDS development agenda that will build on the legacy of the 2014's SIDS SAMOA Pathway; the 2004's Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and the 1994's Barbados Programme of Action **MUST integrate human mobility in a consistent and comprehensive manner**. In the lead up to, and during the Fourth International Conference on the SIDS, the international community should underline that the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will not be achieved in the SIDS without due consideration of human mobility; and that people on the move are part of the solution.

The international community has an opportunity to identify new clustered areas of actions that can significantly accelerate and scale up sustainable and inclusive development efforts in the SIDS for the next decade. IOM thus puts forward the following recommendations:

- Extend social protection and universal health coverage to all migrants and displaced persons, with a specific focus on youth and women, in order to **reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities** and enable their active participation and contribution to SIDS societies.
- Develop safe and regular migration pathways across borders, reduce remittances transaction costs, and integrate the human and financial capital of diasporas in trade systems to **boost value chains in the SIDS and to meet the needs for long term sustainable development finance**.
- Include migrants' voices and integrate human mobility considerations into national and local development plans as well as urban planning efforts to achieve **cohesive SIDS communities and sustainable rural and urban development.**
- Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of formal and informal skills, qualifications and competences of people on the move to **meet the demands and needs of a changing global labour market and divergent demographic trends** among countries.
- Reduce the digital access gap for people on the move and use digitalization of economies to effectively **leverage migrants and displaced persons' entrepreneurship, including for green transition and climate action in the SIDS**.
- Integrate human mobility into national adaptation plans, invest in preparedness and means to **address loss and damages, reduce climate induced displacement and build resilient and peaceful SIDS societies capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change**.