



## **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).**

The ITC is building resilience in the agriculture sector of SIDS through its [Alliances for Action \(A4A\)](#) aiming to transform food systems and advance the SDGs through producer partnerships that cultivate ethical, climate smart, sustainable agricultural value chains. Collaborating with the ACP Secretariat, UNIDO and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), ITC *inter alia* presently have projects in Dominican Republic and Jamaica (cocoa and associated crops), Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea (coconut and kava); and Fiji (Regional Approach with SPC).

##### **Resilience in Agriculture**

ITC is building resilience in the agriculture sector of SIDS using our methodology - Alliances for Action (A4A) - to establish a network that transforms food systems and advances the SDGs through producer partnerships that cultivate ethical, climate smart, sustainable agricultural value chains. We aim at achieving resilience and growth for farmers and MSMEs

through more mindful and responsible trade, production and consumption systems and improved opportunities to compete on a global market. This includes building strength and competitiveness of MSMEs and enabling sustainable market linkages and value addition. In the long term, this will serve to incentivize and engage more youth and women at all sector levels.

The main projects/initiatives which are currently being implemented in SIDS are the following:

- ACP programme - Support to business friendly and inclusive national and regional policies and strengthening productive capacities and value chains in partnership with the ACP Secretariat and in coordination with UNIDO and the International Finance Corporation (IFC):
  - o Dominican Republic and Jamaica (cocoa and associated crops)
  - o Vanuatu and PNG (coconut and kava)
  - o Fiji (Regional Approach with SPC)
- Regional Caribbean project focused on the coconut sector and covering 12 countries, with regional actors such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Jamaica's Scientific Research Council, the International Coconut Community and Ministries of Agriculture in the region.
- Partnership with the Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN) to improve access to finance and investment to small processors and smallholder farmers. ITC/A4A has also developed and piloted the investment prospectus (IP) with SAFIN in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic as part of the Coconut project. ITC supports financial institutions in the Dominican Republic to achieve the inclusion of the coconut sector in the series of existing financial vehicles for some commodities.

A specific example is our work with the Alligator Head Foundation and the Coconut Industry Board to diversify farmer livelihoods through coconut production and trade, to increase food production through sustainable environmental management, protect land and marine ecosystems and biodiversity and promote climate change adaptation.

Results include boosted coconut production that values people and planet, 40 smallholder farmers & communities supported, and more than 10,000 combined seedlings distributed.

### **Resilience through National Export Strategies**

ITC has helped to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on Curaçao's tourism sector to reduce the country's overreliance on a single sector for economic prosperity.

In 2021, with the Ministry of Economic Development, we have supported the development of the National Export Strategy (NES) which focuses on priority sectors, such as financial services, port and maritime services, IT, creative industries, education services, blue bioeconomy sectors, medical and wellness tourism. These sectors demonstrate the highest potential to generate decent jobs and foreign exchange earnings.

ITC is also finalizing the Coconut sector strategy for Micronesia.

**467 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)**

ITC through its SIDS strategy intends to continue providing trade related technical assistance to enable countries to capitalise on global trends such as the growth in services and technology-enabled creative exports. We will focus attention on the uptake in global usage of digital technologies which is changing the way we trade. We will continue supporting countries to respond to the growing global demand for sustainably and ethically produced food while building their sustainability and climate resilience.

Expected results will be linked to the main goals of the strategy which are:

- Support economic diversification by boosting exports in emerging, high value, innovative niche sectors (e.g., blue, green and orange economies)
- Strengthen the capacity of MSMEs to overcome limitations related to remoteness, scale and vulnerability
- Promote growth of digital and e-commerce infrastructure to boost international competitiveness of MSMEs
- Support climate resilience in MSMEs to ensure business continuity and mitigate impacts.

**148 words**

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on SIDS, what are the key priority policies, programmes and projects that are needed to further advance the SIDS development agenda and why? (750 words)**

Boosting SIDS' share of global trade, which has stagnated and shrunk in the last decades, is paramount. Enhancing the capacity to trade has to be front and centre for the way forward and MSMEs are the drivers.

- SIDS need support to diversify into emerging high value niche sectors in the blue, green and orange economies. Attracting investment, strengthening the policy framework and raising awareness on market opportunities in select sectors will be important.
- Strengthen the capacity of SMEs in SIDS to overcome limitations related to remoteness, scale and vulnerability. This is important for helping SIDS to truly capitalise on untapped market opportunities in niche sectors, where they have a competitive edge but are unable to capitalise on because of lack of scale.
- Promote growth of digital and e-commerce infrastructure to boost international competitiveness of SMEs in SIDS. More focus needs to be placed on addressing bottlenecks in ICT regulation, fostering MSME digitalization and e-commerce infrastructure.
- Support climate resilience in MSMEs to ensure business continuity and mitigate impacts. This should also include linking discussions on climate finance to economic growth and decent work in SIDS. Climate finance should enable:
  - a. Policy makers to develop green policies that are attractive for investors and fosters entrepreneurship in the green economy;
  - b. Business Support Organisations to be resourced and equipped to strengthen the competitiveness of MSMEs to become climate resilient;
  - c. Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises to make the green transition, to capitalise on sustainable energy solutions and adapt their business operations to survive disasters.

**252 words**