UNODC's inputs to the SG report on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

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).**

<u>**Corruption**</u>

- UNODC leverages a regional approach in its anti-corruption technical assistance delivery, including through the creation of regional platforms across the world to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In April 2023, UNODC launched the Regional Platform to Fast-Track UNCAC Implementation in Central America for Costa Rica, **Dominican Republic**, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. UNODC plans to launch a Regional Platform for the **Caribbean** in the last quarter of 2023, tentatively covering **Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago**. To this end, UNODC is currently engaging with international partners such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

- UNODC and UNDP worked jointly on a short briefing paper entitled *Corruption Below the Water* on how to improve governance in the fisheries sector of **Pacific Island Countries** by using corruption risk management as a key preventive measure. The paper is expected to be published in mid-2023.

<u>**Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**</u>

- In **Maldives**, UNODC contributes to strengthen the resilience of Maldivian society toward serious crimes taking place at land and sea. Against this backdrop, UNODC's work focuses on preventing and combating violent radicalization of at-risk segments of Maldivian society, possible returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters, and persons in detention facilities, and on the protection of children against violence. In this regard,

the Office delivered workshops on conducting child assessments and on cooperation and coordination for the effective implementation of diversion and restorative justice approaches to criminal justice officers. Jointly with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), UNODC also conducted an online training of trainers on juvenile justice.

- Within the framework of a cross-regional project, UNODC delivered a two-day training on strengthening non-custodial measures to reduce overcrowding in **Maldives** prisons, to sensitize relevant stakeholders on the implementation of non-custodial measures based on international standards and norms such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

Organized Crime

- UNODC continued to support the 35 SIDS UN Member States, as well as the **Cook Islands** and **Niue** which are party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)[1] in implementing the Convention through legislative and strategic measures. At the same time, the Office also continued to provide pre-accession assistance to **Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands** and **Tuvalu,** which are not yet party to the Convention. In 2022, 8 SIDS (**Barbados, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Mauritius, St. Lucia, Seychelles** and **Trinidad and Tobago**) participated in regional-level multi-stakeholder meetings on organized crime strategies.

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**)

Corruption

- In **Timor-Leste**, UNODC is working with the Commission Against Corruption to strengthen anti-corruption resilience, by developing a strong asset declaration system for public officials and enhancing the capacity of criminal justice agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption cases.

- In **Haiti**, UNODC is implementing a project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF),

---

[1] Most SIDS have now become parties to the Convention, with the exception of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

jointly with UNDP and OHCHR, on social cohesion and national consensus against corruption. In addition to strengthening Haitian institutions in charge of preventing and fighting corruption, this project aims at empowering Haitian civil society, including women and youth, to advocate for anti-corruption reform more effectively, taking the lead on awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives. Moreover, UNODC is launching a new initiative, jointly with the Organization of American States, to strengthen Haiti's capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of corruption, money laundering and economic crimes, including through enhanced international cooperation and information sharing.

- In **Dominican Republic**, UNODC has been providing technical advice to revise the criminal code in line with the recommendations of the Implementation Review Mechanism under UNCAC.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

- UNODC supported the **Dominican Republic** in conducting its national victimization surveys to strengthen the development of more tailored and knowledge-based crime prevention interventions. Furthermore, the Office also conducted a technical needs assessment in the country on access to justice for women in cases of gender-based violence and trained 103 criminal justice professionals through a capacity-building workshop for judges, prosecutors and police officers to enhance the effectiveness of responses by the judiciary.

- UNODC supported **Papua New Guinea** in the development of its National Crime Prevention Policy (2022-2032).

- As a result of UNODC ongoing work with Venezuelan migrants in **Trinidad and Tobago** to promote early identification and safe case referral to authorities, a potential cybercrime case was reported to UNODC. The Office referred the case details to the Cyber Unit and Child Unit in Trinidad and Tobago in 2022, and authorities informed UNODC that the cases are currently under investigation.

Organized Crime

- In **Jamaica** UNODC provided support in the development of the country's national strategy against organized crime.

- UNODC assisted **Comoros** and **Dominican Republic** in the development of the legislative framework against organized crime (i.e. the penal codes of both countries and the Criminal Procedure Code of Comoros).

Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

- UNODC continued its support to SIDS in preventing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, mainly through the *Strengthening Transregional Action and Responses*

against the Smuggling of Migrants ([STARSOM](#)) project, funded by Canada; and the *Transforming alerts into criminal justice responses to combat trafficking in persons within the migration flows* ([TRACK4TIP](#)) project, funded by the United States.

Under these projects, the Office organized a series of bilateral meetings and capacity-building activities which benefited **Aruba**, **Barbados, Curaçao**, the **Dominican Republic**, the **Maldives, Trinidad and Tobago**, and **Turks and Caicos Islands**. UNODC also facilitated South-South Cooperation activities which led to identifying new migrant smuggling routes, the initiation of a bilateral cooperation between **Sri Lanka** and the **Maldives** (with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding) as well as the identification of common human trafficking cases in a trilateral meeting between **Barbados**, the **Dominican Republic**, and **Turks and Caicos**. Finally, UNODC developed draft SOPs for the **Trinidad and Tobago** Counter Trafficking Unit and trained law enforcement officials in **Aruba**, **Curaçao** and **Trinidad and Tobago** on the use of national referral mechanisms.

- Under its research function, UNODC supported six Pacific Islands (**Fiji, the Federal State of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands** and **Tonga**) to develop national administrative recording systems on trafficking in persons, by estimating the number of victims of trafficking in persons in Fiji and Palau, and by producing a regional report highlighting challenges related to trafficking in persons and points of vulnerabilities that countries in the Pacific Islands could address.

Border management
- Through UNODC-WCO-INTERPOL *Airport Communication Programme* ([AIRCOP](#)) and the UNODC-WCO *Container Control Programme* ([CCP](#)), UNODC supports **Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica** and **Trinidad and Tobago** in strengthening the capacities of international ports and airports to target and intercept cargo, mail and high-risk passengers and facilitating communication and coordination between origin, transit and destination countries to disrupt cross-border illicit flows and criminal networks.

- In implementing AIRCOP and CCP in these countries, UNODC ensures close collaboration with regional organizations, including CARICOM and the Implementation Agency from Crime and Security (IMPACS), to contribute to and enhance regional capacities and capabilities in the fight against transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Cybercrime
- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, UNODC implements the project *Strengthening Trinidad and Tobago capacities to effectively prevent and counter online child sexual abuse and exploitation and related crimes* (OCSEA T&T), funded by the Government of Canada, to increase knowledge and skills of law enforcement officers and prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting online child sexual abuse and exploitation and cyber-enabled trafficking in persons. In July 2022 and April 2023, UNODC delivered different workshops focused on cybercrime and digital evidence and the provision of psychosocial support and other specialized support for victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, in

coordination with INTERPOL, the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC), and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Moreover, the Office started supporting the development of the multisectoral response and capacity (MRC) assessment of national policies, programmes, and capabilities to prevent and combat online child sexual abuse and exploitation in collaboration with ICMEC.

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)

- SIDS need a consistent and comprehensive intervention strategy focused on a long-term impact and evolving nature of criminal threats. Focus areas should include drugs (supply and demand reduction, and rehabilitation of drug users), organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism, financial crimes, corruption, maritime safety and security, and trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Emerging digital threats in relation to such areas must be taken into consideration. Due to the unique geographical conformation of most SIDS, any such type of intervention must be delivered at both the central and local level. The most vulnerable groups, such as hard-to-reach individuals and individuals in remote islands, must be factored in when planning interventions, and ensure they are not left behind.

- Continued efforts to strengthen anti-corruption measures at the national and regional levels are essential to further advance the SIDS development agenda, as preventing and countering corruption contributes to sustainable development and effective resource mobilization while also helping to ensure trust in institutions and access to public services.