

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)**.

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs has implemented two projects aimed at reducing exposure of external shocks and improving resilience in small island developing States (SIDS).

In the context of the Division's evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies (OETS) project, implemented with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which has Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica as its beneficiary States, a Latin America and Caribbean regional experience sharing virtual workshop was held on 23-24 September 2021, highlighting the need to strengthen capacities of coastal developing countries, in particular SIDS, in adopting, elaborating and implementing evidence-based and policy coherent OETS to promote sustainable trade of products and services in ocean-based economic sectors within the framework of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

At the workshop, the project report entitled "[Impact and implications of COVID-19 for the ocean economy and trade strategy](#)" was presented, which addresses the impacts of COVID-19 on the selected ocean economy sectors and provides a resource to proactively prepare for future systemic

disruptions to these sectors in the beneficiary countries and those similarly situated. The preparation of the report came to a total expense of USD 18,000 through the UNCTAD administered project.

With the delimitation and delineation of maritime zones as an essential element of ocean sustainability, including livelihoods, in the context of the Division's Programmes of Assistance to Meet the Strategic Capacity Needs of Developing States in the Field of Ocean Governance and the Law of the Sea, the Division delivered an Online Training Course on Delineation of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf Beyond 200 Nautical Miles and for Preparation of a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, with the collaboration of the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium and the Pacific Community, from 12 July to 6 August 2021. The course trained 29 individuals from the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The total direct financial expenditure by the Division for the Online Training Course was USD 10,000.

In addition, the Division continued to provide Fellowship opportunities under the UN-Nippon Foundation Programmes, including with the aim of supporting a resilient post-COVID-19 recovery in SIDS. In 2021, 5 individuals from SIDS participated in various fellowship programmes, and 8 individuals from SIDS participated in online Alumni activities.

The Division is also a partner in the PROBLUE (World Bank) Ocean Governance Capacity Building Training Programme. It leads several modules of the training on: UNCLOS including national implementation; ocean governance frameworks; multilateral fisheries agreements; dispute settlement; marine scientific research; maritime security; biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction; as well as the blue economy and sustainable development. From 19 April to 7 May 2021, the project delivered a regional workshop in the Pacific, with 48 participants from 22 countries and organizations. From 13 September to 28 October 2021, the project delivered a regional workshop in Africa, with 87 participants from the region, including from SIDS. The Division did not expend direct financial resources in the participation in the trainings.

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 co-operation 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 on more tailored development support to SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available **(750 words)**

In the context of the Division's Programmes of Assistance to Meet the Strategic Capacity Needs of Developing States in the Field of Ocean Governance and the Law of the Sea, the Division has conducted consultations with regional intergovernmental organizations and others, including those relating to SIDS, to gain insight in ongoing regional programmes and activities on ocean governance and to identify capacity-building needs and priorities in the region.

The activity informs the development of an inventory of ocean-related capacity-building needs and priorities within regions. It will also aid in the identification of existing programmes on ocean governance to determine how these can be complemented or reinforced through customized training courses and other capacity-building initiatives.

Regional consultations have been conducted with the participation of the following organizations relevant to SIDS, as well as others: Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC); Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Secretariat; Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); University of the South Pacific (USP); Abidjan Convention Secretariat; Blue Ventures Madagascar; IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA); Nairobi Convention Secretariat; Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT); United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA); IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC); Cartagena Convention Secretariat; Central America Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD); IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE); Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS).

All consultations were conducted online at no direct financial cost to DOALOS.

The Division has also facilitated national ocean governance studies (OGS) as part of its Programmes of Assistance to Meet the Strategic Capacity Needs of Developing States in the Field of Ocean Governance and the Law of the Sea. These OGS are aimed at supporting the beneficiary States in their implementation of UNCLOS and related instruments, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and reinforcing the overall efficiency of national ocean governance frameworks, through providing a high-level overview of their legal and institutional frameworks, including in specific ocean sectors of strategic relevance identified by the State, and a prioritized inventory of capacity-building needs. In 2021 and 2022, the Division delivered this form of tailored development support to two SIDS, Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago, including through sectoral analyses of the legal and institutional frameworks for ocean renewable energy, mariculture, and seabed mining in Antigua and Barbuda, and for coastal tourism and shipping in Trinidad and Tobago.

Under the Division's OETS project, discussed above, tailored capacity-building and technical assistance is being provided to support the implementation of priority actions identified by the beneficiary States, including Barbados and Belize, based on their oceans economy and trade strategies developed under the project. For Barbados, the project is supporting an updated economic evaluation of the Barbados longline fishery, a study on the market potential for both local and export of swordfish, as well as the implementation of an experimental fishing exercise to identify best fishing techniques and costs for swordfish harvesting. For Belize, the project supported the gathering of data on finfish landing in Belize based on a finfish data collection methodology developed under the project, as well as the preparation of a draft multispecies finfish management plan and related consultations and training.

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 at **Attachment A** to this questionnaire.

The objective of the Framework is to quantify the progress made in each of the SIDS regions on 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).

With regard to CLUSTER 53-58 Oceans and Seas, in particular the proposed second indicator under (e), "Degree of engagement of SIDS in the negotiations in the development of the IA on BBNJ", the Division notes that 29 SIDS sent delegations to the most recent fourth session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference), which was held from 7 to 18 March 2022. 152 textual proposals were made by groups of States either consisting of or including SIDS, or by individual SIDS.

Ahead of the fourth session of Intergovernmental Conference, the Division convened a BBNJ Training on 1 and 3 December 2021, as part of its activities under the United Nations - Nippon Foundation Programmes. The training was held virtually and attended by 12 participants from SIDS.

The Division has offered financial assistance from the BBNJ Trust Fund to delegates from 19 SIDS for participation in the various sessions of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference.

PART C

ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: ASSESSMENT OF POLICY PROGRESS

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of 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 at **Attachment B** to this questionnaire. By highlighting the changes in the national policies, their results and impact, the proposed analysis could further spotlight any progress in key priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway.

Using the framework referenced at 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.

With regard to CLUSTER 53-58 Oceans and Sea, paragraph (a) which refers to indicator 14.c.1:

The Division is the custodian agency for indicator 14.c.1, 'Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources'.

40 SIDS are party to UNCLOS. With respect to its two implementing agreements, the 1994 Part XI Agreement and the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, 31 SIDS are party to the former and 24 SIDS are party to the latter. In 2020, a questionnaire was conducted to establish the degree of ratification and implementation of these instruments. Responses were received from four SIDS. These responses indicated an average ratification and accession rate to the above-mentioned instruments of 83 per cent, with a lower rate of implementation at 60 per cent. Going forward, the collection of data from more SIDS, particularly in the Pacific, is essential. Additional efforts are also needed so that SIDS may participate in, and effectively implement, UNCLOS and its implementing agreements.