

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 [Small Island Developing States | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#) under reports .

PART A

VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for a resilient Prosperity in SIDS

The New SIDS Programme of Action will require improved, tailored development cooperation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS. 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 (**750 words**).

The SIDS National Focal Points (NFP) Network, established in 2018, has become an integral part of the SIDS architecture to deliver on its Agenda. The adoption of the ABAS brings needed impetus, and urgency for a revitalized NFP network to ensure it could support the implementation of the ABAS.

The SIDS National Focal Points (NFP) Network, therefore, successfully launched its Engagement Strategy during a side event at the fourth International Conference on SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024. This strategy aims to guide the NFPs in executing their primary functions to ensure the effective implementation of the new programme of action and achieve the desired outcomes over the next decade. The Strategy outlines several revamped activities to support the SIDS NFPs, including annual virtual meetings, participation in international and regional meetings related to SIDS, and capacity-building initiatives. These initiatives are designed to enhance stakeholders' understanding of the ABAS.

Alongside the Engagement Strategy, OHRLLS is developing a toolkit. This toolkit will assist the NFPs in integrating and localizing ABAS outcomes and deliverables into national development strategies, enabling better measurement of ABAS progress. To

familiarize NFPs with the toolkit, OHRLLS proposes an annual two-day workshop.

Additionally, OHRLLS is preparing a resource mobilization project to secure support from donor countries, partners, and the private sector in relation to these activities mentioned above. This project aims to bolster the engagement and support of the SIDS NFPs, ensuring they have the necessary resources to carry out their activities effectively.

Harnessing the innovation of the private sector to achieve sustainable development in SIDS holds significant promise to deliver on the ABAS. OHRLLS, through the Small Islands Developing States Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) has rallied the private sector to support the implementation of the SIDS Agenda.

OHRLLS convened the SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Forum 2024 as a special event of the SIDS4 Conference. The Forum focused on hearing recommendations from the business and investment community on how to strengthen the private sector in SIDS and better engage them in the implementation of the ABAS. Among the recommendations that emerged from the Forum, OHRLLS has selected four key action points to take forward in the work under the SIDS-GBN going forward. This includes the development of a roadmap for blue-green development, the concept development of a trust fund for community based MSMEs, a framework for strengthening the enabling business environment, and a framework for attracting financing and investment into businesses. OHRLLS will also advocate for stakeholders to take leadership on addressing the other recommendations. The 2026 Forum will provide an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of these recommendations. OHRLLS will also monitor partnerships that are facilitated through the SIDS-GBN in support of the ABAS.

OHRLLS' advocacy and support on climate change related issues, including on access to climate finance, the loss and damage fund, through and with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) has been steadfast over the years. OHRLLS will continue this effort, ensuring sustained and targeted advocacy to advance the SIDS climate related agenda. Following the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, OHRLLS will continue advocating for the speedy and proper capitalization and disbursement of the funds, equitably, to those most in need.

At SIDS4, OHRLLS in partnership with AOSIS and Climate Analytics held a side event focusing on enhancing SIDS' access to finance, particularly for Loss and Damage funding arrangements.

Later in 2024, OHRLLS will prepare a technical briefing paper and convene a roundtable dialogue on Loss and Damage financing with AOSIS to strategize on the funding arrangements needed by SIDS, and how this will need to be addressed at COP29.

This is part of a wider body of work the Office is undertaking to advocate for greater understanding of the climate vulnerabilities of SIDS and the needed solutions to build their resilience.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

The New SIDS Programme of Action will require improved, tailored development cooperation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS. 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 **(750 words)**

OHRLLS and DESA will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of the IACG mechanism, for improved complementarity and synergies amongst members to deliver on the ABAS. This will require better coordination and coherence, and a stronger IACG for more effective and efficient delivery through targeted and joint programming, where possible.

To ensure there is coherence in the implementation of ABAS at all levels – global, regional and local - OHRLLS will also work with Regional Commissions, the SIDS RC Network, Multi-Country Offices and the UN Country Teams to ensure that the ABAS is given due prominence in the design of sustainable development cooperation frameworks. OHRLLS will also provide support to regional strategies, including the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

To enhance implementation of ABAS, and concomitant to paragraph 38 of the outcome of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) – The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, as submitted under A/CONF.223/2024/4, UNDESA and UNOHRLLS are committed to engaging in systematic monitoring and evaluation of the ABAS, including through the convening of an interagency task force to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets and indicators, to be completed by no later than the second quarter of 2025. A robust monitoring and evaluation framework, will allow for more tailored development cooperation approaches, where specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges have been properly identified on an ongoing basis.

Advocacy and resource mobilization remains a crucial part of the support to SIDS provided by OHRLLS. Drawing from past experience in mobilizing resources, and on the resource mobilization for SIDS4, OHRLLS will seek to expand the donor base to SIDS, and enhance development cooperation through a targeted advocacy and resource

mobilization strategy for the ABAS implementation. This will include promoting the improvement of development impact in SIDS: implementing effectiveness principles, as advanced with the OECD and UNDP.

PART B

MULTIDIMENSIONAL VULNERABILITY IN THE WORK OF THE UN SYSTEM

Paragraph 13 of Resolution 78/232 Requests the Secretary-General to assess how multidimensional vulnerability is currently considered by the United Nations system. Please indicate how your entity considers multidimensional vulnerability in your policies, practices and Programmes (1000 words)

OHRLLS, together with UN-DESA, continued to provide focused support to advance the development of a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI). This included facilitation to produce the final report on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which was launched on 28 March 2024. In keeping with Resolution A/78/232 (Paragraph 12 & 13), OHRLLS together with UNDESA continues their support to the Co-chairs, Portugal and Antigua and Barbuda, following their appointment by the President of the General Assembly, to consider the recommendations presented in the final report of the High level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, its applicability, scope, custodianship, governance and ways to further improve it. This includes supporting a focused intergovernmental process, including through providing technical explanations on the construction of the MVI and the decisions made by the high-level panel, for robust Intergovernmental consultations and the finalization of the Draft resolution.

OHRLLS will continue its advocacy strategy, promoting the recognition of multidimensional vulnerability in development cooperation and financing, targeting all key stakeholders, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, the UN system, and International Financial institutions, to seek consensus on incorporating the MVI into existing policies and practices, complementing income-based measures and pursuing a common approach where possible.