

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that **strict word limits** have been established for each question. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> under reports.

1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway¹

Does your entity/organization/government have a SIDS Strategy? If not, are there any plans to establish one, including with the appropriate resources for implementation. **(500 words)**

In 2007, Italy established the Partnership with the Pacific SIDS, for the purpose of developing renewable energy (RE) sources and adopting measures for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change (CC). Today, the Partnership is made up of four donors (Italy, Austria, Luxemburg and Spain) and fourteen Pacific SIDS parties (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu). It has significantly broadened the scope of its activities to include the most urgent priorities identified in the SAMOA Pathway. It has generated countless benefits to vulnerable communities on the ground and has strengthened national confidence, as well as regional cohesion in the international debate on CC. The Partnership is now widely recognized as a model for development cooperation. Its success is owed greatly to its being, as prescribed by the SAMOA Pathway, based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability. Indeed, the overarching principle governing Italy's operational approach is that the recipient communities are the primary drivers of their own development, thereby acknowledging ownership, from the start, to the beneficiary country and people. All partners put their trust in the ability of the Pacific SIDS to articulate their requirements and priorities and ensure that the limited resources invested in the region are utilized to directly benefit

¹ This question seeks to examine the extent to which each respondent mainstreamed SIDS and the Samoa Pathway into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, national development plans etc, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national levels in SIDS.

communities on the ground. All Parties equally share in the governance of the Partnership, making decisions by consensus and are informed at all times of investments, activities and results achieved.

The Program, worth about 20 million USD, became a model of cooperation achieving concrete results with the approval of 48 projects to date, mainly on the promotion of: RE, food security; water security; sustainable fisheries; and capacity building.

The Italy-PSIDS Partnership has been extended until 2023 with an additional investment of 15 million USD directed toward a broader range of activities, to be funded under the terms of the MoU governing the Pacific SIDS/Italy, that will make the Partnership fully instrumental to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway with particular reference to:

- Developing conservation measures for coastal and marine areas affected by the negative impacts of CC, especially areas particularly significant for their biodiversity and for providing ecosystem services;
- Strengthening national managerial and organizational capacity as well as governance in the areas of protection and conservation of marine biodiversity;
- Developing protected areas;
- Developing programmes and projects that enhance ecosystem resilience and increase the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks through conservation and restoration measures;
- Developing measures to minimize and redress the impacts of ocean acidification.

In addition, since 2015, the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition (IMET, formerly Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea) has been promoting various initiatives for sustainable development in the Caribbean and in the Indian Ocean, including the Maldives, Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

In November 2015, an Agreement on climate change vulnerability, risk management, adaptation and mitigation was signed with CARICOM States. Cooperation activities have so far involved 11 countries (Haiti, Saint Lucia, Belize, Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Bahamas, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Suriname), in a regional perspective that focuses on the specific needs, vulnerabilities but also potential opportunities for the area. To date, 21 projects have been approved for a total of approximately 17 million dollars in grants. The project's purpose is to contribute to the implementation of participating countries' Nationally Determined Contributions in the framework of the Paris Agreement - spanning from

the protection of ecosystems, to the prevention of the risk of natural disasters, the promotion of renewable energy, sustainable buildings and transport.

In 2020, as a follow-up to the adoption of the new IMET strategy for environmental cooperation, the scope of the Partnership has been substantially expanded to encompass the objectives of the UN Conventions on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A new Memorandum of Understanding between IMET and CARICOM States is therefore currently under negotiation, with innovative mechanisms to ensure aid transparency and efficacy.

2. Financial Arrangements

Please give an indication of the budget allocated to the SAMOA Pathway programme areas in your government/organization/entity, if applicable, for the period Jan. - Dec. 2021 or the fiscal cycle that best fits this period. If the priority areas cannot squarely fit this chart, please report as closely as you can.

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth			
Climate Change	662,500.00 (CARICOM)		2021
Sustainable Energy	913,648.00 (PSIDS) 49,105 (CARICOM)		2021-2022
Disaster Risk Reduction	1,176,500.00 (CARICOM)		
Oceans and Seas	1,458,837.90 (PSIDS)		2021-2022
Food Security and Nutrition	822,930.00 (PSIDS)		2021-2022

Water and Sanitation	951,436.00 (PSIDS) 600,000.00 (CARICOM)		2021-2022
Sustainable Transportation	449,175.00 (CARICOM)		2021
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
Chemical and Waste management			
Health and NCDs			
Gender Equality			
Social Development			
Biodiversity			
Means of Implementation			
Other			
Total SIDS	7,084,731.90		

3. Enhanced Support for a resilient Post COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Overcoming the economic fallout of the pandemic and regaining growth momentum in SIDS will require a **robust, practical, tailored** and **impactful** solutions not only to keep SIDS afloat but also for the successful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Please elaborate on any proposed resilience building interventions/programmes for implementation in SIDS that are to be pursued over the remaining period of the SAMOA Pathway. **(500 words)**

Italy prioritizes supporting SIDS in building coherence on relevant issues at the national, regional and global levels, and, in particular, on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.

As SIDS are highly vulnerable to climate change, as well as external environmental and economic shocks, and have jurisdiction over large areas of the ocean, Italy supports SIDS' efforts in securing successful negotiations and the implementation of

international agreements on climate change, sustainable development and the oceans.

Capacity building plays an important role in international efforts to increase SIDS' engagement in international negotiations, diplomacy, and international and domestic policy development on climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

To this end, Italy will continue to support SIDS in the capacity building sector by setting aside an additional budget, which, in the 2016 and 2019 period, amounted to 4 million USD.

In particular in 2021, Italy will support the “Tonga Fellowship on Sustainable Development 2020 (TFSD2020)” to enhance and strengthen the effective implementation of major international agreements, including the SAMOA Pathway, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the Kingdom of Tonga.

With the current success of the “AOSIS Fellowship Programme”, Italy intends to strengthen its cooperation with AOSIS and further improve the capacity building of all AOSIS member states and provide for the training of more young professionals, expanding the Programme to accept up to ten Fellows per year.

For 2021–2023, Italy plans to further broaden the scope of the “Fellowship Programme” and cover, not just climate change, but also issues relating to environmental protection, oceans, and sustainable development and focusing on:

- Strengthening the capacity of SIDS to advance their ambitious plans and increase coherence of SIDS issues at the global level.
- Strengthening the capacity of SIDS in a post-COVID scenario to “build back better”
- Strengthening the capacity and guiding the preparation of young people from SIDS in their participation in Pre-COP26 to raise awareness of climate-related challenges facing SIDS.

Health-Multilateral response to Covid-19

The Italian response to Covid-19 is rooted firmly in the principle of a coordinated multilateral response based on solidarity. Italy has been a forerunner in the launch of the “Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)” and one of the early donors to the Covax Facility/GAVI Advance Market commitment (GAVI AMC).

Along with Italy's contribution to the Covax Facility, the EU, overall, has financed this instrument with 2.2 billion USD, as a concrete demonstration of our support to this multilateral system of fair allocation that provides a complete platform, from end to end, including support and capacities on the ground from all relevant actors, to ensure the success of the vaccination campaigns.

A number of Small Island Developing States have received the first batches of doses through the Covax Facility during the first Covax roll-out.

Holding the G20 Presidency, Italy is committed to advancing the issue of global health and the multilateral response to Covid-19 as key elements of its work. A concrete discussion on a more effective and responsive system in terms of prevention and preparedness for global health challenges will be on the agenda of the Global Health Summit (GHS), which will be co-hosted by Italy and the European Commission on 21 May 2021, under our G20 Presidency. In relevant debates of the GHS, Italy will ensure that SIDS' special needs will be at the top of the agenda.

Italy also approved a project, called *Strengthening the Capacity of Small Island Developing States in Monitoring and Developing Durable Partnerships (in short SIDS Partnerships Project)* as a soft earmarked contribution of Italian Development Cooperation funds in 2017 with the purpose of selecting 2 or 3 more countries to be involved in the "partnership accelerator". The Project has now evolved and includes countries of the Caribbean at the regional level, and will be implemented together with the Caribbean Public Health Agency - CARPHA.

Italian Capacity Building on Justice and Security

The Italian Methodology of technical assistance in the field of Justice and Security is well known. It is an integral part of bilateral projects, as well as of those proper of the EU.

The main program Italy has developed in this field is the Falcone-Borsellino Multi-dimensional Capacity Building Program, for technical assistance in combating organized crime and corruption, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Italian Customs and Excise Police has also set up many *capacity building* activities, providing pre-recorded video-lessons and courses on efforts directed against money laundering, tax crimes and terrorism financing.

We strongly believe that Justice and Security remain a precondition for sustainable development, in line with Agenda 2030's Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Institutions).

The Italian model has also received an official endorsement by the G20 as a global best practice (G20 Anti-Corruption Implementation Plan 2017-2018). Italy's technical

assistance is offered in the following areas: Capacity Building; Institutional Building; Regulatory Framework and Value Dissemination/Consensus Building.

4. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS

The road to recovery post-COVID-19 will be challenging for SIDS. They will need new strategies and financial instruments to mobilize adequate resources for recovery and reconstruction. Please elaborate on any proposed/planned programmes that will be delivered to reduce risks and build resilience in SIDS, and/or that alleviate the liquidity and debt vulnerability challenges facing SIDS (**500 words**)

Caribbean Credit Facility

Italy is working on a credit facility to finance green projects in nine Caribbean developing countries. The programme will be managed by the Caribbean Development Bank, which will identify and develop the project proposals together with the beneficiary countries and in accordance with criteria agreed with Italy, aimed at reducing their vulnerability to extreme weather and climate events, related economic and social costs, and the threats linked to climate change.

The programme seeks to enhance the capacity of CARICOM countries to:

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote accelerated actions towards mitigation and adaptation to climate change;

- Promote sustainable agriculture, in particular, the adaptation to climate change impacts, such as recurrent devastating hurricanes;
- Accelerate the expansion of protected areas for marine biodiversity and of existing policies and treaties that encourage responsible use of ocean resources;
- Increase the renewable energy share of total final energy consumption and increase access of the population to energy resources;
- Achieve universal access to basic sanitation services by 2030 and more efficient use and management of water resources;
- Accelerate the physical rehabilitation of environmental and energy infrastructure damaged by hurricanes.