

INPUT BY REPUBLIC OF MALTA

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)**

While not having a formal SIDS Strategy per se, over the past years Malta has striven to strengthen even further its historic commitment and engagement towards promoting the interests of small states, small island states and small island developing states (SIDS).

An important step in this process was reached in 2017, when the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence was established in Malta by virtue of an agreement to this effect reached between the Government of Malta and the Secretariat of the Commonwealth. Since its inception, the Centre has been actively engaged in contributing to boosting the skills and knowledge of officials working directly within SIDS and other vulnerable communities, also extending the scope of capacity-building to include areas associated with the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway. The Government of Malta, and more specifically the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs within the remit of which the Centre operates, has allocated the appropriate resources for the Centre to fulfil its objectives to the benefit of small states in general and SIDS in particular. In 2021 the Centre entered into partnership with the Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning (3CL) Foundation, to drive initiatives in favour of digitalisation, IT-enabled communication and other 21st century learning technologies.

Furthermore, in recognition of its engagement vis-à-vis SIDS, since 2020 Malta has had the

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.

privilege of being appointed and fulfilling the role of Co-Chair of the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, which works to support, promote and advocate partnerships that will SIDS in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the SAMOA Pathway.

Finally, in early 2021, Malta appointed its first ever Ambassador for Small States, in the firm belief that this appointment will, by further strengthening Malta's relations with small states, ensure that Malta will be in an even better position to contribute towards the common and shared interests and aspirations of small states, small island states and of SIDS.

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 | | | |
| Sustainable Energy | | | |
| Disaster Risk Reduction | | | |
| Oceans and Seas | | | |
| Food Security and Nutrition | | | |
| Water and Sanitation | | | |
| Sustainable Transportation | | | |
| Sustainable Consumption and Production | | | |
| Chemical and Waste management | | | |
| Health and NCDs | | | |
| Gender Equality | | | |
| Social Development | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| Biodiversity | | | |
| Means of Implementation | | | |
| Other | | | |
| Total | | | |

Malta Note: The policy/institutional arrangements referred to in 1. above entail substantial financial commitments, which however cannot be broken down by priority area or quantified in strict monetary terms.

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)**

As indicated in 1. above, Malta has put in place a number of policy/institutional arrangements with which it will be in a better position to contribute towards assisting SIDS in the successful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. This through the ideation of courses and other capacity-building programmes by the Malta-based Small States Centre of Excellence, the continued role of Malta as Co-Chair of the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, and the consolidation of the work and efforts by Malta’s first ever Ambassador for Small States.

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)**

While Malta is not in a position to offer any unilateral programmes to reduce risks and build resilience in SIDS and/or alleviate the liquidity and debt vulnerability challenges facing SIDS, it invariably supports, encourages and promotes such initiatives taken within the relevant regional and international fora, including within the Commonwealth and/or the United

Nations, and by virtue of any pertinent role it occupies within the structures thereof. Malta as a Member of the European Union also provides the perspective of a small island state within internal discussions of the Union and is arguing for support to be made available in EU development financing, to ensure that the health and economic challenges brought about by the pandemic are met effectively by developing countries.