

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)

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs does not have a specific SIDS programme or strategy, but many of its activities are targeted at developing States, in particular least developed States, land-locked developing States and small island developing States. The mandate of the Division is derived from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the annual General Assembly resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and sustainable fisheries. The Division collaborates with sectoral bodies with specific mandates relating to SIDS and is a member of inter-agency mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on SIDS.

The Division has also been providing an ongoing programme of assistance to States and intergovernmental organizations in the field of oceans and the law of the sea since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, as well as other capacity-building programmes.

These activities include several United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellowship programmes, which are multi-disciplinary training programmes aimed at assisting States, primarily developing States, in developing and implementing effective legal and policy frameworks for ocean governance. These programmes have trained government officials and other mid-level ocean professionals in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including, in 2019, 6 individuals from SIDS partaking in various fellowship programmes, 6 individuals from SIDS participating in the BBNJ Training, and 7 individuals from SIDS participating in

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.

Alumni activities. In 2020, 6 individuals from SIDS were engaged in in-person training, while 96 individuals participated in online training activities.

DOALOS also administers a number of Trust Funds established by the General Assembly, which aim to assist States, particularly developing States, in the implementation of the Convention and to participate in ocean-related work of the General Assembly. For the period 2019 – 2021 (April), a total of 32 individuals from 26 SIDS received assistance from the various Trust Funds administered by DOALOS.

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. N/A

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			

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)*

During the period under review, two capacity-building programmes of the Division were aimed at assisting, inter alia, SIDS in building capacity related to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway – the Evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies (OETS) project and the Programmes of Assistance to Meet the Strategic Capacity Needs of Developing States in the Field of Ocean Governance and the Law of the Sea (POMOGLOS programme).

The OETS project is implemented over four years (2018-2021) by the Division in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), under a grant from the United Nations Development Account. The project aims at supporting coastal developing countries, and particularly SIDS, in realizing economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources and understanding the legal and institutional frameworks underpinning such potential. It will further assist coastal developing countries and key stakeholders in promoting the sustainable trade of products and services in ocean-based economic sectors by analyzing, elaborating and adopting evidence-based and policy-coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies (OETS) and enhancing national implementing capacities. The three beneficiary countries are Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica.

The POMOGLOS programme is a four-year capacity-building project for developing countries, including SIDS, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), with the aim to build sustainable blue economies through strengthened ocean governance - based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Three main project activities will be tailored to the needs of developing States participating in the project, pursuing strengthened ocean governance frameworks as well as sustainable and inclusive ocean-based economies, thereby not only reinforcing the implementation of

UNCLOS and related instruments, but also supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Activities will include the preparation of national ocean governance studies, the regional consultations on capacity-building initiatives, needs and priorities, and customized training courses. These activities will be, inter alia, open to small island developing States. In particular, the programme will initially include regional customized courses for the wider Caribbean region and the Pacific region.

Under the United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellowship programmes, training programmes will be particularly important in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, including for SIDS. The Fellowship programmes has ensured continued delivery to its beneficiaries by developing a virtual training series, which has given particular attention to the effects of the pandemic on ocean governance and sectors and potential solutions (see <https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/unnf/virtual-training>).

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)

In light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division and UNCTAD revised the OETS project in 2020 to include a component to assist the participating beneficiary States, Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica, to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the selected ocean economy sectors, and to proactively prepare for future systemic disruptions to these sectors. The study that is being prepared should also serve as a resource to other similarly situated States, and will be presented at a regional capacity-building and experience exchange event for the Caribbean to be organized as part of UNCTAD-15 in Barbados.