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).**

Nuclear science and technology, along with the technical cooperation program of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), play pivotal roles in enhancing resilience-building interventions for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at both national and regional levels in various modalities.

1. IAEA Initiatives

The IAEA continue to implement several key initiatives which directly support efforts to reduce exposure to external shocks and improve resilience in its Member States, including SIDS. Among these is the NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (**NUTEC Plastics**) programme, which builds on the IAEA's efforts to address plastic pollution through recycling using radiation technology and marine monitoring using isotopic tracing techniques. 82 Member States are participating in NUTEC Plastics: 31 in the area of plastic recycling using nuclear technology, and 77 in marine monitoring, including SIDS. Capacity building activities carried out in 2023, which enabled experts in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in particular, from Belize, Costa Rica, and Cuba, to monitor plastic pollution at 139 beaches or shorelines.

The Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (**ZODIAC**) initiative aims to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of Member States with regards to zoonotic diseases. Two trainings were delivered to the Pacific Islands in 2023, which focused on techniques of

serological and molecular detection of Brucella and on detection and characterization of Capripox Viruses such as lumpy skin disease virus, sheep pox and goat pox viruses.

Rays of Hope (**RoH)** initiative strives to reduce cancer deaths worldwide by increasing access to safe and secure radiotherapy and diagnostic imaging. It addresses global inequalities in access to quality radiation medicine for cancer care. Over 70 Member States across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America are either seeking or already benefiting from assistance under the RoH initiative. Fiji and Papua New Guinea have formally requested to participate in the RoH initiative, and both countries received an imPACT Review mission in 2023 to assess their cancer control capacities and needs and to identify priority interventions.

2. Regional and national Technical Cooperation (TC) projects

Regarding the regional and national programmes, the IAEA continue to provide support in the areas of food, health and agriculture to SIDS.

The delivery of diagnostic radiology services in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was boosted with the provision of a mammography unit and a CT scanner to the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital in 2022, along with training of staff.

In Jamaica, the public Nuclear Medicine Centre at the University Hospital of the West Indies was re-established with support from the IAEA through the provision of essential equipment such as a SPECT/CT diagnostic machine, a dose calibrator, equipment for radiopharmacy facilities and phantoms, together with a supply of the material and reagents necessary for nuclear medicine, along with the training of the required staff to operate the facility. The centre was officially opened in June 2022 and provides early diagnosis and treatment of cancer both in-country and throughout the region.

The IAEA provided emergency assistance in the form of a portable X-ray machine and a portable ultrasound machine, supporting medical assistance to patients in remote locations to Vanuatu.

Between 2022 to 2023, Tonga and Cabo Verde became the IAEA Member State of the IAEA. The first fact-finding missions to new IAEA Member States Tonga took place in July 2023. Key priority areas for collaboration under SAPI were identified, as well as new national projects for the 2024–2025 TC cycle.

3. Capacity building activities

Capacity building is the cornerstone of IAEA's technical cooperation program assisting SIDS in developing their human and institutional capacities in nuclear science and technology through technical assistance and training programs empowering SIDS scientists and policymakers.

Nuclear technology offers tools for climate change mitigation and adaptation, which are paramount for SIDS facing threats such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and coastal erosion. Nuclear techniques can be employed in water resource management, soil conservation, and climate monitoring, aiding SIDS in adapting to changing environmental conditions.

The IAEA also provides guidance, technical assistance, and capacity-building support to SIDS

in establishing and maintaining radiation safety infrastructures, to help SIDS harness the benefits of nuclear and radiation technologies while minimizing associated risks, thereby supporting their long-term socio-economic development. In 2023, under the IAEA regional project 'Developing Sustainable, High Quality, and Safe Medical Diagnostic Imaging and Radiotherapy Services (SAPI)', two regional training courses on Quality Assurance (QA), Quality Control (QC), Radiation Protection and Positioning in Diagnostic Radiology were conducted in Melbourne, Australia. The courses provided radiographers from the Pacific Islands with the means to respond quickly, efficiently, and safely to daily radiological professional challenges.

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**)

The Sub-regional Approach to the Pacific Islands (SAPI) is a tailor-made initiative and set of regional projects focused on the Pacific Islands' needs and complementary to their individual national programmes to maximize impact and provide extensive support and capacity building to address their sustainable development goals. The approach which began in January 2022, was initially developed to address the needs of existing IAEA Member States such as Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and Vanuatu but also to have a framework for cooperation with potential new Member States. In this regard the SAPI has also provided support to Samoa, which became a Member State of the IAEA in 2021 and more recently to Tonga which became a Member State of the IAEA in March 2022.

The SAPI seeks to establish a critical mass of scientific human resources and build institutional capacities to enable Pacific Islands to build back better after an external shock and improving resilience in SIDS. With SAPI, support will be provided in a broader spectrum of projects in which nuclear science and technology can contribute directly to achieve development priorities and goals. It promotes South-South cooperation between SIDS to collaborate and share knowledge, skills, and successful initiatives but also triangular cooperation with other relevant stakeholders.

The SAPI provides opportunities to develop and operationalize strategic, financial and technical partnerships in the region such as with the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of South Pacific, the Unites States, and Australia through Monash University, the University of South Australia, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology (ANSTO) and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). The SAPI will enhance coordination and build valuable networks between the islands, providing more

efficiency and value for money while still addressing the development needs of all countries.

Additionally, and at the national level, the IAEA has been supporting the development of strategic programme frameworks, together with its Member States, for the prioritization of activities for national and regional programmes during a period of 4-6 years. These strategic documents, the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs), are aligned with national development plans and United Nations strategic documents and identify areas where nuclear science and technology has a comparative advantage to other techniques in addressing development needs and the SDGs.

In addition, cooperation and collaboration between the IAEA and the United Nations Country Teams has been strengthened by collaborating in the UNPS Joint Country Action Plans (JCAP). These JCAP reflect the collective UN response to the national priorities and at the regional level.

A regional workshop on the Establishment of a National Regulatory Framework in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific Region was also conducted in Port Louis, Mauritius, under the framework of another regional project, 'Strengthening Radiation Safety Infrastructure – Phase I (SAPI)'. The event allowed policymakers and regulatory staff in SIDS to discuss and share experiences related to the practical understanding of a national regulatory framework. Participants heard about Mauritius' successful experience in established a functional regulatory body – an example to consider following for the Pacific Islands, and an example of south-south and interregional cooperation between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. The event supported the launch of a tailored approach for Pacific Islands, in response to requests from some Pacific Islands Member States for a stronger, more focused approach to legislative assistance.

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).

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.