

## 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.

#### PART A

##### VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

###### 1. Enhanced Support for achieving Resilient Prosperity in SIDS

The theme for the SIDS4 Conference is “Charting a Course toward Resilient Prosperity” as such resilience building will be at the core of the new Programme of Action for SIDS.

Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that will be implemented at national or regional levels aimed specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (750 words).

- The ITC is building resilience in the agriculture sector of SIDS through its Alliances for Action (A4A) aiming to transform food systems and advance the SDGs through producer partnerships that cultivate ethical, climate smart, sustainable agricultural value chains. With the EU-ACP Business Friendly program ITC is collaborating with the ACP Secretariat, UNIDO and the World Bank in Dominican Republic and Jamaica (cocoa), Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea (coconut and kava); and Fiji (Regional Approach with SPC).
- In 2024, the EU-ACP project has expanded its work on enhancing agroforestry practices and organic standards for smallholder farmers to promote multimarket and multiproduct support to enhance resilience of target groups. The projects partner with Farmer Cooperatives and the Ministries of Agriculture and their Extension Services arms to conduct training and field days in areas such as good agricultural practices, organic standards, pruning, pest management and intercropping. In addition, the project has established 45 demonstration plots in the Dominican Republic in partnership with buyers, research institutions and farmer organizations who provide support and training to technicians and lead farmers.
- ITC has developed a SIDS Trade Tracker ([trade-tracker.org/SIDS](https://trade-tracker.org/SIDS)) to monitor the trade performances and challenges of SIDS. Through a set of interactive indicators, the free web tool allows policymakers to understand gaps in trade development and develop targeted strategies to overcome them. The indicators cover key issues of SIDS such as their remoteness, the high share of services in their trade, the dependence on energy imports, the lack of economic diversification and many more. Together with other trade data tools

that ITC has developed for SIDS over the past few years,<sup>1</sup> the tracker can serve as an important measure to improve trade resilience through targeted policy support.

- ITC prepared a guide for Business Support Organisations – Agrifoods Exports and Climate Change.<sup>2</sup> Trade in agricultural goods contributes substantially to the export performance of SIDS. As climate change impacts grow, exporters of agricultural products are increasingly exposed to the physical risks of climate change. At the same time the green transition also poses risks for MSMEs in terms of new regulations governing market access. Business support organizations play an important role in helping small firms navigate both the physical and transition risks and opportunities. BSOs also need to mainstream considerations of climate change into their governance, strategies, services, client management and results measurement as well as helps business support organizations discuss these issues with small businesses, to better understand and guide them, as well as better advocate on their behalf.
- Comoros is proud of its products and seeks to boost its 'Made in Comoros' brand on the global market. By strengthening public-private dialogue platforms and quality management systems, ITC is supporting these efforts to raise the visibility and reputation of Comorian products made at origin.
- West African SIDS are bolstering production, transformation, and export capacities in alignment with regional and national industrial strategies. Through WACOMP, ITC is supporting Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau to improve select priority sectors and value chains, foster regional trade, strengthen industrial competitiveness, and establish the West African Competitiveness Observatory along with related business tools. Sectors include cassava, mango, textile and clothing, computer and information services.
- In Timor-Leste the European Union funded and ITC implemented "Support Regional Integration and Trade in Timor-Leste" project aims to support the public sector to promote the conditions for the private sector to thrive. The project is supporting the Ministry of Transport and Communications in the digitalisation of the country and, at the same time, it is supporting the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the private sector, with a focus on women-led companies, to promote and create the right environment to boost e-commerce within the framework of the accession of Timor-Leste to the WTO and the ASEAN.

(645 words)

## 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)

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<sup>1</sup> Export Potential Map: CARIFORUM (<https://cariforum.exportpotential.intracen.org>), Trinidad & Tobago (<https://trinidad-tobago.exportpotential.intracen.org>); Trade Map: Bahamas (<http://www.bahamstradeinfo.gov.bs/trade-information/global-trade-statistics/>), OECS (<https://www.oecs.org/en/trade-map>), Mauritius (<https://www.mauritiustrade.mu/en/market-survey/trade-map>), Fiji (<https://www.investmentfiji.org.fj/fiji-trade-map>), Trinidad & Tobago (<https://info.ttbizlink.gov.tt>), Cuba (<https://procuba.cu>).

<sup>2</sup> [20240325itcclimaterisk02webpagespdf \(intracen.org\)](https://www.intracen.org/20240325itcclimaterisk02webpagespdf)

- The UK Trade Partnerships programme (UKTP) in the Pacific supports Fiji, PNG, Samoa and Solomon Islands in using their Economic Partnership Agreement with the UK to drive export growth and ultimately secure employment. Among its interventions in the region, UKTP supports the development of the beauty care sector. The companies in the sector are dispersed across the islands. No business support organization in these Member States has enough membership among enterprises to adequately represent and serve the specific interests of this constituency. ITC is working with interested enterprises to create a Pacific-wide business beauty care network that can serve its members across different islands.
- The EU Delegation in the Caribbean and CARICOM have recently launched a project to contribute to incomes, sustainability & resilience as well as to improve food security, nutrition and healthier diets in the Caribbean region. ITC will implement a component of the project focused on strengthening value chains, following-up on the implementation of the Coconut projects where productive and commercial Alliances have been created with success. The 4-year project began an 6-month inception period in February 2024 and aims to support agri-MSMEs, cooperatives and producers (smallholder farmers and fishers) to become more competitive and resilient through value addition, diversification and new market development at the regional level.
- National Export Strategies (NES) have emerged as a pivotal service provided by ITC to SIDS. These strategies are particularly valuable for SIDS, which typically face challenges due to less diversified export baskets, constraints of scale, and limited digital and physical connectivity.
- A noteworthy aspect of many NES initiatives is their focus on bolstering service sectors, where issues such as scale and distance present fewer barriers, and where SIDS can gain a competitive edge through the establishment of suitable regulatory frameworks, enhancement of workforce skills, and development of robust digital infrastructure. This strategic focus responds well to the needs expressed by our SIDS partners.
- A few examples of NES in SIDS:
  - **Trinidad and Tobago (2024-2025):** T&T and ITC recently started working together to design the country's next National Trade Strategy (NTS). The NTS will focus on developing areas of the economy that have strong export potential to reduce the country's reliance on oil revenues, diversify foreign exchange earnings to contribute to macroeconomic stability, and to provide the people of T&T with attractive and well-paid jobs.
  - **Curaçao (2019-2024):** The central focus of the NES is to improve the standard of living for the people of Curaçao through enhanced export performance. The NES prioritises services sectors, such as education services, financial services, creative industries and IT services, as they have the greatest potential for value-addition. With the support of ITC, NES actions were integrated into the national budget. Moreover, the country is using ITC's Strategic Implementation Management Tool (SIMT) to track implementation. The NES was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in May 2022, highlighting the strong political support for the NES and its plan of action.
  - **Federated States of Micronesia (2021-2023):** The FSM is the fifth largest producer of coconuts in the Pacific region. However, FSM is the smallest exporter of coconut

products in the Pacific with negligible volumes of coconut oil being exported. Based on this situation analysis, the 2021 CocoNES project aimed to increase coconut exports through the design of a coconut export strategy that is endorsed, coherent, and comprehensive. Additionally, the project supported the establishment of a "strategic coconut partnership" building consensus between public and private stakeholders to grow the industry.

- ITC rolled out SheTrades Outlook to SIDS hosting SheTrades Hubs in the Dominican Republic, Mauritius and seven countries in the Caribbean. Across the SIDS hosting SheTrades Hubs, SheTrades Outlook collected data from 153 public and private sector institutions.
  - ITC produced SheTrades Outlook policy briefs for Mauritius, the Dominican Republic, and the Caribbean region and conducted in-person policy workshops with government, business support organizations and women entrepreneurs to discuss key findings and develop policy recommendations based on the SheTrades Outlook policy tool's assessment of the business and policy environment for women.
  - In 2023, data was collected from 21 public and private sector institutions in the Dominican Republic to assess the inclusiveness of the policy ecosystem. In the seven Caribbean countries, data was collected from 137 public and private sector institutions. In Barbados, 19 public and private sector institutions contributed data to the tool. The results of the SheTrades Outlook tool in Mauritius collected and analysed data from 16 national institutions and four private sector organizations.

(742 words)

## **PART B**

### **MULTIDIMENSIONAL VULNERBAILITY 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)

- The UK Trade Partnerships Programme will be implementing new activities to develop the Business Process Outsourcing/IT industry in the CARIFORUM Member States that have signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the UK. To prioritize beneficiary countries, ITC is using the UN Multidimensional Vulnerability Index combined with sector-specific metrics on BPO/IT readiness to prioritize beneficiary countries among Caribbean countries for this export promotion support.

(63 words)