



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### QUESTIONNAIRE

#### **Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS**

#### **1. VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS**

##### **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).*

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most exposed and vulnerable countries to natural disasters and climate change owing to their geographic isolations, nature and size of economies amongst other features. The exposure of SIDS to natural disasters and climate change has led to significant economic losses as well as disruption of the social life of its population. Responding to these challenges and other global crises experienced in the recent past limits their fiscal space, increases their debt burden and impede realization of their envisaged development priorities.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through the interconnected and interlinked Sustainable Development Goals presents an opportunity to facilitate transition of SIDS to inclusive, resilient and green economies. It is therefore important for the rest of the world/global community to identify, support and implement interventions that will help the SIDS live a sustainable life as envisioned in the United Nations mantra of leaving no one behind.

In order to provide more tailored development support for SIDS, it is crucial to recognize their unique characteristics, challenges, and priorities. This will help in coming up with strategies that are sustainable and acceptable to the diverse conditions in the SIDS.

Countries have adopted various strategies to support SIDS, Kenya utilizes South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) as a Framework for collaboration with countries in the global south, including SIDS on matters economic, social, political, environmental and cultural. The government of Kenya has signed various bilateral agreements with SIDS in Africa and beyond whereby there is exchange of knowledge and skills; peer-to-peer learning; capacity building and solidarity on issues affecting the global south.

The Bilateral Agreements, in form of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), are centred on various sectors that are critical for economic development: education, health, trade, peace and security, environment, transport, tourism, agriculture, blue economy and maritime Security. Other areas include climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable energy. There exists various Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCCs) Frameworks between Kenya and SIDS e.g. Barbados, Comoros Island among others. On environmental issues, Kenya provided support for the development of the international section of the national botanical gardens in Barbados to among other things protect and preserve bio diversity, through an MOU on the same that was signed in 2021.

The JCCs provide a platform for implementation, review and follow-up on MoUs to ensure they meet aspired socioeconomic transformation as envisaged in the respective, national, regional and global development agenda.

Other than South-South Cooperation Framework, SIDS can be supported through Tailored Financing Mechanisms and Regional Collaboration and Integration. These collaborations however require comprehensive needs assessments, country-specific development Plans; and enhanced data and information systems.

The Organization of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and its relations with the European Union through the Post Cotonou (Samoa) Partnership Agreement is a good example of such collaborations. The Partnership Agreement has elaborate commitments on addressing environmental challenges and its implementation is key in building resilience across all the OACPS Members States including SIDS who constitute a significant percentage of the Organization.

Kenya will continue to work within the South-South and Triangular Cooperation framework guided by the principles of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) to support the course towards resilient prosperity in SIDS.

## **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)*

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Africa and the globe face unique challenges in achieving sustainable development due to their vulnerability to climate change, limited resources, and geographical isolation. To address these issues, tailored development

support strategies are being planned and implemented. The following interventions can be enhanced in SIDS to yield significant results towards the path to resilient posterity:

- (i) **Strengthening Climate Resilience:** This involves allocation of resources towards the development and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. Kenya has placed focus on promoting renewable energy sources, conservation of marine and coastal areas, protecting water towers; pollution control; increasing tree and forest cover, improving disaster risk management, and supporting climate-smart agriculture to reduce vulnerability, protect ecosystems, and foster sustainable development.
- (ii) **Enhancing Blue Economy Opportunities:** SIDS have vast marine resources that can contribute to economic growth and sustainable development. Resource allocations should be directed towards promoting sustainable fisheries, supporting marine biodiversity conservation, developing marine-based tourism, and facilitating the sustainable use of marine resources. This approach will not only propel economic development but also promote environmental sustainability and social well-being.
- (iii) **Strengthening Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** Building local capacities and providing technical assistance to SIDS in Africa to implement effective development strategies. This can be undertaken through the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Framework as well as respective regional frameworks. These capacity-building initiatives should be able to facilitate knowledge sharing, improve governance structures, and empower local communities to actively participate in decision-making processes.
- (iv) **Alternative Financing:** To mobilize additional resources and promote innovative approaches, public-private partnerships (PPPs) alongside other alternative financing mechanisms should be fostered. Through PPPs, SIDS in Africa can leverage private sector expertise, technology, and investment for sustainable development projects. These partnerships help in achieving shared goals, enhancing efficiency, and unlocking new opportunities for inclusive economic growth. The Government of Kenya has adopted the following:
  - (a) Put in place requisite policy, legal and institutional frameworks to promote PPPs that support sustainable development;
  - (b) Developed a Sovereign Green Bond Framework which sets guidelines on the characteristics of the sovereign green bonds, including use of proceeds, the process of project selection and evaluation, management of proceeds, and reporting requirements; and
  - (c) Adopted performance based financing, which links payments to the providers of services based on results achieved in particular projects. The country is currently implementing Financing for Locally Led Climate Actions (FLLoCA) project through the support of World Bank at the sub-national levels. The project is expected to promote locally led climate actions and strengthen management of climate risks at both the national and sub-national levels.

- (v) **Financing for Development:** The developed countries and the developing countries including SIDS should strive to honour their commitment under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, given that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway is consistent with the AAAA, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and other international frameworks on sustainable development.