

OHCHR

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

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)**.

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)**:

At the request of CARICOM countries, the Human Rights Council (HRC) in October 2023 adopted by consensus HRC res. 54/33 on establishing a regional office of OHCHR for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Sponsored by all CARICOM States and tabled under HRC item 10 (technical assistance and capacity-building), the resolution calls for technical cooperation, capacity-building, public information and education, and support to promote, protect and fulfil human rights in the region. It outlines some of the specific challenges Caribbean SIDS face and critical human rights issues requiring further attention. The resolution will allow the Office to offer support to Governments, civil society and regional institutions, in line with international human rights obligations and standards, including on issues related to non-discrimination, LNOB and access to data and information; rights-based climate, environmental, economic and humanitarian action to address inequalities; social cohesion, security, democratic values and the rule of law. In addition, OHCHR will continue to help strengthening human rights architecture across the region. In 2024, OHCHR has started to implement this resolution, taking initial steps to operationalize the creation of a CARICOM office in the Bahamas.

In the Pacific, OHCHR's Regional Office and Human Rights Advisers in Samoa and Papua New Guinea will continue to collaborate and provide capacity building and technical support to strengthen the human rights work of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), the Ombudsman's Office of Samoa, the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, and emerging NHRIs in other SIDS of the region, in view of the BPoA and ABAS mandates as well as SDG 16 to strengthen national institutions. OHCHR will also provide technical cooperation, advocacy for human rights implementation and capacity development under its Treaty Body Capacity Building Programme focused on strengthening governmental engagement with international human rights mechanisms through ratification, monitoring and reporting on their commitments.

On the margins of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States on *'Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity for SIDS'*, OHCHR co-organized a Virtual Side Event on *"Litigation, Reparation, and Resilience: Realizing the Right to Development and the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment for Small Island Developing States in the face of the Challenges of Climate Change"*. The event was organized in collaboration with the Global Human Rights Clinic of the University of Notre Dame, USA, to present and discuss its study on *"Realizing the Rights to Development and to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment in Global and Local Climate Actions Affecting Small Island Developing States"*, conducted in consultation with OHCHR.

Recognizing the imperative of realizing all human rights, including the rights to development and to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as well as developmental, climate and environmental justice to address the challenges faced by SIDS and their populations, the study aims to support SIDS through making a human rights-based contribution to their transition from vulnerability to resilience. Based on empirical data and analysis, it recommends among others, strong responses grounded in universal and indivisible human rights; that the Right to Development and the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment be the Legal Foundations for Assessment of Climate Actions for SIDS; that the design, implementation, financing, monitoring, and evaluation of international, regional, and domestic climate actions affecting SIDS be based on human rights; and the need to bridge gaps between principle and practice to ensure implementation and enforcement. [The study](#) makes the case for strengthened international solidarity and cooperation as SIDS face existential threats to their nations, peoples and cultures, towards enabling sustainable development which would equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

To similar ends, on the eve of SIDS4, several Human Rights Council Special Procedures Mandate Holders [called](#) on States, international financial institutions, multilateral

development banks and all stakeholders to act together to mobilise resources for SIDS.

In another collaborative project, OHCHR completed [a joint study](#) on the mutually reinforcing relationship between the right to development and South-South Cooperation with a view to strengthening the application of both to realize human rights and sustainable development including for SIDS. Based on 3 case studies, 2 of which concerned SIDS (A project in Antigua and Barbuda supported by India; and a project in the Comoros Islands supported by South Africa) the analysis revealed good practices such as the primacy of national ownership driven by local priorities. As a complement to North-South cooperation, South-South and Triangular Cooperation can support SIDS through finance, sharing experiences, information, knowledge, expertise and technology.

PART B

MULTIDIMENSIONAL VULNERABILITY 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)

OHCHR will conduct an internal consultation to thoroughly assess how multidimensional vulnerabilities can be systematically integrated into our programs and activities.

