

**Theme:United Nations Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Project for Integrated Climate Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).**

Cabo Verde, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), faces structural limitations, such as geographical and oceanic remoteness, archipelagic insularity, scarcity of natural resources, small domestic market, high costs and dependence on imports that make it vulnerable to external economic, environmental, geopolitical or other shocks, such as pandemics.

We also understand that Cabo Verde, as well as Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé, must strengthen their strategies in the areas of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to strengthen the resilience of communities in the face of global challenges, such as climate change and economic crises. In other words, STI resources, from a strategic point of view, should contribute to monitoring and managing natural resources efficiently, as well as helping communities to plan and respond to natural disasters. In Cabo Verde, it is crucial to develop systems that help communities adapt and thrive, even in the face of the adversities of climate change and economic crises.

In Cape Verde, we have an Agenda and a Strategy. The Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development for the period 2022-2026 (PEDS II) is our strategic instrument that operationalizes the Government's program and is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. It is a strategic document that integrates four pillars (Economy Pillar, Social Pillar, Environment Pillar and Sovereignty Pillar), integrates 28 programs that will be implemented through a programmatic budget approach and around 150 indicators. Of the 28 programs that make up PEDS II, two very important strategic programs stand out: the CABO VERDE DIGITAL AND INNOVATION PLATFORM program, which aims to make Cape Verde a transformed and digitalized economy, and the CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE program, which is one of the priorities of the Government of Cape Verde and which essentially aims to implement effective and efficient climate governance from the point of view of mitigation and adaptation.

**1. What mechanisms or platforms are most effective for facilitating knowledge Exchange and capacity building among SIDS in relation to STI for Climate Action?**

*To facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building among Small Island Developing States (SIDS), some mechanisms and platforms include:*

**Regional cooperation platforms**, such as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which promote partnerships for sustainable development and climate action.

**Digital knowledge platforms**, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA Pathway and ABAS agenda), which allow the sharing of good practices and technical resources.

**Open science networks**, which encourage the sharing of data and innovative climate-focused technologies, such as the Pacific Islands Science, Technology and Innovation Network (PISTON).

**Exchange programs for technicians and specialists** that provide mutual learning and technology transfers between SIDS.

**Specialized regional institutions**, such as the National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics of Cape Verde, which can serve as a center for regional training in climate sciences.

2. **What are the main challenges faced by SIDS in developing and deploying STI solutions, especially related to ocean knowledge and coastal resilience, and how can these challenges be addressed?**

**Limited technical capacity:** Many SIDS have limited resources to train their workforce in science and technology. This can be addressed through international capacity building and knowledge transfer programs.

**Limited access to finance:** The cost of implementing technological solutions is high for SIDS. International partnerships, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or the Global Environment Facility (GEF), can help finance these initiatives.

**Institutional weakness:** In many SIDS, the capacity for cooperation between different levels of government is weak, which hinders the implementation of integrated STI policies. Institutional reforms and regional cooperation can help improve governance.

**Dependence on imported technologies:** The lack of local infrastructure to develop or adapt technological solutions can be addressed through the creation of regional innovation centers.

**Lack of data about the oceans:** Knowledge of marine ecosystems is critical, and investment in ocean monitoring and forecasting technologies, such as satellite sensors and maritime drones, can be a solution to improve the collection and use of marine data.

3. **What are the regional support needs and existing STI initiatives that could be leveraged? How can UN RCs effectively engage in the next UN capacity development project on STI Roadmaps?**

**Regional support needs:** SIDS needs greater support for capacity development in areas such as coastal management, ocean monitoring technologies and renewable energy. In addition, there is a need for support for sustainable development policies that integrate STI.

**Existing STI initiatives:** Programmes such as the Blue Economy Initiative and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) can be leveraged to promote ocean knowledge and monetary resilience. In addition, the PACE-SD Initiative (Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development) has provided technical support that can be extended to lusophone SIDS.

**Involvement of Resident Coordinators of UN:** Resident Coordinators (RCs) of UN can facilitate dialogue between national and regional stakeholders, ensure that local needs are integrated into STI projects, and ensure that capacity-building initiatives are tailored to the specific SIDS context. They can also foster partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to scale up project impact.

These mechanisms and approaches will allow lusophone SIDS to benefit from technological innovations in the field of climate action, promoting territorial resilience and the sustainability of marine ecosystems.