

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. Previous surveys can be accessed at https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states#sg_reports_2023 under reports.

PART A

VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for achieving Resilient Prosperity in SIDS

Reply: Resilience-building and disaster risk reduction are integral parts of Russian-backed development cooperation with SIDS, including with such long-standing partner as the Republic of Cuba.

Russia continues to provide financial and expert support to the Regional Russian-Cuban Center for Fire and Rescue Specialists Training, which operates in Havana under the auspices of the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO). The Center holds training courses for civil defense personnel from Latin American countries. In December 2023, 21 unit of fire and rescue equipment based on the Russian-made «Ural» trucks were shipped to the Center in the framework of these joint activities. In addition, Russia donated to Cuban rescuers 20 unmanned aerial vehicles for disaster risk monitoring, early warning and coordination of emergency response.

Since 2014, Russia has also been partnering with the World Health Organization (WHO) in assisting SIDS' emergency medical responses to disasters. Most recently, in August 2023, Cuba received specialized health kits designed for providing medical treatment to 600 thousand people and performing 2 thousand surgeries. In April 2024, more deliveries of emergency health kits, non-communicable diseases kits and trauma kits were shipped to Cuba, aiming at ensuring medical treatment of 210 thousand people and carrying out 6.6 thousand surgeries in total.

The end of 2023 saw the completion of a multi-year Russian-funded project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) worth USD 1 million, which strengthened urban resilience to disaster risks in central areas of Havana.

During the reporting period, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) remained one of the major multilateral channels for Russian food assistance. For example, during the period of 2021-2024 this kind of support to Cuba amounted to USD 2 million each year.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

Reply: One of the development priorities for SIDS, as articulated in paragraph 63(e) of the SAMOA Pathway, is «to end malnutrition in all its forms, including by securing year-round access to

sufficient, safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious food». To help partners meet the nutritional needs, Russia is implementing a multi-year joint project with WFP to support school feeding systems in Cuba with a total budget of USD 5 million, which aims to improve canteens, as well as to involve local farmers and cooperatives in the production of school meals. Another joint project with UNDP worth USD 1.5 million and aimed at promoting employment in the livestock production chain in one of the Cuban regions was concluded in 2023.

Following up on public health focus areas for SIDS (such as reflected in paragraph 75(g) of the SAMOA Pathway), the V.I.Kulakov National Medical Research Center for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinatology of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation partnered with Cuban colleagues in the field of maternal and newborn health as well as health of children under 5 years of age. Specifically, in October-December 2023, experts and medical trainers from the V.I.Kulakov National Center held scientific and practical seminars in Moscow and Havana for dozens of Cuban health professionals in the framework of the related Russian-funded international project.

Specialized education and professional training, highlighted in paragraphs 87-88 of the SAMOA Pathway, are among the areas of Russian partnerships with SIDS. Thus, students from several small island developing States are currently studying in Russian higher education institutions free of charge. In 2023, activities under the joint Russia-UNDP project worth USD 1.5 million were concluded, contributing to the expansion of quality job opportunities for the Cuban youth in key economic sectors by strengthening productive capacities, education, training and vocational guidance.

In order to increase connectivity and the use of information and communication technologies through improved infrastructure and public sector involvement, as per paragraph 111 of the SAMOA Pathway, in December 2023, the Russian side donated 200 personal computers to support the digitalization of the Cuban judicial system.

Building on high priority status of the issue of climate change for SIDS, Russia supported a joint course for Cuban civil servants organized in Havana in February-March 2024 by the United Nations Educational and Research Institute (UNITAR), the MGIMO University (Moscow) and the Superior Institute of International Relations Raul Roa Garcia (Havana), which tackled international environmental law and climate change diplomacy.

Russia also makes an annual financial contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Fund's projects, among other things, allow a number of SIDS to receive assistance in the application of nuclear technologies for sustainable development.