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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.

Please keep in mind that we will have to follow the word limit for all compiled responses from UNOSSC, so please be brief in providing your inputs.

PART A

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).

In its role as the Secretariat to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC has deepened its country-typology based approach ensuring inclusiveness to the needs of groups of countries. This has included Least Developed Countries at the LDC5 conference and the planned Ministerial Meeting and presentation of cases studies to demonstrate the contribution of South-South cooperation at LLDC3. Mandatory reports on South-South cooperation, like the Annual Secretary-General’s report and the biennial reports to the High-level Committee also highlight SIDS specific recommendations and examples. UNOSSC under its regional engagement plan will continue to interact with the SIDS in South-South fora such as the Pacific Island countries exchange with UN agencies, the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), the Pacific Islands Secretariat (PIFS), Caribbean Community (Caricom), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Union for the Mediterranean as well as major supporting partners such as China, India and Indonesia (in 2022).

Tangible project-based support is provided to SIDS through the South-South Trust Funds. These projects range from supporting climate resilience through early warning systems and

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refurbishment of extreme weather resistant infrastructure as well as enabling better health, thanks to COVID-19 response or reproductive health projects; to facilitating the adoption of solar energy and its applications; and to expanding the use of information technology, both in education and through digitalization. Some examples of South-South trust fund projects improving resilience in SIDS include:

- In Antigua and Barbuda, the India-UN Fund provided \$1 million to support the resilient restoration of pivotal public infrastructure for the recovery and sustainable development of the Island of Barbuda post-hurricane Irma and restored health-care services as well as essential postal services.
- In Bahamas, the India-UN Fund provided \$ 1 million to support the Bahamas Disaster Reconstruction Authority for the construction of the Abaco Community Center and Hurricane Shelter.
- In Dominica, the India-UN Fund provided support of \$1 million for the rehabilitation of Salisbury Educational Facility, that was destroyed by Hurricane Maria.
- The India-UN Fund strengthened the livelihoods and resilience of the Kalinago Territory, by delivering an integrated package in support of agricultural production, community reforestation, comprehensive Kalinago tourism strategy, and institutional capacities of the Kalinago Council.
- In Belize, the India-UN Fund provided support of \$1 million towards implementation of the Belize COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.
- In Jamaica, the India-UN Fund provided \$1 million to improve rural livelihoods through resilient agri-food systems. The project will support women and youth groups in use of innovative agribusiness practices and selected agricultural technologies to enhance productivity in the food systems and entrepreneurship capability.
- In Trinidad and Tobago, the India-UN Fund provided \$1 million to bring high and low Technology (HALT) to COVID-19 and to develop a telemedicine system. Through digital technologies it will allow existing physicians, nurses, psychologists, and counsellors to remotely serve vulnerable individuals, while also reducing the risk of COVID-19 infections. This innovative initiative will also engage 8 mobile healthcare robots that can perform preliminary curbside registration, evaluation of routine vital signs, and can communicate with patients visiting health centers.

UNOSSC has supported the implementation of SAMOA Pathway through important knowledge management initiatives including:

- UNOSSC and UN-OHRLLS jointly launched a special edition good practices publication at a side-event for the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2021, titled Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in SIDS - South-South Galaxy (southsouth-galaxy.org). This publication features around 50 good practices across all SDGs. They illustrate the central tenets of effective South-South and triangular cooperation; address transnational development challenges; highlight solutions that have been piloted and scaled up, and have tangible development outcomes, including several on resilience building.

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- Local solutions: Adapting to climate change in SIDS - Local Solutions: Adapting to Climate Change in SIDS - South-South Galaxy (southsouth-galaxy.org) features few local solutions and ground level experiences on climate change adaptation, condenses few lessons learned and opportunities to scale-up good practices.
- The South-South Galaxy repository of South-South and Triangular cooperation solutions and good practices, includes 222 solutions that are/were implemented in SIDS. Most solutions are related to such thematic or cross-cutting thematic areas as environment and climate resilience, technology and technology transfer, social sectors (education and health), as well as economic development. These solutions are mainly related to SDG1, 8, 13, 2 and SDG17.

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 (7500 words).

UNOSSC support for the SAMOA Pathway has demonstrated the impact and potential of South-South cooperation in driving progress for SIDS. UNOSSC support to Small Island Developing States encompasses a range of strategic knowledge-based and demonstration initiatives addressing priority developmental issues from the South-South and triangular cooperation perspective and leveraging the expertise of the UN system on the ground and at the regional level.

Through our partnerships with emerging and leading countries from the South, such as, Brazil, India, South Africa, China, South Korea, the Office has enabled the UN system to implement innovative approaches addressing the challenges of climate change in the South, in particular SIDS. UNOSSC has been a vital supporter of SIDS through SDG-aligned initiatives through the South-South Trust Funds. SIDS benefit from a high level of participation in South-South Trust Funds managed by UNOSSC. As a grouping, SIDS are the single largest beneficiary of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund and the India-UN Fund. In total, over 30 countries have benefitted from 63 country-level projects and 3 multi-country projects. Sixty-four (64) % of the portfolio of the India-UN Fund, and 37% of the portfolio of the IBSA Fund, representing a total of \$55.5 million (\$38.2 million and \$17.2 million, respectively), have been allocated to SIDS. In the last decade alone, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund supported 19 small grants projects totaling \$0.5M managed by research institutions based in SIDS and addressing thematic issues of relevance to SIDS.

Support to SIDS has been provided across all geographical regions. Overall, 14 SIDS in the Caribbean, 12 SIDS in the Pacific and 4 SIDS in Africa have accessed these two South-South trust funds. Not only is participation by SIDS in UNOSSC-managed South-South Funds very vibrant, there is also a wealth of diversity of knowledge and approaches in the projects they

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implement, which can help to inform the implementation of ‘The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity.’ The projects have yielded impactful results that pave the way for scaling up support as we embark on the new 10-year action plan.

With knowledge and experience as cornerstones of South-South and triangular cooperation, digital and innovation-related platforms and analytical capacity housed in UNOSSC make more than 950 solutions, including over 220 for SIDS, available to all countries for experience sharing and scaling up.

At the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, we are committed to advancing sustainable development through robust South-South and triangular cooperation, particularly within the unique context of SIDS and other countries of the Global South. Our efforts will be continued and be further guided by the ‘Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS’ (ABAS) to build the resilience of 39 small island nations in tackling the world’s most pressing challenges, with a focus on fostering partnerships that integrate South-South and triangular cooperation within the UN system and beyond.

Looking forward, the operationalization of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) presents a important opportunity for UNOSSC to elevate its support to this vulnerable group of countries.

Our planned strategy to provide more tailored support to SIDS includes:

- First, contribute to strengthening the capacities of SIDS through the establishment of a Center of Excellence, namely the Global Data Hub and the Technology Innovation Mechanism through the identification, evaluation, and documentation of successful development solutions and technologies from the Global South.
- Second, we will enhance platforms for cooperation on Science, Technology, and Innovation. In the digital age, geography is no barrier to collaboration. By engaging with research networks, technological resources, and innovation hubs through our digital tools, such as South- South Galaxy and Global Thinkers, we will create a virtual marketplace of ideas that empowers SIDS to leapfrog traditional development hurdles.
- Third, we will enhance human and institutional capacities. The greatest resource of the Global South is its people. By leveraging South-South cooperation, we will facilitate exchanges and training between SIDS and other Southern countries, providing technical assistance, training programmes, and policy advice to strengthen capacities.
- Fourth, within the UN System, UNOSSC will facilitate the mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation through UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in SIDS. Practical guidelines have been rolled out for UN country teams to assist Member States in implementing South-South and

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triangular cooperation at the country and regional levels through the cooperation frameworks.

- Last, but not least, UNOSSC will work closely with specialized UN agencies in promoting capacity-building initiatives and economic partnerships among SIDS to help build resilient economies that can withstand global shocks.

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).

In line with the ABAS and the aspirations of SIDS countries to use the MVI as a vital tool to help small island nations gain access to the concessional financing and debt relief, we will align ourselves to support the countries in sharing knowledge about MVI and its methodology and to ensure it is taken into account in our policy discussions, briefings and high level reporting and trust funds that we manage.

UNOSSC, through the global Data to Policy Network for Policymakers (a collaborative initiative of UNOSSC, UNDP and GIZ), is facilitating South-South cooperation and, among others, the exchange of knowledge and good practices on tackling multidimensional poverty and vulnerability, primarily through the use of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). This initiative was driven by the demand from policymakers within the network who recognized the MPI's effectiveness in addressing non-monetary poverty comprehensively. Recognizing the unique challenges and specific vulnerabilities faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), UNOSSC also intends to explore further composite indexes, including the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). This effort aims to further support policymakers in unpacking and measuring exposure to various factors, thereby enhancing their capacity to develop targeted and effective policy interventions.