

QUESTIONNAIRE

Follow-up to and implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS)

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. You are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys or Secretary-Generals' reports will not be considered.

PART A - FOSTERING RESILIENT PROSPERITY IN SIDS

1. Enhanced UN System Support for achieving Resilient Prosperity in SIDS (FOR the UN system)

Using the UN implementation Matrix¹ (attached) to guide feedback, briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that were/are being implemented during the reporting period at national or regional levels aimed specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (600 words).

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS (For Development Partners, IFIs and SIDS Governments)

Successful ABAS implementation will require improved, tailored development cooperation approaches and financial resources, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS. It will also require that relevant national/regional plans programme and policies are implemented. Briefly elaborate on:

- i) 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 (600 words)

Coordinated by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI) serves as a dedicated platform to facilitate global, regional and national cooperation in support of SIDS energy transition and climate action. The Initiative currently brings together 42 SIDS and 53 partners, including development agencies, international financial institutions, private sector actors, regional organisations, and technical entities, forming a partnership framework to address the twelve priority areas identified and endorsed by SIDS and aligned with the energy transition priorities articulated in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). These priorities include: technical assistance, NDC support, data-informed planning, capacity building, deployment of all renewable energy sources (including innovative technologies), access to finance, bankable project development, private sector engagement, and the integration of energy in socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, health, tourism, and water, while also enhancing climate resilience and supporting disaster recovery.

To improve and deliver more tailored support, the Initiative is open to engaging new and existing partners to leverage diverse expertise and resources. This collaborative approach enhances the Initiative's ability to respond to country-specific priorities and evolving energy transition needs, while also strengthening coordination and minimizing duplication of efforts among partners. In particular, the Initiative facilitates access to IRENA's tools and services including but not limited to:

¹ accountability framework developed to promote and monitor progress with implementation of ABAS

- 1) Energy Transition Assessments (ETAs) are a comprehensive, country-driven stocktakes help identify gaps and opportunities across the energy landscape, while supporting national planning processes and capacity building. ETAs have been completed or are ongoing in several SIDS including Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and ongoing in Papua New Guinea. The expected results include strengthened energy planning, prioritization of investment needs, improved coordination among national stakeholders, and more coherent linkages between national energy plans and climate commitments.
- 2) Tailored technical assistance and capacity-building activities are delivered in direct response to country-specific requests. These interventions cover a broad range of areas, including grid integration, renewable energy roadmaps, resource assessments, data collection and management, energy audits, power purchase agreements, and project identification and pipeline development. Support is designed to be context-specific, building on national priorities and institutional capacities.
- 3) A key area of ongoing support is in the preparation of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 submissions. With the next round of NDCs due in 2025 ahead of COP30, IRENA is providing technical and advisory support to help SIDS update their renewable energy and emissions targets in line with the Global Stocktake (GST) decision—the UAE Consensus. This includes deploying standardized work packages, offering expert peer reviews of draft NDCs, and supporting countries in applying ICTU (Information for Clarity, Transparency and Understanding) guidance. The expected results are the development of ambitious, technically sound NDCs that reflect national circumstances while contributing to global climate goals under the Paris Agreement.
- 4) To promote alignment and collective action among SIDS and partners, the SIDS LHI has developed a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework to enable systematic tracking of progress across the twelve priority areas. This framework aims to align relevant indicators with the ABAS M&E framework, thereby reducing the reporting burden on SIDS while enhancing the ability to monitor progress and target interventions that support their energy transition.

To complement this, IRENA through the SIDS LHI also:

- 1) Hosts a SIDS Ministerial during the IRENA Assembly which serves as a high-level platform to position SIDS priorities and for SIDS Minister and partners to shape collective action on energy transition and climate action.
 - 2) Facilitates knowledge sharing and exchange through strategic engagements and dedicated platforms including the [SIDS Lighthouses website](#) and social media ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#)).
- ii) any planned or ongoing national programmes to develop more resilient SIDS economies. What are the expected results from these interventions. Please include indications of resource allocations if available (600 words)

1. Assessment of Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition in Fiji (completed, 2025). Expected results:

- Identification of key barriers in Fiji's legislative and regulatory frameworks for electricity generation, transmission, and supply affecting renewable energy deployment and private sector participation.
- Short-, medium- and long-term actionable recommendations for policy and regulatory, reform.

2. Assessment and Country Programme Development on Deployment of Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) Solutions for Powering Agriculture and Food Value-chains in Cuba (ongoing). Expected results:

- Prioritization of key agricultural value chains for decentralised renewable energy intervention and development of a country programme and investment plan to guide domestic budgeting and mobilization of development partner support.
3. **Technology and Grid Infrastructure plan for Renewable Energy and Electric Mobility Integration in the Seychelles and Cost-effectiveness analysis for the NDC 3.0 with focus on the energy sector and renewable energy technologies in Seychelles (ongoing). Expected results:**
 - Techno-economic assessment of e-mobility options including energy demands, renewable energy and investment requirements.
 - Technical analysis to inform Seychelles' NDC 3.0 revision and implementation plan.
 4. **Review of the Renewable Energy Roadmap for Mauritius (ongoing). Expected results:**
 - Development of a roadmap based on identified energy mitigation solutions outlining targeted strategies for energy savings and emission reductions.
 5. **Resource Assessments for rooftop solar PV for Grenada and the Bahamas (ongoing). Expected results:**
 - Identification of high potential areas for rooftop solar PV deployment; Strengthened local capacity to make informed decisions for planning, policy and implementation.
 6. **Strengthening Energy Data and Statistics in Samoa (ongoing): Expected results:**
 - Improved biomass data collection and integration into national energy statistics, updated reporting tools and methodologies, enhanced collaboration among stakeholders, and strengthened national technical capacity.
 7. **Energy Transition Assessment for Papua New Guinea (ongoing). Expected results:**
 - Comprehensive assessment of Papua New Guinea's energy landscape; strengthened policy and planning frameworks, prioritised actions for key energy transition areas, and improved stakeholder coordination through an inclusive, country-led process.

PART B - COHERENT AND EFFECTIVE UN SYSTEM WIDE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO SIDS

Paragraph 36 of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) requests the UN Secretary-General: *"..... within his annual report to the General Assembly for the 80th Session on the implementation of the ABAS, to present proposals to ensure a coordinated, coherent and effective UN system wide capacity development approach to SIDS and to enhance the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ABAS, including a potential single SIDS dedicated entity at the UN Secretariat."*

At the global level, the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) oversees UN efforts for sustainable development in 162 countries and territories, guiding, supporting, tracking and overseeing the coordination of development operations. The UNSDG derives its mandate from the Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which serves as an important instrument for the monitoring and the assessment of UN development operations. The integrated nature of ABAS calls for a UN Development System that works in a coordinated and coherent manner while preserving each entity's mandate and role and leveraging each entity's expertise.

1. Coherent and effective UN system support to SIDS (For UN System Responses, 750 words)

- i. What challenges are encountered by UN agencies, to deliver a ‘whole-of-system response’ in addressing the needs, risks and vulnerabilities and to provide development programmes that address the underlying drivers of needs in SIDS?
- ii. What percentage of your entity’s programming expenditures on development activities in SIDS in 2024 were allocated to joint programmes? What percentage will be allocated in 2025?
- iii. What are the lessons learned, challenges and best practices of the UNSCDF (including multi-country frameworks) and their respective Country Implementation Plans (CIPs) in promoting joint programming?
- iv. What improvements would you recommend to enhance the UN’s system-wide approach to capacity development in SIDS?
- v. How can the UN better partner with regional development stakeholders e.g. CARICOM Secretariat, SPC, PIF, SPREP etc to improve programme delivery, improve coherence and avoid duplication?

For Governments

- vi. How would you assess the current level of coordination among UN agencies in supporting capacity development for SIDS at the national, regional and global levels? What challenges do you believe hinder effective coordination among UN entities in providing support to SIDS? What mechanisms would you suggest to improve the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of UN support for SIDS? (600 words)

2. Interagency Mechanisms for improved coherence

Under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) provides broad guidance, coordination and strategic direction for the UN system in the areas under the responsibility of Executive Heads. Focus is placed on inter-agency priorities and initiatives while ensuring that the independent mandates of organizations are maintained. One particular focus of the CEB is system-wide coordination and policy coherence in the programme areas. The CEB has to date created three inter-agency mechanisms to increase coherence across the United Nations system in addressing urgent development challenges. These are UN-Water, UN-Oceans and UN-Energy.

- vii. As there is no single entity in the United Nations system that has sole responsibility for SIDS, do you see value creating a UN-SIDS to serve as the primary agent for promoting system-wide collaboration on SIDS issues, and to promote coherence in the UN system’s multi-disciplinary response to SIDS? (500 words)

While the establishment of a dedicated UN-SIDS mechanism could provide an important platform to strengthen coherence across UN support to SIDS it is important to ensure it does not inadvertently exclude non-UN actors with specialised mandates.

For example, in the area of SIDS energy transition, SIDS DOCK holds the recognised UN mandate. However, IRENA, through its SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI), plays a significant role in advancing the energy transition in SIDS and bring valuable technical expertise, networks and experience.

To maximise effectiveness and avoid duplication, efforts could focus on strengthening existing coordination platforms and ensuring inclusive, multi-stakeholder collaboration. This includes building on ongoing initiatives and operationalising joint work programmes across UN and non-UN entities, supported by pooled or co-financed arrangements.

Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs Plus (ECESA Plus)

Coordination of UN System actions for the implementation of politically agreed documents e.g. ABAS takes place through the Executive Committee on Economic and Social (ECESA Plus). Its over fifty members have developed a matrix for the follow up to ABAS, focusing on mandates specifically directed at the United Nations system as well as on areas where the UN system is already engaged through its programmatic work. The UN Implementation Matrix, which is being continuously updated, serves as an accountability framework and as a working tool to promote and monitor progress. ECESA Plus meets regularly to *inter alia* SIDS related matters and is convened by the Under Secretary General of DESA.

- viii How can ECESA Plus be used to more effectively harness UN agency contributions and to amplify systemic synergies?)

3. HLPF

- ix. How should the HLPF SIDS session be structured to effectively monitor progress to scale up implementation of the SDGs while at the same time driving implementation of ABAS? What role should the monitoring and evaluation framework of ABAS play in this? (250 words)

To effectively monitor SDG progress and drive the implementation of the ABAS, the HLPF SIDS session can be structured as an interactive high-level forum that fosters coordination, and solution-focused dialogue, offering SIDS the opportunity to share progress, challenges, and innovations, while enabling development partners to respond with concrete and targeted commitments.

The session could be structured around the energy transition priorities reflected in the ABAS and reinforced through recent SIDS Ministerial meetings, including but not limited to: 1) Enhancing support, investment and partnerships 2) Addressing barriers to access and mobilize finance for renewable energy 3) Advancing the development of SIDS specific technologies and applications for RE and 4) Strengthening support to overcome structural barriers, while also ensuring a just, equitable and resilient transition.

The ABAS M&E Framework can help anchor the discussion by providing a structure for SIDS to report on achievements and identify remaining gaps, while enabling development partners to better align resources and support with priority needs.