

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).

The least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) bear the brunt of climate change's disproportionate impacts, hindering their progress towards sustainable development.

Despite the establishment of the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in 2010 (i.e., 15 years ago), and the subsequent roll out of a set of provisions for financial and technical support, progress remains slow. As at 30 April 2025, only 63 developing countries had submitted a NAP to the UNFCCC,² of which 13 are SIDS. The greatest challenge in formulating and implementing NAPs is access to funding, and more so funding under the Financial Mechanism.

A significant shift is necessary to revamp the NAP process and its support ecosystem, with the aim of raising adaptation ambition. This requires enhancing the impact of financial and technical support for LDCs and SIDS, enabling them to produce and update NAPs more swiftly, and ensuring that NAPs are effectively positioned to attract financial backing from a diverse range of sources including innovative and novel sources. To advance this, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary launched the NAP 3.0 initiative³ at the NAP Expo in April 2024.⁴ The NAP 3.0 initiative pursues four pillars of promoting innovative and novel adaptation financing for NAPs; updating the NAP technical guidelines, including by integrating the global goal on adaptation; supporting expedited submission of NAPs to comply with the 2025 deadline; and scaling up the capacity of countries to develop project proposals that can mobilize a broader range of sources and modalities of finance for NAP implementation.

Under the NAP 3.0, UNFCCC is mobilizing a wide range of implementing agencies to accelerate and scale up support. The secretariat is coordinating delivery partners and funding agencies to collaboratively develop a strategy to assist the LDCs and SIDS that are yet to produce their NAP to do so before the end of 2025. Several consultations have been held with selected stakeholders to discuss innovative and novel sources and modalities of finance. The secretariat, jointly with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) is also organizing NAP workshops aimed at building the

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

² UNFCCC, 2025, NAP Central, <https://napcentral.org/submitted-NAPs>.

³ More information available at <https://unfccc.int/NAP-3.0>.

⁴ More information available at <https://unfccc.int/NAP-3.0>.

capacity of the LDCs and SIDS to accelerate the formulation and implementation of NAPs, while also raising adaptation ambition.

The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM ExCom) recently launched a set of user-friendly technical guides and knowledge products that are particularly relevant for the SIDS context, including:

- Technical guide on sea level rise;⁵
- Technical paper on non-economic losses: featuring loss of territory and habitability, ecosystem services and biodiversity, and cultural heritage;⁶
- Compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches – Volume 2.⁷

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)
- 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)

PART B - COHERENT AND EFFETIVE 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

⁵ WIM ExCom, 2025. Technical guide on sea level rise. Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WIM%20ExCom%20sea%20level%20rise.pdf>.

⁶ WIM ExCom, 2025. Technical paper on non-economic losses: featuring loss of territory and habitability, ecosystem services and biodiversity, and cultural heritage. Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/nels_paper_2024.pdf.

⁷ WIM ExCom, 2025. Compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches – Volume 2. Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WIM_ExCom_Compendium_vol.2.pdf.

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?
 - [Work with governments to improve retention of talent by offering professional development pathways and regional employment opportunities.](#)
 - [Shift from short-term skills training to building long-term institutional capacity](#)
- 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
 - [Facilitate regional SIDS exchanges and learning networks \(e.g., between Caribbean, Pacific, Indian Ocean SIDS\)](#)
 - [Leverage the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre \(RCCs\) to anchor capacity development.](#)

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)

The creation of a UN-SIDS risks overlapping with existing entities like the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), which is working through a dedicated Small Island Developing States Unit to mobilize and coordinate the United Nations system and other stakeholders towards supporting implementation, coherent follow-up and monitoring of the dedicated Programmes of Action (PoA) for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) since 2001.

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)