

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

UNFPA RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

UNFPA's response to the 2025 questionnaire on the Follow-up to and implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS) reflects tailored interventions that are geared towards accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the ABAS and the [International Conference on Population and Development \(ICPD\) Programme of Action](#). UNFPA's interventions also respond to the follow-up to the implementation of the [Pact for the Future and its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations](#). Thirty-six (36) small island developing States are covered by two multi-country programmes: 14 in the Pacific and 22 in the Caribbean regions, and the joint office in the Atlantic, Indian and South China Sea (AIS) region. There are also 8 SIDS where UNFPA has dedicated country programmes that are tailored to their specific needs and priorities. UNFPA increased its support to small island developing states, given their vulnerabilities, to strengthen resilience, adapt to climate change and prepare and respond to other natural hazards affecting children, youth, people with disability, women, girls and ageing populations, and other groups in vulnerable situations. These interventions strengthen stakeholders' capacity at all levels to implement gender- and age-responsive actions.

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).

UNFPA RESPONSE

UNFPA has been identified in the United Nations Implementation Matrix for the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, as one of the reporting agencies for the following action-oriented paragraphs of the ABAS: **32. (e) (i) (ii); E. (a); F. (a) (i); I. (a) (ii); J. (a) (i); IV. (33-36); V. (38-42).**

In this regard, UNFPA should also be noted as a reporting agency in the following paragraphs of the ABAS, as highlighted in the United Nations Implementation Matrix: **E. (a) (v); G. (a) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v); H. (a) (vi); I. (a) (iv); J. (a) (iii).** UNFPA's interventions reflect support to SIDS to implement the ABAS in this regard. The following responses on each of the above mentioned action-oriented paragraphs are as follows:

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

32 A. Build economic resilience

(e) Enable youth economic participation by: (i) harnessing the DD

In **Cabo Verde**, the Joint Office of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF invested significantly in job creation and employability of marginalised groups, including people with disabilities and youth.

Life skills education has been a key tool to support young people throughout the life course. In the **Caribbean**, UNFPA has supported the development of a comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) toolkit for out-of-school youth in seven (7) small island developing States. Further, technical support in capacity building of civil society organizations (CSOs) to roll out the implementation of the toolkit was provided. In **Belize** and **Suriname**, UNFPA supports Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) to conduct capacity building, outreach, and advocacy to prevent and address gender-based violence, as well as to create and benefit from new opportunities in entrepreneurship and education. In **Mauritius**, UNFPA further invested in listening services for young people to learn how to invest in their mental health. UNFPA also trained young people to become peer educators within communities, and in university settings. Six hundred (600) young people ages 14-17 years participated in a 10-week Life Skill programme. Twenty-five (25) young people were capacitated to become peer educators, and over 1,500 young people accessed the listening service, and serious cases were referred for deeper psychological support.

In **Comoros**, UNFPA supported capacity building of youth associations and networks of youth (African Youth and Adolescents Network (AfriYAN), Comoros) on leadership, sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention. In addition, UNFPA supported awareness campaigns on GBV in schools for 1,243 young people.

In **Pacific SIDS**, UNFPA supported governments to improve social coping and health-seeking skills of young people through Family Life Education programmes for increased school retention and subsequent contribution to economic development. 68,213 in-school young people were reached in five (5) countries, **Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu**.

(ii) Providing financial backing for youth-startups

In the **Pacific** region, UNFPA supported youth organizations to access small grants especially on climate change resilience and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights through mentorship for innovative start-ups.

In the **AIS** region, UNFPA facilitated the capacity development of stakeholders in innovative financing mechanisms for the [circular economy](#) in the **Seychelles**, which allowed for a greater dissemination of both available and potential financing tools to young entrepreneurs looking to innovate in the circular economy. Twenty-five (25) stakeholders from a cross-section of ministries were capacitated in better understanding the financial needs of women and young entrepreneurs and to integrate this guidance into policy development and implementation. This approach responded to Seychelles sustainable development pathway which hinges on the circular economy.

E. Mainstream disaster risk reduction

(a) Build resilience to disasters by:

(v) Increasing support, including financing, to improve small island developing States' data collection, governance, management, analysis and assessment of hazards, disaster events and their impacts, including losses and damages in small island developing States;

In the **Caribbean**, UNFPA provides ongoing support for the annual collection, cleaning, and processing of data pertaining to the Common Operational Data Sets on Population Statistics (COD-PS), which are subsequently incorporated into the Humanitarian Data Exchange. This support also extends to the decennial population and housing census rounds. As it relates to data analysis, through the recently

completed Joint SDG Programme in Barbados and Montserrat (2022-2024), UNFPA has supported the production of subnational population models that include analysis of the distances of populations from key health infrastructure, as well as their proximity to coastal regions that are vulnerable to flooding and other natural hazards.

F. Safe and healthy societies

(a). Strengthen health systems by:

(i) Increasing access to assistance for health systems, including financing, aligned with national and regional priorities;

In **Comoros**, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to strengthen its capacity in supply chain and [last mile distribution](#), resulting in a more resilient health system. This included conducting a comprehensive supply chain evaluation, developing a national guide on the logistics management information system (LMIS), and designing a new distribution circuit that designates the National Pharmacy as the central warehouse. These efforts will contribute to a more resilient health system and help reduce stock-outs of essential health commodities at the health center level.

UNFPA supported Ministries of Health in the **Pacific** to build respective capacities to provide access to and deliver timely sexual and reproductive health services including GBV prevention and response services to women and young people to give rise to the realisation of reproductive rights. Further through human resource development, supply chain systems for reproductive health supplies and commodities and guidelines, protocols and systems for quality assured reproductive health services. Key results include all secondary and tertiary service delivery points now have trained health workers on youth friendly and disability inclusive SRH services; and all primary level service delivery points provide at least three (3) methods of Family planning (FP) and all secondary and tertiary level service delivery points providing at least five (5) methods of FP.

In the **Caribbean**, UNFPA supported health system strengthening through improving supply chains; capacity building of health care providers to provide family planning method mix and assisting governments to position the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health within the context of disaster response. Projected results in 2025 include three (3) countries will possess a functional Electronic logistics management information system; and four (4) countries will have at least 85% of health facilities providing three or more modern FP methods.

G. Data collection, analysis and use

(a). Strengthen data collection, storage and analysis by:

(i) Investing in building human and institutional capacity in small island developing States to collect quality, accessible, timely and reliable, disaggregated data, according to their national contexts, to measure progress and to ensure that no one is left behind;

In **Comoros**, UNFPA strengthened the capacity of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies to update a national database of demographic data. Further, UNFPA also supported the country to develop the National Policy for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend. In the **Caribbean**, by 2025, 13 countries and territories would be supported by UNFPA with disaggregated population data from the 2020 round of census.

(ii) Strengthening and modernizing national data infrastructure and systems in small island developing States to better integrate data into development planning, and enhancing the capacity of statistical offices in small island developing States;

UNFPA supports capacity development of National Statistics Offices across regions. In the **Pacific**, National Statistics Offices received support in new techniques such as remote sensing. In the **Caribbean**, UNFPA implemented a Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) funded

project, “Enabling **Belize’s** Statistical System”. The project provides comprehensive technical and institutional guidance to improve the National Statistical System and its capacity to collect and publish disaggregated data. In **Suriname**, UNFPA also implemented the project, “Support to the Population Census and National Statistical System of Suriname”, with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The project provides technical leadership and guidance to conclude the 2024 Population and Housing Census, as well as systematic capacity building. Additionally, in **Comoros**, UNFPA supported the development of demographic projections to facilitate national development strategies.

(iii) Enhancing science-based and innovative approaches, including sustainable development-oriented, inclusive and responsible use of artificial intelligence, in the non-military domain, in full respect, promotion and protection of human rights and international law, for the collection, storage, analysis, disaggregation, dissemination and use of demographic data in small island developing States, including use of geospatial technologies;

In partnership with ECLAC and the University of Southampton, UNFPA has pioneered the use of Bayesian models to generate small area estimations of population counts across a set of Caribbean countries, including **Jamaica and Barbados**, with plans in 2025 to complete estimates in **Dominica, Guyana, and Saint Lucia**. These exercises, undertaken in cooperation with national statistical offices, have generated sets of subnational population estimates that can supplement census data in situations where the coverage rates for enumerated data have been low.

(iv) Enhancing partnerships and the sharing of best practice, expertise, digital public goods and data in order to facilitate small island developing States peer-to-peer learning, including through the Small Island Developing States Centre of Excellence and existing statistical initiatives, including through regional organizations;

The Regional Statistics Office of **CARICOM** is a key partner of UNFPA in annual planning meetings to assess and respond to country-level needs in technical assistance, as well as regular collaboration in regional events for knowledge sharing such as the annual CARICOM Statistical Meetings. Further, in collaboration with the **International Monetary Fund’s Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (IMF-CARTAC)**, a workshop on the utilization of gender-disaggregated data to identify and estimate the costs to gender disparities at the national level was held in 2024. UNFPA remains a key interlocutor and advocate for capacity building of national and regional organizations in the **Caribbean**.

Protecting social sector spending, especially on health, is key to economic growth. Many countries face high debt burdens that outstrip spending on education and health. Debt forgiveness and restructuring, along with strengthening public financial management and efficiency, will be critical to ensuring that countries can maintain essential services.

(v) Providing high-quality spatial data for small island developing States and working to downscale global datasets to provide accurate information for small island developing States;

Further, small area estimation exercises have been used for humanitarian preparedness and response. Since 2021, UNFPA has provided the **Caribbean** region with gridded population estimates, and continues to invest in this intervention. These GIS-enabled estimates are used in the prepositioning of humanitarian response to extreme weather events, and natural hazards such as volcanic eruptions.

H. Science, technology, innovation and digitalization

(a) Harness the potential of science, technology and innovation and advance the benefits of digitalization in SIDS by:

(vi) Creating and supporting inclusive digital societies, and implementing initiatives at all levels to develop human resources in science and technology, engineering,

the arts and mathematics, especially to promote the interest of children, including girls, youth, women, persons with disabilities and other people in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen the quality of education and reskilling in these fields by modernizing school curricula;

In the **Pacific**, UNFPA invests in enhancing young people's capacity, especially young women and girls, to participate in digital societies. In **Fiji** and **Samoa**, UNFPA has worked with young people to develop an application to disseminate information about adolescent health. In Fiji, where the application is currently functioning, a post launch feedback session was held with young people. Young people welcomed the application. Further, UNFPA in the **Caribbean** region advocates for actions against technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF-GBV) through tailoring global lessons learned and good practices.

I. Productive populations

(a) Increase prosperity and productive capacities, employment, equality and inclusivity in SIDS by:

(ii) Promoting, protecting and improving the health and nutrition of populations through multisectoral action and strengthening health systems to support educational attainment, a growing and productive workforce, poverty reduction and resilience to shocks;

In the **Caribbean**, UNFPA advocates for improving access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and the realisation of reproductive rights (RR) in the context of universal health coverage, and to address GBV prevention and response. In **Comoros**, UNFPA also works with partners to improve the dignity and health of women and girls through capacity building of midwives to provide quality services upon request.

(iv) Developing policies, strategies and norms to promote employment and reduce unemployment and underemployment, by promoting skills development and productivity, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and experience-sharing that respond to evolving job markets and reducing barriers to employment, especially for youth and women;

To support population policies in SIDS, UNFPA's approach aims to empower individuals, strengthen health systems, and provide the data and other support needed for countries to make informed decisions about population dynamics and development strategies. Population policies address implications of demographic changes on the labour force, and include explicit recommendations for promoting equitable employment. In the **Caribbean**, the following countries have adopted **population policies**: **Grenada** (2023) and **Montserrat** (2024), and **Jamaica** is in the pipeline. UNFPA is also assisting with Population Situation Analysis through the United Nations Joint SDG Fund. UNFPA in the **Pacific** also supports the development of population policies.

J. Partnerships

(a) New, innovative and bold approaches to partnership based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability, transparency, including with relevant stakeholders, and cooperation that leverages a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, by:

(i) Expanding and diversifying partnerships with local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the private sector, academia and international financial institutions to implement the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;

In the **Pacific** region, UNFPA is committed to expanding and diversifying partnerships with local authorities, CSO, NGOs, and others to strengthen human capital, healthcare and services and to harness

demographic dividends to support the implementation of the ABAS. Further, in the **Caribbean** UNFPA supported governments and the private sector to integrate GBV into work place policies in workplaces with specific attention to the tourism sector. In the **AMS** region, UNFPA in **Comoros**, engaged in new partnerships with [Anti-AIDS Clubs NGOs](#) such as the Federation of Anti-AIDS Clubs (FCAS), for the prevention of HIV and GBV among young people. In addition, the FCAS established partnerships with other United Nations agencies to strengthen national capacities on data collection, analysis and data utilization.

(iii) Leveraging North-South, triangular and South-South cooperation, including SIDS-to-SIDS, to mobilize human, financial, technical and technological resources, while recalling that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

In the **Pacific and Caribbean** regions, UNFPA promotes South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the objective of strengthening access to sexual and reproductive health, realising reproductive rights (SRH and RR), enhancing GBV prevention and response services. In **Comoros**, UNFPA facilitated a SSC initiative between Centre for African Family Studies (CEFA), Togo to strengthen the capacity of national trainers in Comoros on harnessing the demographic dividend.

IV. A more effective United Nations in support of small island developing States (paragraphs 33-36)

UNFPA remains committed to supporting SIDS to achieve their respective sustainable development priorities, with an emphasis on ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning and ending GBV and harmful practices. As part of United Nations Country Teams, through multi-country offices and presence at the regional level, and engagement in the UN Sustainable Development Group and the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on SIDS at the global level, UNFPA leverages its comparative advantage to promote coherence within the United Nations system.

V. Monitoring and evaluation (paragraphs 38-42)

UNFPAs interventions based on its mandate, guide its participation in the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the ABAS. UNFPA supports SIDS to monitor SDG target 5.6.1 - the proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care; and SDG 5.6.1 - the extent to which countries have laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education for women and men aged 15 and older. These are key indicators for tracking progress towards SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Further, UNFPA has assisted SIDS to integrate population dynamics into the actions geared towards the achievement of sustainable development. UNFPA has also supported SIDS to enhance investments in young people in order to harness the demographic dividend; strengthen their data and statistics systems to utilise population data for planning, monitoring and evaluation of development interventions; strengthen health systems, and to address gender inequality and gender-based violence.

Finally, UNFPA, as part of the United Nations system, will aim to contribute to the biennial reviews of progress on the implementation of the ABAS conducted by the Regional Economic Commissions in Africa (ECA), Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

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 Quadrennial 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)

UNFPA’s role in United Nations Country Teams in SIDS is crucial in terms of QCPR implementation. UNFPA programmatic and normative offers are focused on planning for demographic change, strengthening national statistical systems and health systems, with an emphasis on access to sexual reproductive health and the realisation of reproductive rights; gender equality, including prevention and response to GBV, and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, including for women, girls, youth and other vulnerable populations.

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?

Despite the heterogeneity among SIDS, key challenges are common, such as brain drain, complexities related to financing eligibility and economic and environmental/climate vulnerabilities that require more tailored and nuanced approaches from the UN system. Further, limited data to make informed decisions, constrained implementation capacity in the sustainable development fora, and increased competition for the limited funding available are also key challenges.

In middle to high-income SIDS, such as **Mauritius** and **Seychelles**, United Nations agencies face challenges related to coordination and financing. Due to the ongoing unpredictability of financial resources to support SIDS, the respective capacities of the United Nations on the ground are also limited.

SIDS in the **Caribbean** face similar challenges such as difficulties associated with scaling up efforts and high transaction costs. Fiscal constraints of governments due to high debt levels also hinder progress on coherence and coordination. In addition to brain drain, a rapid demographic transition from youthful to aging populations and the rigidities related to planning and response to these demographic changes are also key barriers which affect coherent support to SIDS.

Cabo Verde, a lower middle-income country, faces the primary obstacle of limited access to financial resources in support of the UNSDCF, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Strategic Plan for the cycle 2022-2026 (PEDS II).

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?

In 2024, joint programmes were not initiated by UNFPA in the **Pacific** and **AIS** regions. However, in the **Caribbean**, UNFPA allocated 15% of its resources to conduct a joint programme with UNICEF. In

2025, under the UN-European Union Spotlight Initiative, which included a groundbreaking collaboration with the Caribbean Employers' Confederation, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Caribbean Congress of Labour to address gender-based violence (GBV) in the workplace, UNFPA launched the “Stronger Together: Advancing Women’s Well-Being in Caribbean Tourism” project. Outreach has been made to sister UN agencies, UN Global Compact and UN Tourism with the aim of fostering gender-aware tourism development. The programme countries include, **Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, and Turks & Caicos.**

iii. What are the lessons learned, challenges and best practices of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) (including multi-country frameworks) and their respective Country Implementation Plans (CIPs) in promoting joint programming?

In the **Caribbean** context, CIPs have been helpful in promoting joint programming; however the actual extent of collaboration between UN agencies is still inconsistent in practice and often mostly driven by the availability of funding. Unfortunately, the CIPs process brings high transaction costs. The RCs should continue to be empowered to fully drive coherence. In **Cabo Verde**, it was noted that joint programmes also often incur high transaction costs. However, In **São Tomé and Príncipe**, a joint work plan between United Nations agencies and the Government was drawn up for the first time in 2025, which will allow for better coordination between agencies and the government and greater transparency, helping to avoid overlapping and optimize resources.

iv. What improvements would you recommend to enhance the UN’s system-wide approach to capacity development in SIDS?

In **Mauritius** and **Seychelles**, United Nations agencies should capitalise on their comparative advantage, collaborating and complementing each other for efficient use of limited resources to reduce internal competition. Further, in **São Tomé and Príncipe**, capacity development interventions in SIDS should be tailored to country needs and government priorities. This should be done through a country capacity needs mapping exercise that can be shared with United Nations agencies and the government for more effective coordination. In **Cabo Verde**, it was noted that non-resident agencies with smaller footprints should consider leveraging the existing programmes of entities with presence to integrate capacity development components at the national level. This approach would improve synergies with existing larger programmes. Without increasing existing bureaucracies, it is critical to encourage and enable agencies with larger footprints to substantively collaborate with agencies with smaller footprints for better coordinated, tailored support to national sustainable development efforts.

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

In the **Pacific** and **Caribbean** regions, UNFPA, through its multi-country offices, engages regularly with regional development stakeholders. One focus of engagement is to strengthen existing coordination mechanisms beyond information sharing towards joint planning and programming. In the Pacific, UNFPA collaborates closely with the **Pacific Island Forum (PIF)**, the **Pacific Community (SPC)**, and the **University of the South Pacific (USP)**. In the Caribbean, UNFPA works closely with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and **CARICOM** on census support, addressing gender-based violence and strengthening the capacity of Rural Health Clinics (RHCS). Finally, to achieve the objective of a gender-aware tourism industry, additional regional partners include **Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA)**, the **Caribbean Society of Hotel Association Executives (CSHAE)**, the **Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)**, the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**, the Inter-

American Development Bank (IDB), and Women in Tourism Caribbean. Resident Coordinators should continue to be empowered to channel greater focus on regional sustainable development approaches while addressing national priorities, thereby advancing collaboration. Further, a country office experience of Comoros in the AIS region, UNFPA notes that the 4 resident agencies (UNFPA, UNDP, WHO and UNICEF) along with 20 non-resident agencies are well coordinated. This can be examined as a case study to identify ways in which lessons learned can be shared across regions.

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.

- vi. 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 current global context of decreasing financing and funding for development will further aggravate the challenges SIDS face. In this regard, noting the increasingly limited financial resources of the UN agencies to deliver on their mandates, there is an opportunity to assess progress, gaps, and lessons learned based on observations and feedback from SIDS with regards to existing coherence in the UN system's multi-disciplinary response to SIDS. Further, the biennial reviews of implementation of the ABAS led by Regional Commissions is also an opportunity to institutionalise the assessment of the UN system's support to SIDS. Should a standalone agency/office be created, it would need to be adequately resourced to support the broad scope of SIDS needs.

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?)**

The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA Plus) is an effective mechanism to ensure accountability of the United Nations support to SIDS given its role as an instrument of policy development, decision-making and management. The heads of United Nations entities utilise this space to consult on work programmes as well as other substantive and administrative matters of collective concern to facilitate greater complementarity and coherence. In this regard, ECESA plus should continue to identify ways of pooling resources and services to maximize programme impact, minimize administrative costs, and to facilitate joint strategic planning and decision-making.

Further, the United Nations Implementation Matrix, endorsed by the ECESA Plus, is also a useful and user-friendly mechanism to facilitate reporting of the results of the programmatic and normative interventions by the United Nations system to support SIDS. The meetings and reporting mechanisms provide a key opportunity to monitor coherence and identify further opportunities for the system to leverage their respective comparative advantages to support the implementation of the ABAS.

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)**

The SIDS segment of the HLPF should be tailored to highlight the progress made in line with the ABAS and the SDGs under review by the HLPF, as well as the gaps that need to be addressed with only 5 years left until 2030. The extent to which SIDS report on the implementation of the ABAS in the context of their respective Voluntary National Reviews is also an opportunity for SIDS to monitor progress of respective sustainable development pathways.