

# 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 Matrix<sup>1</sup> (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).*

UNIDO continues to support resilience-building in SIDS through integrated interventions focused on sustainable industrial development, inclusive economic recovery, energy transition, and innovation. During the current reporting period, the organization has worked to strengthen its cooperation with national governments, regional bodies, and development partners. These initiatives aim to reduce vulnerability to external shocks and promote diversified, climate-resilient prosperity, in line with the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

The Organization scaled up its support to SIDS by partnering with Barbados, establishing a UNIDO-Barbados Global SIDS Hub for Sustainable Development. The UNIDO SIDS Hub will enhance UNIDO's technical assistance to increase SIDS' resilience, support economic diversification and promote investment in SIDS, particularly in the blue economy, digital and green solutions, and in leapfrogging to innovative technologies.

A key pillar of these efforts continues to be the advancement of sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy systems, essential for both economic and climate resilience. Through the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), UNIDO has supported technical capacity development, enabling policy environments, and investment promotion in SIDS. In partnership with the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE), and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, UNIDO delivered training on energy management, certification, and integrated resource efficiency. These actions help reduce energy vulnerability while promoting low-carbon development.<sup>2</sup>

UNIDO has also advanced ocean energy solutions in partnership with SIDS DOCK under the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GLOEA), supporting feasibility assessments, policy dialogue, capacity building, and pilot initiatives. These activities contribute to diversifying the energy mix, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, and unlocking new opportunities for inclusive, resilient development rooted in marine resources.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> accountability framework developed to promote and monitor progress with implementation of ABAS

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.se4allnetwork.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gloea.org/projects-pipeline>  
<https://www.gn-sec.net/content/global-ocean-energy-alliance-gloea>

Beyond the energy sector, UNIDO remains committed to supporting Blue Economy development in SIDS. The organization is developing a comprehensive Blue Industry Programmatic Framework and published a white paper titled *Charting a Blue Future*, outlining strategic pathways and reinforcing its vision for sustainable ocean-based industries.<sup>4</sup>

Investment promotion is another cornerstone of UNIDO's support to SIDS. Under the "ACP Business-Friendly: Supporting Value Chains through Inclusive Policies, Investment Promotion and Alliances" programme – an inter-regional initiative funded by the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) – UNIDO has strengthened Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) through capacity-building on FDI data collection, investment opportunities formulation and promotion, and aftercare services. Key initiatives include, among others, an ongoing Investment Monitoring and Support Survey in Mauritius, where an investment webinar focused on fostering intra-African investment flows was also held, as well as a Gender Lens Investing course in the Dominican Republic.

These efforts promote business-friendly policies, strengthen productive capacities, and enhance value chains. Central to the programme is the "Invest in ACP" platform, which boosts SIDS' visibility on the global investment map and connects them with investors and entrepreneurs. Currently, the platform promotes 212 investment opportunities identified across SIDS, with particular concentrations in the Dominican Republic (59) and Papua New Guinea (57), as well as industrial parks and special economic zones located in these countries.

These actions and achievements align with UNIDO's broader offerings in sustainable investments, fair value chains development, and technological innovation for industrial development.

During the reporting period, UNIDO's project portfolio in SIDS amounted to over \$29 million in ongoing technical cooperation, with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the EU, and bilateral donors. These efforts were further supported by in-kind contributions and co-financing from national governments and the private sector, strengthening local ownership and sustainability.

## **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)*

In the course of 2025, UNIDO will work with its Member States to develop a revised strategy for SIDS, which will translate into an actionable framework for the provisions of ABAS pertaining to industrial development, green energy, local productive capacities, value addition, integration into supply chain and sustainable manufacturing, in line with the organization's mandate.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://hub.unido.org/news/charting-blue-future-unidos-blue-industry-contribution-blue-economy-agenda>  
<https://www.unido.org/news/unido-drives-development-dialogue-blue-industry-and-blue-economy-agenda>

The new Strategy will subsequently be presented to SIDS' representatives for endorsement during the SIDS Ministerial Conference to be co-organized by UNIDO and OHRLLS in conjunction with UNIDO's 21<sup>st</sup> General Conference in November 2025.

The implementation of UNIDO's new SIDS Strategy will also be instrumental in gathering the data necessary to contribute to the ABAS M&E exercise.

The SIDS Ministerial will also adopt a Ministerial Declaration that addresses the unique industrial development-related challenges faced by SIDS, which will provide additional strategic guidance to UNIDO's work supporting the implementation of the ABAS.

## **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?*

For UNIDO, the main challenge is the lack of physical presence in the vast majority of SIDS, notably in the Pacific – a challenge shared with several other agencies that hinders the delivery of technical assistance and results in missed opportunities.

The role of UNRCs deployed in the Pacific and UNCTs is central to address this challenge and steer synergies between different agencies' activities in response to the SIDS needs, as assessed locally.

The establishment of the UNIDO SIDS Hub in Barbados will contribute to respond to this challenge, by deploying UNIDO expertise locally and by strengthening collaboration with SIDS countries in the Caribbean and globally.

UN cooperation with SIDS' regional intergovernmental organizations should also be systematized, as such organizations have the capacities to collect and collate their constituencies' needs and requests and have the political weight to mobilize funding.

- 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?*

No programming expenditures devoted to joint programmes in 2024 and 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?*

N/A

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

N/A

- 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*

N/A

### **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)

N/A

### **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?)

N/A

### **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)

There could be a preparatory process feeding into the SIDS HLPF session. This could be similar to the preparatory EGMs for selected SDGs under in-depth review each year and focus on main action areas of ABAS. The UNIDO-OHRLLS SIDS Ministerial could also be informed by and contribute to the two reporting streams for ABAS -- the qualitative report to submit to the HLPF and the quantitative report to the GA (2<sup>nd</sup> Committee).