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 <u>only</u> 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)**
2.

Using the UN implementation Matrix[1] (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).

Anti-corruption

Mauritius: UNODC supported the rollout of its Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework, promoting prevention plans and risk management. The Financial Crimes Commission piloted CIPFA training, with 23 officials trained in August 2024.
Seychelles: UNODC supported drafting the Whistleblower Protection Bill and convened key national stakeholders. It also assisted with preparations for the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism.
Cabo Verde: UNODC supported the creation of a trust fund for seized criminal assets, providing technical and training support to ensure transparent reinvestment in justice and security. Funds are being used to build the Ciudad Judiciaria (June 2023–March 2026) to enhance justice system efficiency and coordination.
Caribbean SIDS—Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia: UNODC supported the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), facilitating self-assessments and strengthening national anti-corruption frameworks. Through its Global Programme on Corruption and the Regional Anti-Corruption Hub, it promotes prevention, compliance, and inter-agency cooperation.

Maritime Crime

Comoros, Seychelles and Mauritius: UNODC strengthens maritime law enforcement and judicial capacity through training on vessel boarding, legal procedures, and marine asset management, supported by simulations to enhance coordination. It also equips fisheries officers with tools and skills for maritime domain awareness and satellite data analysis to combat illegal fishing. To address transnational crimes, UNODC supports port security, infrastructure, and inter-agency cooperation.
Cabo Verde: UNODC strengthened maritime crime response by training over 70 law enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors in investigations and simulated trials (May 2025), and issued legal recommendations to support the revision of the Fisheries Bill, aligning it with international standards.
Haiti: UNODC is enhancing the capacity of the Haitian Coast Guard to strengthen maritime law enforcement and combat organized crime along the coast. Through targeted operational and training support, the initiative reinforces state authority over key maritime routes frequently exploited by criminal networks, contributing to greater security and the rule of law.

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

Maldives: UNODC provided Maldives' maritime law enforcement and security agencies with specialized tools such as CCTV cameras and unmanned vehicles to enhance maritime surveillance, prevent crimes, and ensure officers' safety.

Trafficking in Persons and smuggling of Migrants

Comoros: UNODC supported the drafting of a bill to criminalize Trafficking in Persons, as well as, a bill to repress Smuggling in Migrants. Both laws were promulgated in 2024.
Guinea-Bissau: UNODC supported the development of the National Strategy on Trafficking in Persons, which was launched in 2024.
Haiti: UNODC's work under the Turquesa regional initiative supports the border police (POLIFRONT) with training, infrastructure, and intelligence-sharing tools to counter trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Maldives: UNODC provided guidance to the Maldives Correctional Service's development of the 2024-2028 action plan and the Prisoner Database Management System to classify persons in detention.
Haiti: UNODC and OHCHR support justice reform to establish two specialized judicial chambers focused on complex crimes, including corruption and gender-based violence. UNODC also builds the capacities of criminal justice agencies in identifying illegal activities taking place at sea, such as trafficking of drugs and other illicit goods, through trainings.

Organized Crime

Jamaica: UNODC supports development of a National Strategy against Organized Crime with the Ministry of National Security through consultations, workshops, and drafting support to guide prevention, investigation, and prosecution efforts.
Seychelles: UNODC trained criminal justice actors, policymakers, and civil society on gender-responsive, human rights-based approaches to UNTOC implementation, and provided specialized training on witness protection to support effective investigations and prosecutions.
Guinea-Bissau: In collaboration with UNODC, a Judicial Police Centre in Bafta is being constructed to expand police investigation capabilities at the provincial level, aiming to be completed in 2025 Q4.
Caribbean SIDS: UNODC addresses arms trafficking with a mix of prevention and enforcement tools. In Jamaica, law enforcement receives training on digital investigations, dark web surveillance, and

crypto-tracing.

Haiti: Under Project ENFORCE, UNODC supports national efforts to detect and investigate arms trafficking and comply with the UN arms embargo. These actions aim to reduce illicit arms flows that fuel violence and instability.

World Drug Problem

Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and The Bahamas: UNODC enhances responses to the world drug problem through training for judges, prosecutors, customs officers, and police on issues like synthetic opioids and evidence handling. These efforts are reinforced by forensic capacity-building to strengthen institutional responses to drug-related organized crime.
Guinea-Bissau: UNODC is currently providing support to expand its drug forensic capabilities, strengthening the capacity to identify and respond to drug trafficking and related crimes.

Counter-terrorism

Maldives: UNODC strengthened the national authorities' resilience against terrorism and violent extremism, maritime crimes, trafficking in persons (TIP), and drug prevention. Interventions focused

on delivering specialized trainings, procurement of equipment, assistance to local authorities in developing strategic documents, and fostering international cooperation.
Cybercrime

Trinidad and Tobago: UNODC collaborates to combat cybercrime and online child sexual exploitation through legislative support, capacity building for justice and security actors, and awareness efforts.

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 polices 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)

UNODC has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the transnational organized crime (TOC) landscape in the Pacific through the updated Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA). This assessment incorporates TOC risks outlined in key regional frameworks, including the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, and its Action Plan.

Building on the TOCTA findings, Pacific Island Countries' (PICs) specific requests, and insights from the UNTOC Implementation Review Mechanism, UNODC provides targeted technical assistance and capacity-building in key mandate areas: maritime crime, cybercrime, environmental crime, human trafficking, and anti-money laundering (AML). Support includes policy and institutional development aligned with UNTOC and its Protocols.

To enhance regional anti-corruption efforts, the Pacific Platform on Anti-Corruption facilitates peer learning, cross-institutional collaboration, and the sharing of good practices. This platform fosters innovative, locally driven responses to corruption while strengthening institutional capacities.

UNODC supports Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through tailored cooperation aimed at strengthening institutions, governance, and security systems in alignment with national and regional development goals. A key initiative is the Global Programme on Cybercrime, which enhances digital resilience in countries such as Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. The programme provides: legislative and policy support; capacity building for law enforcement and judiciary; and promotes regional and international cooperation. The Phase IV activity plan in Trinidad and Tobago focuses on legal reform, investigative capacity, and critical infrastructure protection.

In parallel, Project Blue Sky addresses online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) across Latin America and the Caribbean. Activities include training for specialized law enforcement units, strengthening judicial responses, and raising public awareness to protect vulnerable populations.

In Haiti, UNODC is implementing a comprehensive approach to support anti-corruption institutions, border management, and justice reform. It assists the Unité de Lutte Contre la Corruption (ULCC) and other oversight bodies in enhancing internal controls and investigative frameworks. Additionally, UNODC supports the establishment of two specialized judicial chambers focused on corruption, financial crimes, and mass crimes, including gender-based violence—aiming to restore public trust, ensure accountability, and reinforce judicial independence.

In Cabo Verde, UNODC will support the drafting of legislative reforms, including the revision of the national Fisheries Bill. This process includes consultative meetings with national stakeholders to refine the draft, which will be submitted for government consideration. These efforts are complemented by ongoing support for maritime law enforcement training and the creation of a trust fund to reinvest seized criminal assets in justice and security infrastructure, including the development of the Ciudad Judiciaria
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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 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?

Delivering a coordinated 'whole-of-system' UN response faces both structural and operational challenges. Fragmented mandates, misaligned programmatic cycles, and the limited in-country presence of some UN agencies hinders effective coordination. A key obstacle is the lack of reliable, disaggregated data—especially as it relates to tracking progress on **SDG 16** (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

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?

ii.   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?

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

UNODC underscores the importance of clear respect for agency mandates and enhanced inter-agency communication, led by the Resident Coordinator's Office, to support coherent and effective UN engagement. To strengthen the UN's system-wide approach in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), UNODC recommends prioritizing the development of integrated national data systems, with a particular focus on governance and justice indicators. Investing in local data ecosystems will enable more accurate

risk assessments, better-targeted programming, and improved national capacities for monitoring, reporting, and evidence-based decision-making.

iv. 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

Effective and sustainable engagement in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) requires strong, coordinated partnerships with regional organizations. In the Caribbean, enhanced collaboration with CARICOM and its implementation agency, CARICOM IMPACS, is vital to improving coherence and avoiding duplication of efforts. UNODC has built a robust operational partnership with CARICOM IMPACS, particularly in border management, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (TIP/SOM), and anti-corruption.

To better support SIDS, the UN should embed regional partnerships into programme design from the outset, leveraging existing mechanisms like CARICOM's Regional Security Strategy. Greater engagement with the Caribbean Court of Justice, regional civil society, and academia would further promote knowledge-sharing, local ownership, and long-term sustainability. Regional stakeholders should also be meaningfully included in processes such as the upcoming revision of the Maldives UNSDCF.

PIFs plays a pivotal role in convening regional stakeholders—from heads of government to practitioners—ensuring unified messaging and effective implementation. Its convening power fosters inclusive dialogue and consensus-building, critical for sustainable regional responses. PIFs are particularly well-positioned to lead on anti-corruption, given its mandate to implement the Teieniwa Vision, and on transnational organized crime (TOC), where it coordinates the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Boe Declaration, and the Regional TOC Disruption Strategy.

For Government

v. 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 improving the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of UN support for SIDS? (600 words)

3. **Interagency Mechanisms for improved coherence**
4.

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)

Establishing a dedicated UN-SIDS coordination mechanism could bring added value by enhancing system-wide coherence and collaboration on issues specific to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Given the cross-cutting and multidimensional nature of the challenges SIDS face, such a platform could

help ensure consistent attention, reduce duplication, and align efforts across the UN system—particularly between resident and non-resident agencies.

Many UN entities do not maintain a physical presence in SIDS due to their small size and operational costs, yet continue to engage remotely or through periodic missions. Without a central coordination structure, these efforts risk fragmentation. A UN-SIDS mechanism could help optimize these engagements, ensuring that non-resident agencies, as well as external actors such as think tanks and development partners, are effectively aligned with national priorities and existing UNCT efforts.

However, the establishment of a UN-SIDS platform should not lead to isolation of SIDS-related development work from broader global or regional initiatives. SIDS can benefit significantly from innovation, knowledge-sharing, and best practices originating in non-SIDS contexts. Overly siloed approaches may limit access to these valuable resources.

Instead of creating a new standalone entity, a lean and efficient model should be considered—one that builds on existing interagency structures and regional partnerships. This mechanism could offer strategic coordination, facilitate knowledge-sharing, and support joint programming, while respecting the distinct mandates of UN agencies.

In parallel, designating agency-specific focal points on SIDS would improve internal coherence, ensure sustained attention to SIDS priorities, and foster more agile and responsive support.

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 enhance UN agency contributions and systemic synergies, ECESA Plus should continue leveraging the ABAS Implementation Matrix as a coordination and accountability tool, encouraging joint planning, thematic task teams, and regular exchanges focused on SIDS priorities. Stronger engagement with field-level offices would promote coherence.

For the HLPF SIDS session, a structured approach linking SDG progress with ABAS implementation is essential. Sessions should focus on key themes such as data gaps, institutional capacity, and financing needs, while showcasing national and regional experiences.