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)

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).

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)

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)

Input by WIPO

Reporting period: May 2024 to April 2025

Innovation and creativity are important drivers to help SIDS build the economic, social and cultural resilience called for in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda (ABAS). The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) supports SIDS in realizing this resilience through targeted and need-based assistance which helps them leverage the power of intellectual property as a powerful tool for growth and sustainable development. WIPO's support for SIDS is provided under three pillars. The key achievements under these pillars during the reporting period are contained below.

The **first pillar** is support for 'innovation eco-systems for building resilient economies'.

During 2024-2025, WIPO assisted 5 SIDS on developing **national IP and innovation policies and strategies**, embedding intellectual property (IP) in policy settings and linking it to other areas critical for sustainable development. 13 SIDS benefited from WIPO's **legislative advice**, helping them craft IP regimes consistent with international legal obligations and tailored to

---

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

specific needs and levels of socio-economic development. 16 SIDS received support from WIPO on strengthening, digitizing and modernizing their IP offices.

The **second pillar** is 'science, technology and innovation for the Blue and Green economies'

Under this pillar, during this period, WIPO worked to establish and develop national and regional networks of **Technology and Innovation Support Centers** (TISCs) in 6 SIDS[1] to help researchers, inventors, and entrepreneurs fulfill their innovative potential and effectively protect, manage, and create value from intellectual property.

WIPO has commenced the development of a **distance learning training course** for the Caribbean Region to assist SIDS to manage, protect and commercialize IP within the **Blue Economy** sector. In the Pacific, WIPO has initiated a **WIPO GREEN accelerator project**, which connects providers and seekers of needed green technology and fosters its deployment or transfer.

In 2024, WIPO held a **webinar on the Blue Economy for African SIDS**, at which the beneficiaries of the previous Blue Economy project in the Caribbean shared their experiences in an example of South-South cooperation facilitated by WIPO and the importance of IP in fostering innovation, protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable development was reinforced.

The **third pillar** of WIPO's support for SIDS is 'harnessing the potential of IP and science, technology and innovation to drive innovation and creativity and build productive capacities'.

Under this pillar, WIPO implemented or is implementing a range of **dedicated projects and capacity building initiatives** across SIDS, **benefitting the broad range of stakeholders** – women entrepreneurs, indigenous communities, small and medium-sized enterprises, designers, artisans, farmers and communities. During the reporting period, 15 projects and capacity building activities were carried out to assist SMEs and start-ups in SIDS use IP for their businesses. 4 Projects on branding agricultural products were implemented. For example, WIPO is helping Antigua and Barbuda's beekeepers market their honey using collective marks, which contributes to income growth and livelihood sustainability. In the Pacific, WIPO supports SIDS in creating a system for geographical indications, enabling better marketing of local products on international markets. For example, in Vanuatu, local producers are being assisted to protect and commercialize 'Vanuatu Kava', and a similar project is underway in Tonga. In June 2025, WIPO will begin a project with Sao Tome and Principe to build knowledge and capacity among women entrepreneurs for using IP for branding and commercialization.

At the same time, SIDS are benefitting from the courses and offerings of the **WIPO Academy** - building skills and knowledge to leverage IP for growth and development. During the reporting period, over 1,200 women, men and youth from SIDS took WIPO eLearning courses, and were provided with 110 scholarships[2] for participation in advanced IP eLearning courses, free of charge.

[END]

---

[1] Cabo Verde; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Jamaica; Sao Tome and Principe; Trinidad and Tobago
[2] Offered to government and public service officials, including IP offices.

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 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)

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)