

# **Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) On Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Introduction**

The establishment of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) stems from General Assembly resolution A/RES/59/311, which "Requests the Secretary-General, through the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), to articulate a plan with recommendations for action and proposed activities for the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation by the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system within their respective mandates". More recently, paragraph 124(b) of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway requests UN DESA to regularly convene the IACG group to report on the full implementation of Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) and the SAMOA Pathway, with adequate and timely analysis based on relevant targets and indicators relevant to SIDS in order to ensure accountability at all levels. UN DESA and United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) play leading roles in organizing the meetings and providing support for the IACG within their respective mandates. In accordance with Paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway, UN DESA has a mandate to support, provide advisory services, and conduct analysis and reporting on the situation of SIDS. This paragraph also stipulates that UN-OHRLS should ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway and issues related to SIDS in the work of the UN system and enhance coherence of SIDS issues in United Nations processes, including at the national, regional and global levels.

This TOR defines the role of the IACG in support of the sustainable development of SIDS.

### **Main Functions of the IACG**

1. Provide a forum for representatives of its member organizations to meet regularly to exchange information in regards to their work on SIDS including critical issues, challenges and opportunities, weaknesses, gaps and best practices on the implementation of the BPoA, MSI and the SAMOA Pathway in the respective countries and regions of the member agencies or organizations.
2. Identify areas which require enhanced complementarity and synergy, to curb duplication of activities of member agencies/organizations at the global, regional and national and municipal levels.
3. Enhance coherence of planning and activities on issues related to SIDS through various efforts by the UN system at the municipal, national, regional and global levels including by defining a work programme for the IACG.

4. Strengthen cooperation among its member organizations and with Alliance of Small Island States(AOSIS) in the implementation of activities and replicating and scaling up of best practices for the benefit of SIDS, inter alia, including undertaking joint interagency projects, missions, studies and other forms of cooperation.
5. Facilitate coordinated and inclusive preparations of the Secretary-General's report on SIDS and other relevant documents, in line with member states' requirements, including by engaging the IACG membership in the preparation of such reports and documents.
6. Enhance outreach activities to inform member states and other stakeholders about activities conducted by UN agencies for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI.
7. Share work programme and updated information on IACG activities to AOSIS.

### **Composition of membership**

1. A hybrid membership of the IACG shall consist of United Nations System Organizations, regional commissions, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other intergovernmental organizations whose work is relevant to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The Group shall be composed of representatives, identified by the Heads of these departments, commissions, agencies and programmes as focal points for SIDS.
2. New membership is determined based on criteria, defined by the IACG.

### **Modalities of operation**

1. The IACG shall meet on a quarterly basis for substantive meetings.
2. The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) will be co-Chairs of the IACG. The Chair will be responsible for hosting, convening and facilitating the IACG meeting.
3. The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) will continue to play leading roles in providing support and organizing meetings for the IACG, as appropriate.
4. The IACG may invite on an ad-hoc basis, Governments, experts, NGOs, private sector and other entities whose expertise may contribute to the IACG's work, as observers and contributors to its discussions.
5. IACG member organizations participating in the annual meetings are responsible for covering their own costs in relations to the IACG meetings.
6. The IACG shall keep a public record of its proceeding