

MEETING

Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Date: 15 May 2018

Venue: S 1523

Time: 3:30pm – 5 pm (New York Time)

Members in attendance: UN-OHRLLS, UN DESA, UNIDO, IAEA, DOALOS, UNEP, WIPO, UNFPA, UNDP (HQ, SAMOA), ECLAC (Port of Spain), GEF, UNESCO, UN RC/UNDP (Samoa), CARICOM secretariat

SIDS Member States (Observers): Tonga and Belize

Chair: Ms. Tishka Francis, Sustainable Development officer, OHRLLS.

Summary:

Discussions were held on the preparations for the upcoming Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway. The Meeting was provided with an update on the status of preparations for the Mid Term Review, with a focus on the AIMS Regional Preparatory Meeting (23-25 May 2018) and the Pacific Regional Preparatory meeting (19-21 June 2018).

The meeting was also briefed on the SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Private Sector Partnership Forum, taking place in Mauritius on 21 – 22 June 2018, with a focus on sustainable tourism development, and which brings together stakeholders from governments, inter-governmental and regional organisations, private sector, research institutions, UN system entities. The meeting was also informed of the Regional Partnership Dialogue which will include a series of capacity development partnership dialogues, held in the margins of all the MTR preparatory meetings. Progress made on resource mobilization and communication and outreach was also shared with the meeting. The meeting culminated with a brief update on preparations for The Caribbean Regional MTR Preparatory Meeting (7-9 Aug 2018). Meeting participants were also reminded of the SIDS calendar of events and prospects for use of this information to convene IACG meetings around thematic focus areas.

1. Opening remarks by IACG co-chair(s)

Director of UN-OHRLLS, Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, warmly welcomed all participants, including those member states present. On the MTR for the SAMOA pathway, she noted the following key points; (i) The MTR is an opportunity to return the SAMOA Pathway to the forefront of the international agenda. It is a reminder of what the SAMOA Pathway is about, the priorities and an opportunity to assess progress and to focus on a few concrete actions over the next five years. (ii) The timing, which requires that all preparatory meetings are concluded in 2018, is not without challenges in relation to certain logistical aspects, including the preparation of regional reports to get the best out of meetings. (iii) The first MTR preparatory meeting for the AIMS region will be taking place in Mauritius, 23-25 May, back to back with the SIDS Global Business Network Forum on 21-22 May, followed by the Pacific meeting in Tonga on 19-21, June. (iv) UN-colleagues, UNDP, UNDESA and regional

collaborators have provided their continued support on substantive and on the logistical side of the preparations for which she is thankful and (v) Some success has been met on resource mobilisation, undertaken by OHRLS and DESA, and is moderately optimistic full funding targets will be met.

The Director, OHRLS, also mentioned that OHRLS is implementing a recommendation from an internal audit report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), on enhancing coherence on SIDS issues, which recommended OHRLS develop an action plan for the creation of SIDS national focal points network by June 2018. Member states have forwarded nominations. Contingent on resources, the first meeting for the SIDS national focal points will be held in the margins of the HLPF. The director encouraged continued collaboration and noted it is a prerequisite for best results.

Director of DSD/UNDESA, Mr. Juwang Zhu – Mr. Zhu, echoing the Director (OHRLS) and emphasized the timeframe for the MTR and collaboration with IACG members as important for successful meetings. He also made mention of the following: (i) The preparations for the HLPF (for which the themes under consideration are inter alia water and energy), which will include a SIDS session. Both water and energy are important for SIDS, and as such DESA looks forward to participation of SIDS in this year's HLPF. (ii) A number of Secretary-General's reports are to be prepared for the GA this year, and these will benefit from the contributions of all IACG members.

2. The SIDS Global Business Network Forum

Briefing the meeting on the SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Private Sector Partnership Forum, the Chairperson mentioned the following: The SIDS-GBN, co-organized by UN-OHRLS and the Government of Mauritius, will take place from 21 to 22 May 2018 in Mauritius. The meeting, which is the third in a series of SIDS Private Sector Partnership Forums, will focus on "Strengthening private sector partnerships for sustainable tourism development". The theme was chosen to highlight the key role of the tourism sector for achieving the objectives of the SAMOA Pathway and the delivery of the SDGs in SIDS. The Forum will convene stakeholders from the governments, inter-governmental and regional organisations, private sector, research institutions and the, UN system entities. The two-day programme will entail five thematic sessions covering topics from connectivity for tourism to renewable energy and financing for sustainable tourism in SIDS. Around 70 participants including business leaders from Mauritius are expected participate in the forum. The deliverables of the Forum include (i) inputs to the inter-regional preparatory meeting on the mid-term review of the Samoa Pathway to give concrete recommendations on strengthening partnership approach among public and private sectors and local communities for sustainable development and (ii) announcement of partnerships and pledges with and for SIDS to promote sustainable development will one of the main objectives of this meeting. In addition,

OHRLS together with key Ministries from Mauritius will convene a press conference on 21 May soon after the opening of the Forum.

3. Update on the Preparations for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway

i. Update on Preparations for the AIMS Regional Preparatory Meeting (23-25 May 2018)

Logistics, Regional Report, Expected Outputs, Side Events

Logistics: The Chair reiterated the AIMS Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held on 23-25 May 2018 at the Maritim Resort and Spa, Balaclava, Mauritius. The Information note, which covers the meetings in Mauritius, was sent to member states and the IACG. The information note shares information relating to logistics. Participants are to make their own hotel arrangements, using the forms and information circulated. Nominations have been received from all countries for the MTR meeting in Mauritius. In essence, participants are invited to 3 meetings: GBN Forum (21-22 May); AIMS Regional Partnerships Dialogue (22-23 May); and AIMS Regional Preparatory Meeting (23-25 May).

Regional reports: The chair noted that the UNDP SIDS Focal Point in New York and OHRLS, is coordinating the preparation of the regional report for the AIMS. To date inputs to reports have been received from three countries, and OHRLS and UNDP will finalise a draft report to be circulated as an advance, unedited copy, prepared in English only, and forming the basis of the regional report to be validated at the regional meeting, after necessary consultations with Member States. The draft report will be finalized at the meeting.

Draft Agenda for Regional Preparatory Meeting: The chair also indicated that the draft agenda for the meeting has been finalised and circulated to Missions and meeting participants. A majority of speakers are now confirmed and awaiting 2 speakers. UNDESA has created a template for country presentations to be used during the regional meeting. The country presentation template will be circulated by end of the day. OHRLS has prepared guidelines for moderators and speakers and these are circulated to moderators and speakers upon confirmation of participation. The UNDP Team will lead on note-taking during the regional meeting for the purposes of finalizing the regional report, supported by OHRLS, DESA and Mauritius.

Expected outputs/outcome: The chair also noted that all meetings will aim to produce a concise outcome document, which will be synthesized and serve as input to the Interregional meeting, all toward a concise, action-oriented and inter-governmentally agreed political declaration for the MTR. Each meeting will also produce a draft/final report of the region. It will be important that this process identifies a few critical priorities for SIDS to enable the acceleration of the SAMOA Pathway over the remaining 5 years. Mauritius, will consider the modalities for the preparation of the political outcome of the first MTR meeting.

Side events: The indicated that some request for side events were received. Side events were not envisaged originally for the regional preparatory meetings. Mauritius has agreed to a lunch hour slots to be used for side event. In the absence of additional rooms, the side events are to be held in the meeting rooms. In essence, this suggests up to 5 side events can be accommodated. We encourage those who are interested in a side event to indicate the day and you will be able to do that through OHRLS

Regional Partnership Dialogue

DESA informed that they are undertaking a project to support the work of the SIDS Partnership Framework and the preparatory process related to the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review. The goal is to contribute to advancing the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda in SIDS by increasing the capacity of all stakeholders in forging new, genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships that advance implementation and strengthen the monitoring and review process of partnerships in SIDS. The project will include a series of capacity development partnership dialogues, held at the margins of all the MTR preparatory meetings.

The Regional Partnership Dialogues will be structured around three sessions:

(i) Session 1: Developing genuine and durable partnerships –good practices and lessons learned (How did the partnership start? Where did the idea come from? Who is taking the lead? What process did they go through to develop and set up the partnership? What are the main stakeholders involved? What are the target beneficiaries? How are the partnerships structured and managed? How is it governed and funded? What role, if any, does a secretariat play? What are the biggest challenge to the implementation of the objectives of the partnership?)

(ii) Session 2: Identifying and addressing the gaps through partnerships for SIDS (How can partnerships best address the gaps of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas? In which priority areas do we need more partnerships to be forged, for the sustainable development of SIDS in the AIMS region? What type of stakeholders, and sectors, do need to be more involved in partnership arrangements for SIDS in the AIMS region?)

(iii) Session 3: Strengthening the review and monitoring process of partnerships for SIDS (How to ensure an action-oriented and results-focused annual Global Multi stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, in line with the priorities of SIDS; How can the current process related to monitoring progress of existing partnerships be improved? How do we ensure the full participation of relevant stakeholders in the monitoring of existing partnerships, while ensuring no one is left behind? How do we encourage the forging and launching of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS?)

The first partnership dialogue will be held 22-23 May in Mauritius, as part of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the AIMS region.

UNDP (HQ) – briefed the meeting on the status of the regional reports and the meeting in general. For AIMS, national reports had so far been received from Comoros, Mauritius, and a short one from Singapore. The rest of the countries will present during 1st session of the preparatory meeting. The thrust is to have a regional approach on issues of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the framework of Agenda 2030 with support of country offices and to have these reflected in a draft regional report that is being prepared at HQ. The draft regional report will be sent to delegations and they will have time to review to discuss during the meeting, supplemented with country presentations, to move forward.

Discussions:

The brief discussions generally underscored the need for further support for regional reporting, taking cognizance of the timeframes and given that some countries are beginning from scratch to prepare reports.

Belize: In response to Belize on the information note circulated, agenda and presentation template (if the template is for all the regions?), the chairperson clarified that the information note was sent to Missions and participants of the AIMS meeting, that the agenda will be circulated and the presentation template is responding to the peculiarities of the AIMS regional, and that it lacks the regional coordination enjoyed by the other regions. However, the template will be made available for information purposes, as other regions may not have to go through the same way as the AIMS.

ECLAC: Reiterated the usefulness of the templates, given the timeframe, and countries starting from Zero. The template for country presentations should be shared with the Caribbean region, for which DESA is providing support.

Chairperson also noted that the latest agenda for the AIMS meeting will be circulated to the IACG, including a registration form for those participating so that the host country could also make the required arrangements.

ii. Update on Preparations for the Pacific Regional Preparatory meeting (19-21 June 2018)

Logistics, Regional Report, Expected Outputs, Side Events

The chair informed the meeting the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held on 19-21 June 2018, 2018 in Nuku’alofo, Tonga. A notification of meeting and nomination form for member states was sent out and will be posted on the website. The Information note, with detailed information on logistical issues, will be sent to members next week, to IACG members as well.

Significant progress on the preparation of the regional report has been made, thanks to UN-ESCAP and other regional entities, and the draft will be circulated by the end of May. The draft agenda for the meeting will be circulated by the end of the week, and an annotated agenda will follow. Soliciting of speakers is going on and guidelines will be circulated to moderators and speakers upon confirmation of participation. On side events, Tonga will provide an update in due course. The partnership dialogue will be subsumed in the Pacific meeting, and will not have a separate meeting.

Discussions:

UNDP (HQ) wanted to know how is the report prepared, if UN-ESCAP is relying on the UN country teams and UNDP country offices to reflect also all the national support provided to each country because it is important to have all country policies reflected in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The chair relayed UN-ESCAP has assured in their coordination with relevant agencies in the region and UN country teams.

UN RCs (SAMOA) indicated they will provide support and look forward to seeing the agenda. They will have more clarity on national reporting in the coming days.

DOALAS; In response to DOALAS question relating to the theme, the Chair clarified there is no set themes for the regional meetings as the theme of tourism only related to the SIDS-GBN.

iii. Engagement of UN Country Teams and Other Stakeholders (regional institutions etc.)

The Chair opened the floor regarding the Engagement of UN Country Teams and Other Stakeholders:

UNFPA indicated that UNFPA asked sub-regional and country offices to support countries with reporting; on participation in the upcoming meetings, UNFPA will confirm the participant in the regional meetings.

Chair also clarified that the invitation sent to IACG members to attend meetings (regional and interregional) will stand, and registration forms will be sent for the AIMS by the end of the day and the rest in due course. There will be no individual invitations of members to the meeting.

UNESCO indicated that they are in the process of evaluating the SIDS action plans in UNESCO, which can contribute to the MTR of the SAMOA pathway. The evaluation will draw from the biennium plans which enables the tracing of resources linked to SIDS deliverables and will finish by the end of the year. A UNESCO representative will also attend the upcoming meeting in Mauritius.

Belize pointed out that it will be useful if other agencies were undertaking assessments in line with the item espoused in the draft agenda on the response from regional, international and UN system implementation and support to SIDS, and wanted to know if this taking place. This will be useful in understanding the gaps in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

UNDP (Samoa) indicated that in the Pacific UN agencies contributed to the review in partnership of the Island Pacific Forum, with agencies participating in a joint effort and they look forward to the outcome for the first regional preparatory meeting so as to start the preparation for the Interregional meetings in October.

Chair underscored that they will, with UNDESA 's lead be working closer for shaping Agenda, and getting inputs from agencies in shaping the sessions and to ensure work of respective agencies is represented in the meetings.

GEF will be represented in Mauritius and present on the means of implementation. The next funding Cycle 7 is up-coming, and GEP assembly, and new funding will be approved. The GEF assembly will take in Vietnam. GEF agencies will be reporting on their various efforts.

iv. Communications & Advocacy

The Chair informed the meeting that Media Advisories have been issued for both of the meetings; the SIDS Global Business Network Forum and the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the AIMS. There will be a press conference on 21 May at 10:30am local time for the SIDS

Global Business Network Forum and a press conference for the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the AIMS on 23 May at 10:30am. The Speakers include USG ‘Utoikamanu and both Foreign and Tourism Ministers of Mauritius. To follow activities of both meetings through social media the Twitter feeds of “@SIDSGBN” and “@UNOHRLLS” will be using the hashtags: #PartnerSIDS and #SAMOAPathway. A press release will be issued on the opening day of the SIDS Global Business Network Forum (21 May) and also the opening day of the Regional Preparatory Meeting (23 May).

v. **Update on Resource Mobilization efforts**

DESA informed the meeting that contributions have been received from Norway, Qatar, and the Republic of Korea. Pledges have been received from New Zealand and Germany. The available financial resources can cater for meetings up to the regional meetings. There are no resources, whatsoever, for the interregional meeting. A total of USD 500,000 is required for travel for the meeting alone and thus will be redoubling solicitation efforts to collect the budgeted some of 1.8 million. The budget covers only travel for meeting participants; two (2) per member states (one from Capital, one in New York) and one (1) participant for each associate member at economy rate.

4. Any Other Business

Update on preparations for The Caribbean Regional MTR Preparatory Meeting (7-9 Aug 2018):

DESA informed that they are in consultation with host country on logistics, and there are preliminary discussions on the agenda and will discuss fully with Belize. The example set by OHRLLS will help in the preparation of the Caribbean meeting.

Discussions:

Belize confirmed draft invitations has been prepared, draft logistical note, the budget is complete and have begun discussions on the agenda which has changed considerably from the template with the view of how best to showcase the SAMOA pathway and have more focused discussions on their special case. The regional report is the main issue to focus on and it will be useful to have a press kit to build awareness, which is very important.

ECLAC indicated that in terms of the regional report, they have sent communication including the draft template to many stakeholders they could reach out to including governments, and UN agencies. They are working very close with UNCT through the office and sub-region. They are looking to get key contributions from those working at the regional than national level including key NGOs and civil society organizations. Following an apparent lull on the SAMOA pathway a communication and outreach program in parallel with the preparations will be very useful.

UNDP (Samoa) wanted to know if it still stands that regional reports will inform the regional report and outcomes or there is a report already agreed in advance. The chair confirmed there is no set way in dealing with the report in the regions and all reports will be synthesized and

will form the essence of the discussions at the interregional meeting. In essence, the template that was sent earlier is to assist with the harmonization of the reports.

SIDS Calendar of Events: The chair thanked members for continuing to update the calendar of events/meetings through the link

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vm5uW_XBuB_YXLweNEIGcYVbg3pAUS-Q66gId_Eziw8/edit

which was provided by DESA in March. The chair encouraged members to continue to visit the link and see the growing repository of upcoming meetings they would wish to participate or collaborate. She indicated that it is possible to look at emerging themes that could be considered for inclusion in our IACG agenda with a focus on thematic areas.