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Sustainable development

Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 72/307 and 73/228 and it is divided into nine sections. Sections 2 to 8 reviews the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway over the period 2015 to 2019, focusing *inter alia*, on stocktaking and analyzing the progress made and continuing challenges faced. Section 9 includes a summary of actions taken and planned to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Office of the High Representatives for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS).

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I. Introduction

1. This report has been prepared in response to United Nations General Assembly resolutions 72/307 and 73/228, and on an exceptional basis, is being made available early in 2019, so that it may support the intergovernmental consultations for the Mid-term of the SAMOA Pathway and be considered by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session. The Report is divided into nine sections, section one (1) is the introduction, sections two (2) to eight (8) reviews the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway over the period 2015 to 2019, focusing *inter alia*, on taking stock and analyzing the progress made and continuing challenges faced by SIDS. Finally, section 9 contains a summary of actions taken and planned to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of UNDESA and OHRLLS in support of the sustainable development of SIDS.

2. Information and analysis contained in the report were drawn from multiple sources including from literature reviews, the SIDS regional reports¹, the outcome documents of the SIDS preparatory Meetings in which SIDS articulated their views and priorities for the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway² and from information and data submitted by member States, United Nations system agencies, relevant national, sub-regional regional and international organizations in response to a questionnaire sent by the Secretariat.³ For complete details of reported contributions and of implementation efforts for the period 2015-2018, the present report should also be read in conjunction with previous Secretary-General Reports⁴.

REVIEW OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

II. Global Overview

3. Global economic growth appears robust and there is renewed optimism that the world economy may be turning a corner, as it is projected to expand at a steady pace of 3% in 2019 and 2020⁵. A closer look at the data however, reveals significant shortcomings in the foundations and quality of economic growth across countries. The figures conceal an uneven pace of economic progress especially for SIDS, where GDP growth remains well below 7% per annum⁶.

¹See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview>
<http://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2018-Pacific-Sustainable-Development-Report.pdf> *

² A/73/382, A/73/658, A/73/710 and A/73/765.

³ Responses and Inputs were received from UNISDR, UNCTAD, UNODC, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, ITU, UNESCO, IOM, OHRLLS, IRENA, PIDF, UNOSSC, UNOPS, ECLAC, ILO, IAEA, UNIDO, UN-DOALOS, UNOSAA as well as the Member States: Austria, Australia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, US, Japan, New Zealand, Qatar, Russian Federation and four SIDS: Fiji, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands. Financial contributions submitted are reflected in Section VII of the present report.

⁴ A/70/269, A/71/267, A/71/267/Add.1*, A/72/214 and A/73/226

⁵ World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019 (WESP 2019), p.1

⁶ WESP 2019, p.7, i.e. well below the prescription of Target 8.1 of SDG 8.

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4. When the human development index is examined, four SIDS (Singapore, Bahrain, Bahamas and Barbados) rank very high; 20 are high, 7 medium and 5 SIDS are in the low human development group⁷. Despite this ranking, data gathered on socio-economic progress remains uneven for many SIDS. Important social indicators point to social fissures, revealing high levels of unemployment, substantial incidences of poverty, high rates of crime, and persistent income inequality. Children and adolescents remain “over-represented” in the poor population and are more vulnerable to the consequences of poverty and inequality.

5. The close linkages between development and the state of the environment of many SIDS directly associates with their heavy dependence on a limited natural resource base; susceptibility to the vagaries of international trade; high transportation and communication costs; grave exposure to natural hazards; small domestic markets; high import content; and dependence on a narrow range of export products. Visible cross all SIDS regions are situations related to overexploitation of local resources, poor land use, unplanned coastal development, uncontrolled mining, pollution from land and marine based sources and activities that are driving changes such as the loss of biodiversity; the spread of invasive alien species; deforestation; the loss of soil productivity; food insecurity; diminishing sources of freshwater; coastal erosion and the spread of vector-borne diseases.

6. The Climate outlook for SIDS differs considerably depending on their topography and location. Local and regional meteorological changes associated with global climate change are already having significant impacts and are unlikely to abate. Impacts such as sea level rise, extreme weather events, droughts, coastal erosion, inundation, saltwater intrusion, coral bleaching, ecosystem destruction and ocean acidification intensifies the vulnerability of most SIDS and places undue pressure on virtually all sectors of development, including tourism, financial services, agriculture, fisheries, water supply, sanitation, infrastructure and ecosystem health, putting at risk efforts and progress made towards sustainable development and poverty eradication.

7. With regard to Official Development Assistance (ODA), when compared with other developing countries, support to SIDS has waned and even stagnated⁸. In 2018, while the average external debt in SIDS reached 60% of their GNI, exacerbated by the need to borrow for the cost of natural disasters recovery⁹, ODA flows to SIDS declined. Between 2011 to 2016, ODA totals fell by nearly 30% (excluding debt relief)¹⁰ and in 2017, total net ODA for all DAC¹¹ members combined as a per cent of GNI stood at 0.31%, thus continuing the downward trend, when compared to 0.32% in 2016¹².

8. More positively, climate finance to SIDS has increased over the past decade. The share of climate finance targeting adaptation activities which support many key development challenges confronting SIDS has also progressively increased. The

⁷ UNDP, 2018 Human Development Indices and Indicators, 2018 Statistical Update for SIDS, p.3.

⁸ OECD, “SIDS and the Post 2015 Finance Agenda, p.4.

⁹ OECD “Development Co-operation Report, Joining Forces to Leave No One Behind” 2018

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ The Development Assistance Committee of OECD

¹² OECD- Paris, 9 April 2018

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Global Environment Facility (GEF) for instance, invested close to US\$1 billion on SAMOA Pathway Priorities including climate finance. (see: Table 1).

| <i>SAMOA Pathway Priorities (by GEF Focal Area)</i> | <i>Investments*¹³ (USD) in SIDS (Jul 2014 – Jun 2018)</i> |
|--|---|
| Biodiversity | 327,460,290 |
| Climate change mitigation | 172,565,085 |
| Climate change adaptation (including disaster risk management) | 74,562,975 |
| International Waters | 18,998,940 |
| Land degradation | 35,517,621 |
| Chemicals and waste management | 14,851,070 |
| Multi-focal area (cross-cutting) | 270,869,394 |

Table.1 GEF Investments in SAMOA Pathway Priorities 2014-2018

9. Going forward, achieving sustainable and climate-resilient development as envisaged under the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development agendas will come at a high cost for SIDS. While natural and climatic disasters have been a feature of life in SIDS for centuries, the effects of climate change are exacerbating their intensity and frequency putting an existential threat on them. As such, SIDS' climate vulnerabilities add up to large development challenges that SIDS draw from their structural characteristics.

10. Investing in resilience building initiatives will assist SIDS to achieve sustainable development. Adoption of and investment in, new development models and solutions that can address vulnerabilities and turn SIDS weaknesses into strengths are necessary. Exploitation of natural resources such as sun and wind energy, which many SIDS have already embarked, is a demonstration of their ambition to minimize over dependency on fossil fuel consumption. Efforts to innovatively utilize their vast marine resources in a sustainable manner to create employment opportunities, improve food security and enhance economic growth, should be further supported.

11. Despite being a vital source of development financing in many SIDS, access to concessional resources from the international community remains a significant challenge. Going forward, Development Partners can play a better role by supporting approaches to help SIDS secure, channel and invest resources where it is most needed, including towards breaking dependence on non-renewable sources of energy, enhancing infrastructure, managing debt, and building resilience.

III The SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda

12. The SAMOA Pathway articulates the sustainable development aspirations, and priorities of SIDS for the period 2015–2025. Building on previous SIDS sustainable development agendas¹⁴, it is a stand-alone regime that reaffirms SIDS as a special case for sustainable development. The SAMOA Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.

¹³ These figures include some regional and global projects that include non-SIDS countries in addition to SIDS.

¹⁴ The Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI)

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13. The need for the design of a monitoring and accountability framework and tools adapted to the capacity of SIDS to monitor and report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other sustainable development related global mandates, while also avoiding the burden of multi reporting frameworks, was recognized and recommended in 2016.¹⁵ The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations who were recommended to formulate such a design, responded by noting that the monitoring and accountability frameworks for reporting on progress made regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be adapted to all contexts, including those of SIDS¹⁶.

14. In the absence of a specific monitoring and evaluation framework, in order to exhibit a more measured analysis of implementation progress, the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway were aligned with the SDGs under the three dimensions of sustainable development. In addition to the sources highlighted in paragraph 2 above, data collected from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)¹⁷ was used to also give a visual indication of overall progress. It must be highlighted however, that due to overlap in categorization and focus, several priorities in the SAMOA Pathway do require their own measuring tool to ensure accurate assessment¹⁸.

IV. Implementation of the Economic dimensions of the SAMOA Pathway

15. This section reviews implementation of the economic dimensions of the SAMOA Pathway, measured against its SDG equivalent, as follows:

| <i>Pillar</i> | <i>SAMOA Pathway Priority</i> | <i>SDG Goal</i> |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Economic | Sustained and Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all | 8 |
| | Development and Poverty Eradication | 1 |
| | Sustainable Tourism | 8 |
| | Sustainable Energy | 7 |
| | Sustainable Transportation | 9 |

Table 2: SAMOA Pathway Economic Pillar priorities aligned with SDG equivalent

a. Sustained and sustainable inclusive and equitable economic growth and decent work

16. While progress is ongoing, the pace of economic growth amongst the Least Developed SIDS in the Atlantic, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS), (hereinafter the A-SIDS) has been slow¹⁹. Development amongst Caribbean SIDS,

¹⁵ JIU/REP/2016/7 p. 41

¹⁶ A/72/119/Add.1 p.6

¹⁷ <http://sdgindex.org/reports/2018/>

¹⁸ Sustainable Tourism, Culture and Sports, Management of Chemicals and Waste, including Hazardous Waste, Desertification, land degradation and drought, Forest and Invasive Alien Species.

¹⁹ AIMS Regional Report 2018, p.3

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(hereafter the C-SIDS), has been restrained²⁰; and the economic trends in Pacific SIDS, while positive, have been inconsistent²¹.

17. The above trends are attributable to a variety of causative factors including *inter alia*, lack of critical mass and economies of scale; geographic isolation; trade and external dependency; structural unemployment and falling labour productivity; limited financial resources; and classification as middle-income countries which has generally limited SIDS access to grants and concessional funding.

18. Two thirds of C-SIDS have debt-to-GDP ratios above the 60% threshold, generally regarded as the benchmark for debt sustainability, with debt servicing accounting on average, 29% of government revenue in 2016.

19. Going forward, SIDS need to rebalance and broaden their economies for sustained growth; promote macroeconomic stability; protect core services and the most the vulnerable through strong public financial management; and pursue economic and financial reforms to improve competitiveness. They also need to partner and take a coordinated approach, including on concessional finance access, with their development partners, to weather future shocks.

b. Sustainable Tourism.

20. Tourism accounts for less than 5% of GDP in other developing countries but represents over 20% of GDP for most SIDS²². In A-SIDS, tourism contributed to 50% of Maldives GDP in 2016, 23% for Seychelles, 11% for Mauritius, and just over 4% for Comoros. C-SIDS received approximately 8.2 million visitors in 2017 representing an increase of 4% from 2016,²³ despite competition from new/cheaper markets and setbacks from natural disasters. In PSIDS, the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) estimates that tourism contributes more than 60% to the total GDP of Vanuatu, over 40% to Fiji²⁴ and more than 30% on average to the Pacific as a whole. In this regard, development and or implementation of national sustainable tourism strategies and policies as promoted under SDG 12 is key for the sustainability of this industry.

c. Sustainable Energy.

21. Access to electricity in A-SIDS in terms of percentage of population grew over the period 2014–2016. Singapore, Bahrain, Seychelles and Maldives have already achieved 100%, while other countries continue to demonstrate consistent progress, with the exception of Guinea-Bissau²⁵. The Caribbean has set ambitious renewable energy (RE) targets, many of which the countries are well on their way to achieving. RE represented 9.7% of installed generation capacity in 2017²⁶, and a target of 47% has been set for 2027²⁷. The percentage population with access to off grid systems such as photovoltaic solar home

²⁰ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.15

²¹ Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018, p. 15

²² OECD: Making Development Cooperation Work for SIDS 2018, p.31

²³ <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2018-01-15/2017-international-tourism-results-highest-seven-years>

²⁴ <https://www.wttc.org/-/media/files/reports/economic-impact-research/countries-2018/tonga2018.pdf>, p.8

²⁵ AIS Regional Report 2018. P.16

²⁶ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.45

²⁷ Ibid, p.48

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systems increased in the Pacific, with many countries set to achieve universal access to electricity, albeit at different rates of progress²⁸.

22. High petroleum fuel dependency, oil price volatility, high initial investment cost, lack of appropriate private investors regulatory frameworks, weak or independent power producers and power purchase agreements, land use competition, monopolies in transmission and distribution, low technical capacity, and grid stability issues are factors that continue to impact on sustainable energy consumption and project development in SIDS.

d. Sustainable Transport

23. SIDS continue to make improvements with their transportation connectivity (air, sea and land). In A-SIDS, Mauritius is investing in a new transport system project, while Singapore continues its investments in infrastructure, with a view to further enhancing transportation efficiency and logistics services. C-SIDS are promoting importation of electric, hybrid and fuel cell vehicles and investments to improve road transport connectivity. For the average country, while the cost of international transport is approximately 9% of the value of imports, it's about 10% in P-SIDS which in 2017 amounted to US\$3bn. Existing maritime transport services in many P-SIDS are increasingly becoming unaffordable and unsustainable with fossil fuel being the largest single operating cost for shipping operators.

24. Table 3 below shows that most SIDS (11) are either devoting efforts to or are on track in implementing the Development and Poverty Eradication priority of the SAMOA Pathway (i.e. SDG 1). Seven (7) countries lack appropriate data to measure performance; ten (10) are on track on Sustainable Energy (SDG 7) with most (except 2) having the appropriate data to measure progress. Sustainable Transportation lags far behind and more data is required to accurately measure progress in Sustainable Tourism (part of SDG 1).

| | Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all | Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all | Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all | Sustainable energy | Sustainable Transportation |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|----------------------------|
| AIS (9) | SDG8 | SDG1 | SDG8 | SDG7 | SDG9 |
| Bahrain | | | | | |
| Cabo Verde | | | | | |
| Comoros | | | | | |
| Guinea-Bissau | | | | | |
| Maldives | | | | | |
| Mauritius | | | | | |
| Sao Tomé and Príncipe | | | | | |
| Seychelles | | | | | |
| Singapore | | | | | |

²⁸ Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018, p.25

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| Caribbean (16) | SDG8 | SDG1 | SDG8 | SDG7 | SDG9 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | | | | | |
| Bahamas | | | | | |
| Barbados | | | | | |
| Belize | | | | | |
| Cuba | | | | | |
| Dominica | | | | | |
| Dominican Republic | | | | | |
| Grenada | | | | | |
| Guyana | | | | | |
| Haiti | | | | | |
| Jamaica | | | | | |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | | | | | |
| Saint Lucia | | | | | |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | | | | | |
| Suriname | | | | | |
| Trinidad and Tobago | | | | | |

| Pacific (13) | SDG8 | SDG1 | SDG8 | SDG7 | SDG9 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fiji | | | | | |
| Kiribati | | | | | |
| Marshall Islands | | | | | |
| Micronesia | | | | | |
| Nauru | | | | | |
| Palau | | | | | |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | | |
| Samoa | | | | | |
| Solomon Islands | | | | | |
| Tonga | | | | | |
| Tuvalu | | | | | |
| Vanuatu | | | | | |
| Timor-Leste | | | | | |

Table 3: SAMOA Pathway Economic Pillar Progress Table²⁹

V. Implementation of the Social Dimension of the SAMOA Pathway.

25. This section reviews implementation of the social dimensions of the SAMOA Pathway, measured against their SDG equivalent, as follows:

| <i>Pillar</i> | <i>SAMOA Pathway Priority</i> | <i>SDG Goal</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Social | Food Security and Nutrition | 2 |
| | Water and Sanitation | 6 |
| | Health and Non-Communicable Diseases | 3 |
| | Gender Equality and Women Empowerment | 5 |
| | Social Development | 10 |
| | Culture and Sports | |

²⁹ The shades on the Progress Table show a country's average performance or progress on SDG goals. Black denotes SDG achievement, darker to lighter shades of grey denotes decreasing distance from SDG achievement. If the country has less than 50% of the indicators available under a goal the color for that goal is "white". (SDG index and dashboard report 2018 p.43).

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| | | |
|--|---|----|
| | Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities | 16 |
| | Education | 4 |

Table 4: *SAMOA Pathway Social Pillar priorities aligned with SDG equivalent*

a. Food Security and Nutrition

26. One initiative to improve food security and nutrition in A-SIDS is the Infrastructure Rehabilitation for Food Security Support Project (PRIASA II, 2016–2020) in São Tomé and Príncipe.³⁰ In P-SIDS, a regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition (the Pacific Framework) has been developed based on the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Global Action Plan (GAP), which specifies *inter alia* the region’s priority actions³¹. FAO and CDB³² have been training countries in C-SIDS to reduce their food import bill by *inter alia* tackling value chain gaps.

27. Identified threats in A-SIDS include land degradation, poor management of marine ecosystems and fisheries, lack of support for sustainable agriculture and other impacts of natural and human-induced disasters. In C-SIDS, the challenge includes limited investment in commercial agriculture and agricultural technology and the low nutritional value of imported food (80%) posing health risks including non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In P-SIDS, challenges include limited land mass and population; fragile natural environments and lack of arable land and high dependence on food imports.

b. Water and Sanitation

28. A notable example of progress in A-SIDS is the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project of the United Nations Project Services (UNOPS) supporting Cabo Verde, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, São Tomé & Príncipe and Seychelles which has a long-term goal of enhancing capacity to plan and manage aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis³³. Most C-SIDS have made some progress on integrated water resources management (IWRM), having either policies, programmes or plans in place³⁴. Sanitation coverage levels in P-SIDS stagnated at 31%, while drinking water coverage dropped from 51% to 48%. An estimated 1.3 million still do not have access to proper sanitation facilities³⁵.

29. Water and Sanitation challenges in SIDS include: damage and disruption of infrastructure due to water-related hazards; increasing demand, inefficient water-use and leakage; ineffective management of water resource quantity and quality; and escalating costs of flood-related damage and losses. Institutional deficiencies such as fragmented governance frameworks, insufficient data, poor coordination between responsible agencies, inadequate technical competencies, and low levels of investment to replace aging infrastructure compounds the challenge.

³⁰ AIMS Report 2018, p.20

³¹ The Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018; p.14

³² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

³³ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=7480>

³⁴ UNEP, “Global Environmental Outlook (GEO6)”: Regional Assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2016. P.64-66

³⁵ Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018, p.12

c. Health and Non-Communicable Diseases

30. Mortality rates for infants under five and maternal mortality rates in Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe have improved. Together with the WHO, São Tomé and Príncipe has developed an action plan to fight against NCDs³⁶. Many Caribbean countries have taken concrete steps toward the provision of Universal Health Coverage. In 2017, CARICOM members endorsed the PAHO³⁷/WHO Caribbean Roadmap on Human Resources for Universal Health. The OECS³⁸ Secretariat has established a health unit and has included a chapter on Health in the OECS Growth and Development Strategy³⁹. The WHO recently adopted a draft Global Plan of Action on climate change and health in SIDS, aiming to provide the overarching support needed to deliver on regional action plans. NCDs are at crisis levels in P-SIDS, with the region having some of the highest rates of NCDs and accounting for up to 84% of deaths (Fiji and Samoa).

d. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

31. Progress has been achieved in many A-SIDS with respect to formulation, finalization and implementation of National Gender Policy Frameworks⁴⁰. Notwithstanding, women's parliamentary representation remained below the average for Africa as a whole, although increasing in Comoros and Guinea-Bissau. While Caribbean countries have made commendable progress on *inter alia* improving women's access to health, productive employment and access to education, other areas such as eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence against women and girls and participation at all levels still require attention. With the exception of Cuba, Grenada, Haiti and Puerto Rico, women still account for less than 20% of cabinet members in most countries⁴¹. Almost all P-SIDS countries have adopted gender policies and strategies, including disability policies, and some progress in achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls has been realized, particularly in education and health. Notwithstanding, resources for integrating gender equality priorities and implementation are limited, and gender inequality manifests itself in the high prevalence rates of violence against women. In some P-SIDS countries, women experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence in the world⁴².

e. Social Development

32. Some progress was made in A-SIDS countries through the formulation and implementation of national plans and policies, addressing poverty and social exclusion (Mauritius – Marshall Plan against Poverty), respect for human rights, civic participation and gender equality (Cabo Verde's Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development); addressing the needs of socially vulnerable people (Maldives) and adoption of the National Social Protection Policy (Comoros)⁴³.

33. In C-SIDS, improvements were made in the education sector which saw an overall upward trend in youth development. Social development through the

³⁶ AIMS Regional Report 2018, p.28

³⁷ Pan American Health Organization

³⁸ Organization of East Caribbean States

³⁹ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.79

⁴⁰ AIMS Regional Report 2018, p.28

⁴¹ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.87

⁴² Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018, p.53

⁴³ Aims Regional Report 2018, p. 32

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promotion of inclusion, autonomy and empowerment, particularly among the most vulnerable, has been constrained by lack of analysis and monitoring, inadequate investments in areas such as education, sanitation, health care and housing and the provision of safety nets. The C-SIDS region continues to be challenged with high levels of youth unemployment, poverty, teenage pregnancy, and high risk for HIV infection⁴⁴.

34. In P-SIDS, while extreme poverty remains relatively low, household surveys in seven P-SIDS countries indicate that the elderly and other vulnerable groups are more often likely to fall into hardship and poverty with an estimated one in every four living below their national poverty lines. There is increasing inequality amongst marginalized population groups and for people living in remote communities. Youth unemployment in P-SIDS averages 23% compared with the global average of 13%. Inequality is increasing and is more pronounced between urban and rural areas. Persons with disabilities in P-SIDS are amongst the poorest and most marginalized in their communities⁴⁵.

f. Culture and Sport

35. Culture and heritage are both an enabler and a driver of sustainable development. Protecting tangible cultural heritage, safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, promoting responsible sustainable tourism, boosting creative industries and transmitting traditional knowledge are crucial to SIDS and its people.

g. Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities

36. Crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime negatively affect the sustainable development of SIDS. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been carrying out regional projects to tackle corruption and crime in the three SIDS regions, namely the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC); the UNODC Regional Programme for the Caribbean in Support of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy; and UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) support to the Western Indian Ocean Piracy Prosecution Model.

37. In A-SIDS, Singapore's narrative as a nation is founded on a commitment to the rule of law. It is the cornerstone of development contributing to a sense of justice and security, engendering business confidence where contracts and property rights are respected and protected.

38. C-SIDS countries have sought to tackle illegal arms trade and remain strong advocates for the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The C-SIDS Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted in 2018, and a regional Counter Illicit Trafficking Strategy has been established to increase trans-border intelligence and information sharing.

⁴⁴ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.96

⁴⁵ Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018, p. viii

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39. Under the Forum Compact⁴⁶, thirteen P-SIDS countries underwent a peer review of their national systems and processes of planning, budgeting, public financial management and aid management. A unique feature of the Forum Compact is the way its empowered P-SIDS countries, as a collective, to find, celebrate and replicate home grown good practices and acknowledge existing expertise in the Pacific region.

h. Education

40. Years of schooling among children in A-SIDS countries has increased. Maldives is well on track to achieving SDG4 and all children are guaranteed 14 years of free education starting at age 4. There has been progress in recent years in Comoros with their Ten-Year Education and Literacy Development Plan (PDDEA) 2017–2026 which aims to address challenges and stimulate efforts in the education sector⁴⁷

41. CARICOM countries have been guided by several strategic policies including the Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Strategy, Regional Framework for Action for Children, and regional mandates such as Health and Family Life Education, Culture in Education, and Health in Education. CDB and UNICEF have partnered to produce a Caribbean Early Childhood Development Good Practice Guide to improve quality of early childhood education in the Caribbean⁴⁸. Progress has also been made in areas such as certification and benchmarking for secondary education and vocational training in the region.

43. While access to education has improved in P-SIDS, quality remains a challenge. There is a need to focus on improving quality and relevance of education and cognitive learning outcomes, where results such as literacy and numeracy have not made the expected gains for all. There is also a renewed focus on lifelong learning with early childhood care education and post-secondary education and training needing priority attention. Changes in approaches to learning will require new ways of teaching⁴⁹.

44. Overall, the table below shows that progress in the Social dimensions of the SAMOA Pathway lags behind the Environment and Economic dimensions. Exacerbating the challenge is the limited or non-availability of data for monitoring and evaluation. No information was officially available for Culture and Sport as it has no SDG equivalent.

| | Food Security and Nutrition | Good Health and Well-being | Education | Gender Equality | Water and Sanitation | Sustainable Transport | Social Development |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| AIS (9) | SDG2 | SDG3 | SDG4 | SDG5 | SDG6 | SDG9 | SDG10 |
| Bahrain | | | | | | | |
| Cabo Verde | | | | | | | |
| Comoros | | | | | | | |
| Guinea-Bissau | | | | | | | |

⁴⁶ Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018, p. 46-48

⁴⁷ AIMS Regional Report 2018, p. 37

⁴⁸ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.114

⁴⁹ Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018, p. ix

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| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Maldives | | | | | | | |
| Mauritius | | | | | | | |
| Sao Tomé and Príncipe | | | | | | | |
| Seychelles | | | | | | | |
| Singapore | | | | | | | |

| Caribbean (16) | SDG2 | SDG3 | SDG4 | SDG5 | SDG6 | SDG9 | SDG10 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | | | | | | | |
| Bahamas | | | | | | | |
| Barbados | | | | | | | |
| Belize | | | | | | | |
| Cuba | | | | | | | |
| Dominica | | | | | | | |
| Dominican Republic | | | | | | | |
| Grenada | | | | | | | |
| Guyana | | | | | | | |
| Haiti | | | | | | | |
| Jamaica | | | | | | | |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | | | | | | | |
| Saint Lucia | | | | | | | |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | | | | | | | |
| Suriname | | | | | | | |
| Trinidad and Tobago | | | | | | | |

| Pacific (13) | SDG2 | SDG3 | SDG4 | SDG5 | SDG6 | SDG9 | SDG10 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Fiji | | | | | | | |
| Kiribati | | | | | | | |
| Marshall Islands | | | | | | | |
| Micronesia | | | | | | | |
| Nauru | | | | | | | |
| Palau | | | | | | | |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | | | | |
| Samoa | | | | | | | |
| Solomon Islands | | | | | | | |
| Tonga | | | | | | | |
| Tuvalu | | | | | | | |
| Vanuatu | | | | | | | |
| Timor-Leste | | | | | | | |

Table 5 SAMOA Pathway Social Pillar Progress Table

VI Implementation of the Environment Dimension of the SAMOA Pathway

45. This section reviews implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SAMOA Pathway, measured against their SDG equivalent, as follows:

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| <i>Pillar</i> | <i>SAMOA Pathway Priority</i> | <i>SDG Goal</i> |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Environment | Climate Change | 13 |
| | Disaster Risk Reduction | 11 |
| | Oceans and Seas | 14 |
| | Sustainable Consumption and Production | 12 |
| | Management of Chemicals and Waste, including Hazardous Waste | 6 |
| | Biodiversity | 15 |
| | Desertification, land degradation and drought | |
| | Forest | |
| | Invasive Alien Species | |

Table 6: *SAMOA Pathway Environment Pillar Priorities aligned with SDG equivalent*

a. Climate Change

46. Significant efforts have been exerted by A-SIDS to address their vulnerability to climate change. Mauritius has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030, Guinea-Bissau intends to increase protected areas from 15% to 26% of their national territory and Singapore designated 2018 as the Year of Climate Action to raise domestic awareness and are from 2019 implementing an economy-wide carbon tax without exemption⁵⁰.

47. Much of the funding and efforts to address climate change and natural hazards in C-SIDS have been directed at the development of national and sectoral policies and plans as well as hard infrastructure solutions. However, governments face persistent constraints in implementing their climate change priorities due to: limited or unreliable climate information collected from sector agencies; inadequate technology or institutional capacity to collect, interpret or analyze information from sector agencies; and high dependence on international donors as the main source of climate finance⁵¹.

48. All P-SIDS countries have established national climate change units, some of which have become full-fledged Ministries (e.g. Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu). Much progress has been made in both mitigation and adaptation, and valuable lessons have been learned from regional projects such as *inter alia* PACC⁵², PIGGAREP⁵³ and GCCA⁵⁴. Pacific Leaders have shown their commitment to the Paris Agreement with ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)⁵⁵. While some progress has been made, challenges remain in accessing resources due to capacity constraints.

b. Disaster Risk Reduction

⁵⁰ AIMS Regional Report 2018, p.13

⁵¹ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.40

⁵² Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Programme

⁵³ Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP)

⁵⁴ Global Climate Change Alliance

⁵⁵ Pacific 1st Quadrennial Report 2018: p. 31

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49. Some notable initiatives undertaken in A-SIDS include the development of national roadmaps and strategies and the alignment of national development plans and programmes with the 2030 Agenda including mainstreaming risk considerations into their implementation in Comoros, Mauritius and Guinea-Bissau⁵⁶.

50. To build resilience, Caribbean governments have updated their Disaster Risk Management (DRM) legislation and recovery plans. Several national and regional entities have adopted the Sendai Framework guidelines to facilitate integration of the DRM agenda. Other disaster risks initiatives in the region include: CDEMA's⁵⁷ Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy 2014–2024⁵⁸.

51. Response efforts to recent disasters in the Pacific have highlighted the need for increased capacity to improve coordination with international and regional humanitarian partners and donor governments. Multi Hazard end-to-end early warning systems remain a challenge.

c. Oceans and Seas

52. In many SIDS, marine and coastal ecosystems are under pressure due *inter alia* to rapid coastal development, pollution increase and climate change. The Maldives is taking several initiatives to protect its ocean including a national campaign to progressively phase out the use of non-biodegradable plastics⁵⁹. The Fisheries sector of Mauritius accounted for about 1.4 per cent of GDP in 2016. About 80% per cent of the labour force in the fish processing sector are women, thus, promoting the economic empowerment of women, and fulfilling Goal 3 of the SDGs⁶⁰.

53. Ocean governance has been given prominence in the Caribbean through the establishment of the OECS Regional Ocean Policy and its three-year Strategic Action Plan. In fisheries management, CARICOM has developed a Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) and six countries are party to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing⁶¹.

54. P-SIDS were instrumental in the establishment of SDG 14 and the holding of the first UN Oceans Conference. The region has a good record in ending overfishing with its largest fishers and is making progress towards achieving 10% marine protection and conservation.

d. Sustainable Consumption and Production

55. In A-SIDS, Mauritius' Switch Africa Green programme aims to achieve sustainable development through the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices, focusing on MSMEs⁶² to provide necessary skills and enabling environment for transition to greener and more sustainable production patterns, while Singapore is pursuing a “zero waste” nation strategy. In the Caribbean, many

⁵⁶ AIMS Regional Report 2018, p.18

⁵⁷ Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

⁵⁸ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.52

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p. 58-59

⁶² Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

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countries have introduced policies, education and awareness raising activities aiming at more sustainable consumption patterns and adopted regulations on trade and import controls on single use plastics and other non-biodegradable materials⁶³.

e. Management of chemicals and waste

56. In Guinea-Bissau, chemicals and waste management is underway under the Basel Convention. Mauritius has ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury and is preparing their draft Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Report. The Maldives has a National Waste Management Policy targeting waste reduction and is developing a legal framework to reduce marine pollution. All C-SIDS are parties to and are in compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and have been successful in completely phasing out the consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Most are also signatory to the Basel Convention, and many have ratified the Minamata Convention. There are several initiatives in P-SIDS to improve waste management. The Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (2016–2025) aims to improve the management of waste and pollution. The Cleaner Pacific 2025 strategy seeks to strengthen institutional and human capacity, promote public-private partnerships, implement sustainable best practices, and promote regional and national cooperation.

f. Biodiversity (Desertification, land degradation and drought, Forests, Invasive Alien Species)

57. In A-SIDS, São Tomé and Príncipe’s actions on biodiversity include an integrated ecosystem approach project for biodiversity management and conservation. Maldives has designated 42 protected areas with one of its atolls (Baa atoll) designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve⁶⁴.

58. In C-SIDS, the CARICOM’s Natural Resources Policy Framework addresses the protection and sustainable use of the Community’s Natural Resources in accordance with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. The OECS developed an Invasive Alien Species (IAC) Action Plan in 2015⁶⁵, and has established three distinct Invasive Alien Species Working Groups to address mitigation of Invasive Alien Species

59. The P-SIDS region’s biodiversity is under intense pressure from natural and human-induced disturbance, invasive species, population growth and other threats. The Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific (2017–2020) guides conservation efforts in the region. Ecosystem-based approaches are being integrated into national and sector plans, including NAPAs⁶⁶, NBSAPs⁶⁷, NAPs⁶⁸ and JNAPs⁶⁹. The ratification of major MEA⁷⁰s along with the Pacific Ocean Alliance has provided support to countries in the development to address their biodiversity priorities.

⁶³ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.73-75

⁶⁴ Aims Regional Report 2018, p. 38

⁶⁵ Caribbean Regional Report 2018, p.117

⁶⁶ National Adaptations Programme of Actions (NAPAs)

⁶⁷ National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

⁶⁸ National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

⁶⁹ Joint National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

⁷⁰ Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

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60. Implementation of the Environment pillar of the SAMOA Pathway is perhaps the most advanced, with ten (10) SIDS on track on Climate Change (See Table below). Serious efforts are also being exerted on Water and Sanitation with 13 registering progress. Data and information are required by several SIDS to monitor implementation of Disaster Risks Reduction (SDG 11) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12). Data for Water and Sanitation is required for several P-SIDS.

| | Sustainable Cities and Communities | Sustainable Consumption and Production | Climate Change | Oceans and Seas | Life on Land |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| AIS (9) | SDG11 | SDG12 | SDG13 | SDG14 | SDG15 |
| Bahrain | | | | | |
| Cabo Verde | | | | | |
| Comoros | | | | | |
| Guinea-Bissau | | | | | |
| Maldives | | | | | |
| Mauritius | | | | | |
| Sao Tomé and Príncipe | | | | | |
| Seychelles | | | | | |
| Singapore | | | | | |

| | SDG11 | SDG12 | SDG13 | SDG14 | SDG15 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Caribbean (16) | | | | | |
| Antigua and Barbuda | | | | | |
| Bahamas | | | | | |
| Barbados | | | | | |
| Belize | | | | | |
| Cuba | | | | | |
| Dominica | | | | | |
| Dominican Republic | | | | | |
| Grenada | | | | | |
| Guyana | | | | | |
| Haiti | | | | | |
| Jamaica | | | | | |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | | | | | |
| Saint Lucia | | | | | |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | | | | | |
| Suriname | | | | | |
| Trinidad and Tobago | | | | | |

| | SDG11 | SDG12 | SDG13 | SDG14 | SDG15 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Pacific (13) | | | | | |
| Fiji | | | | | |
| Kiribati | | | | | |
| Marshall Islands | | | | | |
| Micronesia | | | | | |
| Nauru | | | | | |
| Palau | | | | | |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | | |
| Samoa | | | | | |
| Solomon Islands | | | | | |
| Tonga | | | | | |
| Tuvalu | | | | | |
| Vanuatu | | | | | |

Table.7 SAMOA Pathway Environment Pillar Progress Table

VII Means of Implementation

61. This section focuses on the SIDS Partnerships Framework, Finance Support to SIDS and on Data and Statistics as these remain key priorities for SIDS.

a. Partnership

62. Genuine and durable partnerships play an important role in advancing sustainable development at all levels and for enhancing international cooperation and action to address the unique characteristics and vulnerabilities of SIDS.

63. The SIDS Partnership Framework⁷¹ was formally established in 2015 to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments and to promote the effective and efficient follow-up to the then existing partnerships for SIDS, including those launched at the Samoa Conference and to encourage new, genuine and durable ones for the sustainable development of SIDS. The Partnership Framework consists of: a Steering Committee; an annual global multi-stakeholder dialogue, a partnership reporting template; and the organizing of national and regional partnership dialogues.

64. Recent achievements by the Framework include the production of an in-depth analysis of existing SIDS partnerships, identifying *inter alia* trends and gaps; the adoption of “Norms and Criteria” specifying the nature of SIDS partnerships; and the formulation of a SIDS Partnership Tool Box.⁷²

65. Going forward, the Framework may wish to strengthen its collaboration with stakeholders at all level, including regional and sub-regional organizations, with a view to incentivizing the creation of new and additional partnerships and addressing the gaps identified in the in-depth analysis. The Steering Committee on SIDS Partnership, with the support of the secretariat, including through the annual global multi-stakeholder dialogue should continue to monitor, encourage and advocate for the launch of partnerships that advance the sustainable development of SIDS.

b. Development Financing

66. SIDS rely heavily on domestic and international capital markets (i.e. private finance) to meet fiscal deficits and aid support. Some attract foreign direct investment while others do not. Despite these differences, most share several key challenges with regard to development financing. Negotiation of solutions with creditors on an ad-hoc basis, has not, adequately addressed these problems. Additionally, SIDS ability to leverage climate finance has been hindered by their capacities to effectively access and absorb climate resources, which are typically administered via complex funds, unfulfilled donor commitments and a donor bias towards mitigation rather than adaptation finance.

⁷¹ A/RES/70/202, para. 11

⁷² See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/partnershipframework>

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67. Further, many SIDS continue to experience severe structural constraints in their efforts to mobilize domestic resources for development. Savings rates are low when compared to other developing countries. When combined with high climate adaptation costs and infrastructure investment needs, these factors mean that international finance continues to be indispensable to SIDS.

68. Building from the momentum of discussions on SIDS financing in various fora, consideration could be directed towards whether a Heavily Indebted SIDS Initiative and/or expanded use of debt-for-climate/debt-for-nature swaps are viable alternatives for alleviating and for restoring debt sustainability in severely indebted countries.

69. The eligibility criteria for SIDS to access concessional financing from bilateral and multilateral donors have also been the subject of recent conversations. A basket of indicators to be used to determine the most appropriate financial instruments and levels of concessional financing for different countries has been proposed. The basket includes: income per capita, vulnerability to shocks, capacity to mobilize domestic and international finance, level of debt, social indicators and type of programme being funded. Going forward, an international dialogue on this issue will be extremely beneficial to SIDS, most of whom are classified middle-income and therefore ineligible for concessional finance.

c. Data and Statistics

70. National Statistical Agencies in most SIDS are characterized by limited human resources trained to address statistical requirements pertaining to core economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics, or to monitor national, regional and international development frameworks; have budgets which mainly cover staff and very few operating costs, implying an ongoing dependence on international financial support for major statistical collection; have limited statistical capacity in other government agencies such as those responsible for education, health, social affairs, natural resources and the environment etc.⁷³ Five years into the Samoa Pathway, this situation continues for at least half of all SIDS, and the formulation of National Strategies for the Development Statistics (NSDS) remains slow and is most urgent.

d. Financing the SAMOA Pathway

71. This section examines the financial resources directed towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by International Institutions, UN System agencies and other organisations, UN member States, including SIDS.

(i) International Institutions Support

72. The total financial expenditure directed by international institutions towards SIDS for the period 2015-2018 was 18 billion USD, 2.4 billion of which was to A-SIDS, 9.1 billion to C-SIDS and 6.3 billion to P-SIDS. The 5 institutions listed in Table 10 below represents the biggest contributors to SIDS, responsible approximately for 70% of total financial flows.

⁷³ PARIS21, NSDS Guidelines for SIDS 2018, p.8

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| AIMS | Partners (Total 61) | Total Expenditure 2015-18 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | 2,476,310,041 |
| 1 | FMO (Dutch Development Bank) | 954,980,000 |
| 2 | EU Institutions | 380,182,400 |
| 3 | African Development Bank | 238,011,100 |
| 4 | UNDP | 156,306,600 |
| 5 | World Bank Group | 124,154,500 |
| Caribbean | Partners (Total 105) | Total Expenditure 2015-18 |
| | | 9,162,158,203 |
| 1 | Inter-American Development Bank | 2,387,109,000 |
| 2 | Belgium | 1,145,967,000 |
| 3 | EU Institutions | 1,043,385,000 |
| 4 | USAID | 929,426,000 |
| 5 | World Bank Group | 731,299,400 |
| Pacific | Partners (Total 61) | Total Expenditure 2015-18 |
| | | 6,371,072,412 |
| 1 | Australia | 3,026,621,000 |
| 2 | ADB | 603,630,700 |
| 3 | World Bank | 492,127,000 |
| 4 | US | 490,810,140 |
| 5 | EU Institutions | 372,886,100 |

Table 8 : Source : IATI⁷⁴

(ii) UN Member States (non-SIDS) Support

73. The financial support by UN members States recorded in Table.11 below were gathered from information supplied in response to the secretariat's questionnaire.

| | Australia (2014-2018) | New Zealand (2015-2018) | USA (Jan 2015- Dec 2017) | Italy |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway | Support | Support | Support | Budget |
| Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth | 564,747,000 | 427,144,584 | 6,935,600 | |
| Climate Change | 115,977,000 | 258,172,262 | 35,892,660 | 800,000 (2016) |
| Sustainable Energy | | 34,432,636 | 16,975,960 | 15,000,000 |

⁷⁴ <https://iatistandard.org/en/>,

see also: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27975UNDP_Samoa_MCO_Office.pdf

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| | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| Disaster Risk Reduction | 132,334,000 | 100,813,019 | 49,712,390 | 2,270,000 |
| Oceans and seas | | 52,218,939 | | 1,500,000 (2016) |
| Food Security and Nutrition | 211,640,000 | 42,532,926 | 90,515,470 | 488,000 (2015) |
| Water and Sanitation | 41,497,000 | 27,104,070 | 24,517,440 | |
| Sustainable Transportation | | 32,645,672 | 23,165,830 | |
| Sustainable Consumption and Production | 34,664,000 (including biodiversity) | N/A | 114,795,680 | |
| Chemical and Waste management | | 6,832,959 | | |
| Health and NCDs | 516,664,000 | 48,223,629 | 221,522,930 | |
| Gender equality | 1,935,840,000 | 472,133,005 | 47,521,160 | |
| Social development | 692,715,000 | 142,773,859 | 41,469,910 | |
| Biodiversity | | 68,783,860 | 39,866,940 | 1,100,000 (2017) |
| Means of implementation | 1,158,221,000 | 379,740,268 | | 800,000 (2017) 488,000 (partnerships) |
| Etc. | 159,116,000 | | 1,423,501,620 | |
| Total | 3,511,598,000 | 902,340,504 | 2,136,393,590 | 22,446,000 |

Table 9 *UN Members Finance contribution to the SAMOA Pathway*

74. Japan reported that while not exclusively to SIDS, the total amount of its bilateral ODA for the period 2015 to 2017 was 60.7 billion USD. In relation to the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway, percentage allocation of Japan's support was as follows: Sustainable Energy (3%), Disaster Risk Reduction (1.44%), Food Security and Nutrition (1.05%), Health and NCDs (3.02%), Gender Equality (0.15%), Social Development (1.47%), Biodiversity (0.76%). Japan did not present specific figures for: sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, climate change, ocean and seas, sustainable transportation, sustainable consumption and production, chemical and waste management and means of implementation but indicated that support to these areas are included in the remaining 81.61% of its total bilateral ODA.

75. Other support reported were as follows:

- a) Qatar support to AOSIS (\$400,000USD) in 2015-2017 and PSIDS (\$285,000USD) in 2016-2017 and to the HLPF trust fund (\$30,000USD), grant to Kiribati (\$200,000USD) in 2017 and to Vanuatu (\$100,000USD) in 2018.

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- b) Ireland provided (€200,000) for COP24, HLPF trust fund (€100,000) in 2018 and is providing (€1 million) to the CCRIF in 2018-2019.
- c) Russia made financial contribution to Cuba (through WFP) (\$1m USD) in 2018-2019.
- d) The Republic of Korea's expended approximately \$87 mi USD to SIDS during the period 2014 -2017 (32.26mi to P-SIDS, 53.99 mi to C-SIDS, and 0.78mi to A-SIDS)⁷⁵.
- e) Austria's MFA contributed \$339,000USD on sustainable energy in 2016.

(iii) *SIDS Expenditure on the SAMOA Pathway*

76. Four SIDS (Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands) responded to the secretariat's questionnaire and *inter alia* submitted their SAMOA Pathway expenditure data. Investment in sustainable transportation was observed to have taken a consistent portion of their budget allocation. Both Fiji and Samoa were focused on social development such as health and education. The level of resource allocation for the Samoa Pathway priority are differs across countries, ranging as high as 73.27% (Fiji) in 2018-2019 to low as 9% of annual development budget (Solomon Island).

| SAMOA Pathway Priority Areas | Fiji 2016-2019 (USD exchange rate 1 FJS= 0.47 USD) | Solomon Islands (2015-2018) | Tuvalu (2015-2018) | Samoa (2017/18-2018/19) |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | Budget Allocation | | Investments | Budget Allocation |
| Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth | 56,311,776 | 10,130,000 | 36,258,750.25 | 44,948,956-49,369,584 |
| Climate change | 427,768,109 | 550,000 | 586,553.05 | 10,666,575-10,237,429 |
| Disaster risk reduction | | 870,000 | | |
| Sustainable energy | 60,653,501 | 6,700,000 | 385,965 | 1,721,600-1,000,000 |
| Oceans and seas | 7,533,290 | 1,500,000 | | 8,168,476-6,936,662 |
| Food security and nutrition | 137,736,283 | 3,700,000 | 2,011,567 | |
| Water and sanitation | 279,547,169 | 1,500,000 | | 5,187,132-4,537,617 |
| Sustainable transportation | 703,083,318 | 68,400,000 | 12,546,183 | 20,864,964-19,666,988 |
| Sustainable Consumption and Production | | 3,900,000 | | |
| Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste | 5,951,765 | 680,000 | 2,638,038 | |
| Health and non-communicable diseases | 402,922,968 | 4,400,000 | 24,834,711 | 45,257,600-38,957,300 |
| Gender equality and women's empowerment | 8,383,907 | 900,000 | 378,457 | |
| Social development | 68,596,500 | 900,000 | 1343566 | 46,710,082-50,147,018 |

⁷⁵ <https://stats.koreaexim.go.kr/> (Includes Cook Islands, Niue, total 0.36Million USD during 2014-2017)

*Sums/figures may be tagged to more than one priority areas, overall total may not tally.

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| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Culture and sport | 108,561,201 | | | |
| Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities | 430,898,491 | | | |
| Social Security | 178,821,934 | | | |
| Education | 1,079,296,992 | | | |
| Biodiversity | | 700,000 | 434,433 | |
| Desertification, land degradation and drought | 24,591,420 | | | |
| Forests | 5,062,174 | | | |
| Invasive alien species | 11,771,971 | | | |
| Means of implementation, including partnerships | | | | 465,594,584 |
| Partnerships | 131,678,990 | | | |
| Financing | 61,191,839 | | | |
| Capacity-building | 7,896,836 | | | |
| Technology | 46,222,222 | | | |
| Data and statistics | 11,797,185 | | | |
| Total | 4,256,279,839 | 104,800,000 | 81,418,224 | 203,958,508-219,045,796 |

Table 10 *SIDS Financial contribution to the SAMOA Pathway.*

(iv) *UN System organizations, regional & sub-regional organizations Support*

77. Table 10 below accounts the contribution of UN system agencies and of other regional and sub-regional organization towards SIDS for the period 2014 – 2018.

| Priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway | UNDP (2017-18) | UNICEF (2014-2018) | UNESCO (2014-2019) | UNESCAP (2018) - 2018 | PIDF (2016-2018) | UNOSSC | IAEA (EUR) Jan 1 2015-Dec 2018 (1E= 1.14\$) | UNIDO (2016-2018) |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|
| | Budget Allocation | | | Investments | | | Investments | Budget Allocation |
| Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth | 59,460,638 | | | 219,207 | 98,146 | | | 9,902,389 |
| Climate Change | 14,033,573 | | | 92,096 | 431,842 | 1,000,000 | | 4,563,967 |
| Sustainable Energy | 9,459,263 | | | 12,500 | 353,325 | 1,000,000 | 34,937 | 12,581,282 |
| Disaster Risk Reduction | 70,558,929 | 20,246,179 (climate change included) | 115,000 | 120,977 | 39,258 | 2,500,000 | | |
| Oceans and seas | 11,843,830 | | 6,950,000 | 46,116 | 294,438 | | | |
| Food Security and Nutrition | | 16,415,801 | | | 98,146 | | 3,397,345 | |
| Water and Sanitation | | 17,732,939 | 200,800 | 5000 | 39,258 | | 1,225,612 | |
| Sustainable Transportation | | | | 5753 | 333,696 | | | |
| Sustainable Consumption and Production | | | | | 196,292 | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Chemical and Waste management | 16,268,152 | | | | 39,258 | | | 45,000 |
| Health and NCDs | 3,127,136 | 15,966,490 | | | 19,629 | 1,140,000 | 3,650,399 | |
| Gender equality | 2,205,429 | | | 86,665 | | | | |
| Social development | 31,498,013 | 11,104,075 | 11,026,696 | 93,603 | | 556,000 | | |
| Biodiversity | | | 945,600 | | 19,629 | | | |
| Means of implementation | 52,354,888 | 739,214 | 940,825 | 1,054,547 | | | 1,133,078 | |
| Etc. | | 9,471,577 | | | | | 6,705,495 | |
| Total | 270,809,851 | 71,430,096 | 13,228,921 | 1,736,463* | 1,962,919 | 6,190,000 | 9,442,315 | 27,092,638 |

Table 11 *UN and other organization contribution to the SAMOA Pathway*

78. Other reported investments included: ECLAC (Port of Spain) mobilized \$1,117,549 USD from regular programme budget and \$1,321,707USD from extra-budgetary and development account funds from 2015-2018. IRENA⁷⁶ mobilized US\$500 million; OHRLLS spent US\$1,975,794 towards Means of Implementation for SIDS from 2018-2019, and UNODC US\$2.3million in P-SIDS for UN-PRAC⁷⁷ and US\$900,000 for C-SIDS. DOALOS reported supporting 155 SIDS personnel through the DOALOS Fellowship Trust Fund (amount not specified.). The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) reported that its regional offices and Headquarters, supported the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in SIDS (amount not specified).

VIII Monitoring and Follow up

79. The United Nations General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 124 of the SAMOA Pathway annually requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of SIDS. While attempts has been made to move away from a descriptive, to a more strategic and analytical approach to reporting⁷⁸, the challenge continues to be the availability of appropriate data to support assessment and analysis. In addition, the response rate from member States, in particular SIDS remains low. The continued absence of an appropriate and consistent means of monitoring and measuring progress could *inter alia* be a factor, as the absence of an appropriate monitoring framework inhibits meaningful, strategic analysis. Strategic analysis of trends in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway could better surface with an agreed monitoring and evaluation framework.

IX OBSERVATIONS

80. Observable trends emerging from the information gathered during the preparatory process for the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway⁷⁹, includes the augmented recognition by SIDS of the advantages and importance of regional approaches to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway including the absence of such a mechanism in A-SIDS. Climate Change and resilience building remains the top priorities of the environmental pillar. Social inclusion, poverty eradication and

⁷⁶ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

⁷⁷ UN-Pacific Regional Anti- Corruption Project (UNPRAC)

⁷⁸ JIU/REP/2016/3 para. 176

⁷⁹ Including from sources referred to in paragraph 2 above

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addressing the NCDs epidemic emerged high on the Social pillar, while debt alleviation, access to concessional financing and challenges of connectivity featured prominently on the Economic pillar.

81. The SAMOA Pathway remains the blue print for the sustainable development of SIDS. Effective monitoring of its progress however remains hindered by the lack of an appropriate monitoring and accountability framework, particularly for those priorities that fall outside the SDGs targets. Such a framework will ensure that SIDS specific priorities and interest are not left behind.

IX COORDINATION

82. The SIDS Units of UN-DESA and OHRLLS continued to collaborate to strengthen coordination and complementarity of their work in support of SIDS. Joint activities included (i) planning and organization of a SIDS Ambassadorial Retreat in March 2018, (ii) alternate chairmanship of the Inter-agency Consultative Group on SIDS (IACG); (iii) continued support to the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS including in 2018 the holding of the regional SIDS Partnerships Dialogue and the annual Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS partnership dialogue and (iv) joint efforts in resource mobilization for the holding of the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings mandated as a part of the Midterm review (MTR) of the SAMOA Pathway. The two Units also collaborated in the conduct of the assessment to determine their resource needs in light of their increased mandates.

83. The role of the IACG as a coordination mechanism on SIDS issues amongst UN System organizations has been further strengthened since the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway. Concrete steps taken include the adoption of its terms of reference; the establishment of its programme of work and the convening of quarterly meeting co-chaired by DESA and OHRLLS. Moreover, the establishment of the SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) in 2018 by OHRLLS will play a critical role in coherent delivery, particularly as it relates to the localization of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. The NFPs and the OHRLLS SIDS Global Business Network offers unique opportunities for further collaboration between the two SIDS Units of the Secretariat.