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UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UNIDO's Small Island Developing States Strategy, 2019–2025

Report by the Director General

1. Background

1. Thirty-four of the United Nations' 38 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are Member States of UNIDO. SIDS, as small and remote island economies, share many similar challenges such as small size, limited natural resources, narrow economic bases, large distance to major markets and vulnerability to climate-related disasters. These challenges have a demonstrable effect on growth and have often led to a high degree of economic volatility for SIDS.

2. In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution [69/15](#) on the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. In September 2019, a mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway was conducted reaffirming that the SAMOA Pathway is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its related SDGs, and represents a stand-alone overarching framework for guiding global, regional and national development efforts to achieve the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS. As part of the United Nations system Implementation Matrix for the SAMOA Pathway, UNIDO has committed to assist SIDS in a number of priority areas. UNIDO is also a member of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on SIDS (IACG), established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [59/311](#). Furthermore, the Joint Inspection Unit report ([JIU/REP/2016/7](#)) on the review of the United Nations System support for SIDS recommended to the United Nations agencies, inter alia, the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway in strategic plans, planning SIDS activities in line with national and regional priorities, and the allocation of multi-year funding to facilitate the effective implementation of programmatic activities in support of SIDS.

3. Taking into consideration UNIDO's commitment to the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the recommendations provided in the JIU report, UNIDO has formulated a SIDS

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strategy to streamline and strengthen UNIDO's interventions in SIDS with the aim of achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).

2. UNIDO and SIDS

4. UNIDO has received direct requests from several SIDS for technical assistance to address their respective development challenges, including but not limited to: waste management; development and utilization of renewable energy; export promotion through diversification and compliance with international standards and quality infrastructure; building resilience to environmental shocks; mobilizing development finance; agribusiness and fisheries; institution building and industrial policy development.

5. Against this background and in line with UNIDO's previous cooperation with SIDS, the SIDS strategy will serve as a guiding framework to steer results-based interventions and cooperation with SIDS for the achievement of ISID. The strategy will also support the prioritization of efforts, and support the coordination of these efforts with development partners, in particular within the United Nations Development System.

6. UNIDO's approach to responding to the challenges and opportunities of SIDS is aligned with the Organization's four overall priorities as set out in the medium-term programme framework (MTPF) for the period 2018–2021, which aim to achieve the following development results:

- (i) Creating shared prosperity;
- (ii) Advancing economic competitiveness;
- (iii) Safeguarding the environment;
- (iv) Strengthening knowledge and institutions.

7. UNIDO's first three thematic priorities serve to address the economic, social and environmental dimensions respectively, while the fourth one provides cross-cutting impact. Under the four thematic priorities, and in line with requests for assistance received, UNIDO's SIDS Strategy focuses on addressing vulnerabilities which have been compiled in the United Nations system Implementation Matrix for the SAMOA Pathway by UN DESA, as the United Nations entity in charge of coordinating system-wide efforts to implement the provisions of the SAMOA Pathway.¹ The strategy also includes regular reporting of UNIDO's SIDS-related activities to the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), which is also responsible for follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway.

8. To effectively address those vulnerabilities and achieve its objectives, UNIDO's approach to SIDS builds upon a number of defining principles. These include an increased focus on integrated multi-disciplinary interventions, multi-country regional interventions, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. All three principles are aimed at ensuring thematic comprehensiveness, regional convergence and coherence of interventions. To facilitate operationalization, the SIDS strategy identifies the means of, and a roadmap for, implementation.

3. Strategy consultation process

9. The strategy has been formulated by the Department of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Integration, in consultation with other relevant departments of the UNIDO Secretariat.

¹ UN DESA Matrix based on MSI and SAMOA Pathway – Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profile (VRCP) [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1982Vulnerability-Resilience%20Country%20Profile%20\(VRCP\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1982Vulnerability-Resilience%20Country%20Profile%20(VRCP).pdf).

10. To seek Member States' inputs and comments on UNIDO's SIDS strategy, a Member State briefing was conducted on 29 May 2019. The strategy was further consulted on with Member States through follow-up communications, including with the Permanent Missions of SIDS in New York. Comments received by Member States have been duly incorporated in the final draft, which was subsequently approved by UNIDO's Executive Board (on 8 August 2019).

4. Action required of the conference

11. The General Conference may wish to take note of UNIDO's SIDS strategy in GC.18/CRP.5 and approve its implementation.
