

**General Conference  
Nineteenth session**

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Item 24 of the provisional agenda

**UNIDO activities related to small island  
developing States****UNIDO activities related to small island developing States****Report by the Director General****I. Introduction**

1. Thirty-four of the United Nations' thirty-eight 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 and global financial crises. 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 SIDS 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 represents a stand-alone overarching framework for guiding global, regional and national development efforts to achieve the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS.
3. Taking into consideration its commitment to the SAMOA Pathway, UNIDO reaffirmed its obligation to support inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in SIDS at the eighteenth session of the General Conference, through the adoption of UNIDO's SIDS Strategy, 2019–2025 (GC.18/Res.3).

**II. Progress towards the implementation of UNIDO's small  
island developing States Strategy, 2019-2025**

4. UNIDO's activities in SIDS are implemented through stand-alone, regional and inter-regional projects and programmatic interventions. Given the common challenges faced by SIDS and their particular geographical characteristics, additional attention is given to regional and inter-agency interventions.

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5. As a non-resident agency, UNIDO contributes to the activities of the United Nations Multi-Country Offices (MCO) in the Pacific and in the Caribbean directly from its headquarters. SIDS of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS region) are covered by UNIDO Field Offices in the region.<sup>1</sup>
6. In the Pacific region, UNIDO is a signatory of the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018–2022 and contributed to the United Nations Common Country Analysis for the Pacific region, which will serve as reference for the formulation of the new Joint Country Action Plans (JCAPs) for 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. UNIDO is also supporting the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for countries under MCO Fiji for the period 2023–2027.
7. In the Caribbean, UNIDO is a signatory of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean (UN MSDF) 2017–2021, which encompasses UNIDO Member States Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, and is contributing to the development of the UN MSDF 2022–2026. In addition, UNIDO is part of the UNSDCF Cuba 2020–2024.
8. In the AIMS region, UNIDO is a signatory of UNDAFs/UNSDCFs in six countries and contributing to the development of the UNSDCF 2022–2025 for Comoros.
9. As of November 2021, Country Programmes (CPs) are ongoing in Cuba and Vanuatu. CPs for Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau are currently under development.
10. To enhance capacity building and knowledge sharing, UNIDO has been organizing a regular webinar series to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to and among SIDS for ISID since November 2020. The goal of these webinars is to share solutions and potentially replicate successful interventions implemented in other regions. The webinars have also been an occasion to engage donors, who have expressed interest to cooperate with UNIDO on SIDS.
11. As of November 2021, eight webinars were organized, including two side events at the Vienna Energy Forum, which took place on 6 and 7 July 2021. The webinars tackled a wide range of issues faced by SIDS, from sustainable energy to the impact of information and communication technologies, and from the blue economy to green mobility.
12. To provide detailed information on the Organization’s activities in SIDS, UNIDO has been maintaining a specific webpage on its website since early 2020, thus raising awareness and sharing knowledge among the public and interested Member States alike.
13. In terms of technical assistance, UNIDO is currently implementing some thirty-seven projects in SIDS, for a total value of approximately \$39 million. Fifteen of these projects were initiated since the launching of the Strategy in November 2019. Another 16 were successfully concluded during the same period.
14. UNIDO’s technical assistance to SIDS aligns both with UNIDO’s medium-term programme framework 2018-2021 (MTPF) and with the four priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway document, namely: (1) Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth; (2) Climate Change; (3) Sustainable Energy; and (4) Means of Implementation. The total volume of projects under each of these is as follows: \$12.6 million for priority (1); \$9.1 million for priority (2); \$15.9 million for priority (3) and \$876,000 for priority (4).

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<sup>1</sup> UNIDO’s Country Office in Senegal covers Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau; the Regional Office in India covers the Maldives; the Country Office in Cameroon covers Sao Tomé and Príncipe; the Country Office in Kenya covers the Comoros and the Country Office in the United Republic of Tanzania covers Mauritius.

15. UNIDO also established a Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC) which covers 36 of the 38 United Nations-recognized SIDS. The Centers work towards integrated and inclusive regional markets for sustainable energy products and services, on renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services, and on the delivery of cleantech programmes. For example, in 2021 the Caribbean Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) and the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) developed the Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy Framework for the Caribbean and the Regional E-Mobility Policy and Program for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, to provide the necessary policy framework for transitioning towards green mobility.

16. In terms of institutional cooperation with SIDS-related organizations, UNIDO is cooperating with SIDS DOCK on the establishment of a Global Ocean Energy Platform (GOEP) for Blue Economies in SIDS to be presented at the upcoming 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties. GOEP will raise awareness on different ocean energy technologies, and their potential to help SIDS in addressing energy costs, employment issues, dependence on petroleum imports, and the challenges posed by climate change. The platform will provide support in the areas of policy and regulation, qualification and certification, as well as investment facilitation and technology demonstration.

17. UNIDO, the International Center on Small Hydropower (ICSHP) in China, and the GN-SEC have launched the “Technical Guidelines for the development, installation and operation of small hydropower plants”. The intention behind these guidelines is that countries, including SIDS, utilize them to support their current policy, technology and ecosystems for the efficient use of renewable energy from hydropower.

18. To support public-private partnerships on cleantech, UNIDO, with funding from the Global Environment Facility, has supported the Government of Barbados with the establishment of BLOOM, the Caribbean’s first cleantech cluster. The cluster provides shared resources and services, as well as a makerspace for companies and academia to work on joint projects, solutions and marketing. UNIDO aims to replicate the model in other SIDS through the Global BLOOM programme.

19. Additionally, an inter-regional project on Supporting Business Friendly and Inclusive National and Regional Policies and Strengthening Productive Capacities and Value Chains funded by the European Union is being implemented in eight member countries of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), including the Dominican Republic and Papua New Guinea.

20. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNIDO has been supporting its Member States, including SIDS, both with the development and implementation of COVID-19 socio-economic response plans and in preventing the spread of the coronavirus by providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and by helping raising public awareness about the importance of PPE.

21. In Cuba, a number of pipeline initiatives supporting the country’s recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic are being brought forward as part of UNIDO’s Country Programme Cuba 2021-2025, including a pipeline project to support the production of Cuban vaccines against COVID-19. In Cabo Verde, UNIDO is supporting the Government to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable economic actors (such as informal workers) and to support the recovery of the tourism sector.

### **III. Action required of the Conference**

22. The Conference may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document.