



## QUESTIONNAIRE

### Follow-up to and implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS)

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. You are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys or Secretary-Generals' reports will not be considered.

#### PART A - FOSTERING RESILIENT PROSPERITY IN SIDS

##### 1. Enhanced UN System Support for achieving Resilient Prosperity in SIDS (FOR the UN system)

Using the UN implementation Matrix<sup>1</sup> (attached) to guide feedback, briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that were/are being implemented during the reporting period at national or regional levels aimed specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (600 words).

##### Inputs by WHO

WHO continued to support SIDS to strengthen pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response, including through the development of national action plans for health security, and establishment of genomics laboratories to strengthen the ability of countries to rapidly detect and respond to infectious disease threats. WHO implemented climate change and health projects in 25 SIDS in 2024, including supporting the development of national climate change adaptation plans. In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl (July 2024), WHO/PAHO helped to restore critical health services in Grenada and in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In October 2024, WHO published the Pacific Islands–WHO multi-country cooperation strategy for 2024–2029 outlining the agency's comprehensive support plan for the subregion. WHO also supported SIDS in strengthening health workforce data and human resources for health information systems, including through development of the *Human Resources for Resilient Health Systems Caribbean Roadmap for 2025–2030*.

WHO advanced implementation of the Bridgetown Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health<sup>2</sup> (2023) through supporting SIDS in the integration of health service delivery for NCDs and mental health within the primary health care framework. This included technical support to Kiribati, Niue, Nauru, Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji and Tuvalu to conduct surveys on NCD risk factor surveillance, and strengthening country capacities for surveillance and the provision of essential population-wide data on NCDs. WHO also undertook situation assessments to inform the development of new eye care strategic plans. In June 2024, WHO and the World Bank convened an International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for NCDs and Mental Health to define actionable strategies and policy recommendations to enhance the integration of NCD and mental health considerations into health financing strategies.

##### 2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS (For Development Partners, IFIs and SIDS Governments)

Successful ABAS implementation will require improved, tailored development cooperation approaches and financial resources, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS. It will also require that relevant national/regional plans programme and policies are implemented. Briefly elaborate on:

<sup>1</sup> accountability framework developed to promote and monitor progress with implementation of ABAS

<sup>2</sup> <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/sids-event/2023-bridgetown-declaration-on-ncds-and-mental-health.pdf>



- i) any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries Please include indications of resource allocations if available (600 words)

### Inputs by WHO

WHO mobilized a range of partners through the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health in order to facilitate access to funding for SIDS, including as an accredited implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund. WHO is also seeking full accreditation from the Green Climate Fund, which will enable it to unlock additional funding for climate change and health work in SIDS.

In October 2024, WHO/PAHO launched two health-related projects with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): one on Disease Elimination, and one on Better Care for NCDs<sup>3</sup>. The projects prioritize expanding access to safe, effective medicines and health technologies, and leverage PAHO's existing Regional Revolving Funds<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, WHO/PAHO helped to secure a Pandemic Fund grant for the Eastern Caribbean, augmenting resources for health preparedness and involving key stakeholders such as FAO and the World Bank.

In November 2024, WHO joined forces with the Government of the Philippines and Pacific Island countries to launch the *Philippine-Pacific Health Initiative*, a partnership focused on building a sustainable health workforce by developing sustainable education, employment, and retention strategies, while managing workforce migration in line with the WHO Global Code of Practice, to strengthen regional health security and resilience<sup>5</sup>.

WHO supported Mauritius in the assumption of its functions as the host country for the African SIDS Pooled Procurement Programme, which serves 6 SIDS in Africa plus Madagascar. The Programme aims to increase access to affordable, quality-assured and safe medicines and medical supplies through coordinated procurement, and a harmonization of medicines management systems.

- ii) any planned or ongoing national programmes to develop more resilient SIDS economies. What are the expected results from these interventions. Please include indications of resource allocations if available (600 words)

### **PART B - COHERENT AND EFFECTIVE UN SYSTEM WIDE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO SIDS**

Paragraph 36 of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) requests the UN Secretary-General:

*“..... within his annual report to the General Assembly for the 80th Session on the implementation of the ABAS, to present proposals to ensure a coordinated, coherent and effective UN system wide capacity development approach to SIDS and to enhance the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ABAS, including a potential single SIDS dedicated entity at the UN Secretariat.”*

At the global level, the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) oversees UN efforts for sustainable development in 162 countries and territories, guiding, supporting, tracking and overseeing the coordination of development operations. The UNSDG derives its mandate from the Comprehensive Policy Review (CPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which serves as an important instrument for the monitoring and the assessment of UN development operations.

<sup>3</sup> <https://pressroom.oecs.int/paho-and-the-oecs-launch-two-health-projects-focused-on-disease-elimination-and-ncd-care>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.paho.org/en/regional-revolving-funds>

<sup>5</sup> [Philippines and the Pacific strengthen health workforce for health security](https://www.paho.org/en/philippines-and-the-pacific-strengthen-health-workforce-for-health-security)



The integrated nature of ABAS calls for a UN Development System that works in a coordinated and coherent manner while preserving each entity's mandate and role and leveraging each entity's expertise.

## **1. Coherent and effective UN system support to SIDS (For UN System Responses, 750 words)**

- i. What challenges are encountered by UN agencies, to deliver a 'whole-of-system response' in addressing the needs, risks and vulnerabilities and to provide development programmes that address the underlying drivers of needs in SIDS?

### **Inputs by WHO**

UN agencies working in SIDS face significant challenges in delivering a coordinated, whole-of-system response. Limited human resources, fragmented information systems, and institutional silos—both within national structures and across development partners—hinder effective collaboration and joint programming. These factors make it difficult to align efforts, share data, and implement integrated strategies that address the underlying drivers of vulnerability. Addressing these challenges requires strengthened coordination, capacity-building, and tailored, country-led approaches that reflect the unique context of SIDS.

- ii. What percentage of your entity's programming expenditures on development activities in SIDS in 2024 were allocated to joint programmes? What percentage will be allocated in 2025?
- iii. What are the lessons learned, challenges and best practices of the UNSCDF (including multi-country frameworks) and their respective Country Implementation Plans (CIPs) in promoting joint programming?

### **Inputs by WHO**

Technical cooperation is most effective when fully aligned with national priorities and integrated into government-led strategic and operational plans. This alignment fosters national ownership, enhances coordination among partners, and promotes meaningful joint programming. In many WHO country offices, this approach has proven successful in ensuring that development efforts are relevant, sustainable, and responsive to country needs—serving as a best practice for maximizing the impact of CIPs.

- iv. What improvements would you recommend to enhance the UN's system-wide approach to capacity development in SIDS?

### **Inputs by WHO**

Strengthening interagency coordination remains essential to ensuring a more coherent, efficient, and impactful delivery of support. This includes fostering greater alignment of roles and responsibilities, enhancing information-sharing, and encouraging joint planning and implementation. By building on each agency's comparative advantages and working more collaboratively, the UN system can better support national efforts, reduce fragmentation, and deliver more integrated capacity development initiatives that are responsive to the unique challenges and opportunities in SIDS.

- v. How can the UN better partner with regional development stakeholders e.g. CARICOM Secretariat, SPC, PIF, SPREP etc to improve programme delivery, improve coherence and avoid duplication



## Inputs by WHO

The UN can enhance its collaboration with regional stakeholders by strengthening structured coordination mechanisms that promote joint planning, regular dialogue, and strategic alignment of efforts. By ensuring that UN initiatives are directly relevant to broader regional priorities and frameworks, the system can improve programme coherence, reduce fragmentation, and avoid duplication of efforts. Such collaboration also enables more effective use of resources, reinforces complementarities among partners, and supports more consistent and impactful delivery of development outcomes across the region. In some technical areas, for example on health workforce strengthening, additional initiatives on pooled funding and results-based monitoring to enhance coherence, efficiency, and impact would bring additional value.

## For Governments

- vi. How would you assess the current level of coordination among UN agencies in supporting capacity development for SIDS at the national, regional and global levels? What challenges do you believe hinder effective coordination among UN entities in providing support to SIDS? What mechanisms would you suggest to improve the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of UN support for SIDS? (600 words)

## 2. Interagency Mechanisms for improved coherence

Under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) provides broad guidance, coordination and strategic direction for the UN system in the areas under the responsibility of Executive Heads. Focus is placed on inter-agency priorities and initiatives while ensuring that the independent mandates of organizations are maintained. One particular focus of the CEB is system-wide coordination and policy coherence in the programme areas. The CEB has to date created three inter-agency mechanisms to increase coherence across the United Nations system in addressing urgent development challenges. These are UN-Water, UN-Oceans and UN-Energy.

- vii. As there is no single entity in the United Nations system that has sole responsibility for SIDS, do you see value creating a UN-SIDS to serve as the primary agent for promoting system-wide collaboration on SIDS issues, and to promote coherence in the UN system's multi-disciplinary response to SIDS? (500 words)

## Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs Plus (ECESA Plus)

Coordination of UN System actions for the implementation of politically agreed documents e.g. ABAS takes place through the Executive Committee on Economic and Social (ECESA Plus). Its over fifty members have developed a matrix for the follow up to ABAS, focusing on mandates specifically directed at the United Nations system as well as on areas where the UN system is already engaged through its programmatic work. The UN Implementation Matrix, which is being continuously updated, serves as an accountability framework and as a working tool to promote and monitor progress. ECESA Plus meets regularly to *inter alia* SIDS related matters and is convened by the Under Secretary General of DESA.

- viii. How can ECESA Plus be used to more effectively harness UN agency contributions and to amplify systemic synergies?)



### 3. HLPF

ix. How should the HLPF SIDS session be structured to effectively monitor progress to scale up implementation of the SDGs while at the same time driving implementation of ABAS? What role should the monitoring and evaluation framework of ABAS play in this? (250 words)

#### Inputs by WHO

The SIDS session at the HLPF could present an update on both progress towards the SDGs and the development of the ABAS M&E framework, while highlighting country-led, evidence-based initiatives that can be scaled or adapted across SIDS. WHO has recommended to base the ABAS M&E framework on the SDGs and has put forward a set of health-related targets with good data coverage. Dedicated thematic segments during the HLPF could allow for deeper engagement on issues that are of utmost priority to the SIDS themselves.