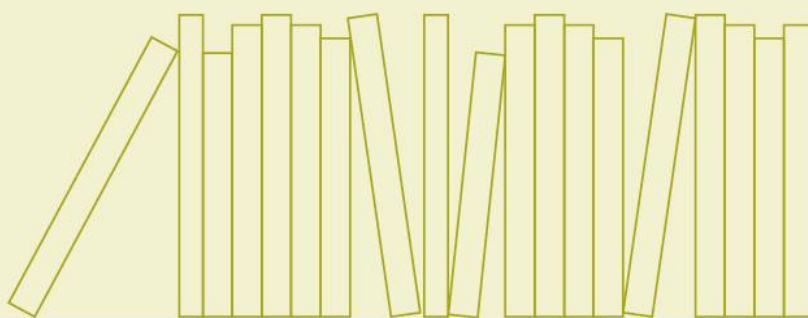


Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



Report of the workshop on the preparation of reports for the 10-year review of the Samoa Pathway



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



UNITED NATIONS



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Workshop on the preparation of reports
for the 10-year review of the Samoa Pathway

Virtual workshop, 13–15 December 2022

LIMITED
LC/CAR/2023/1/Rev.1
13 January 2023
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE PREPARATION
OF REPORTS FOR THE 10-YEAR REVIEW
OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY**

This report was reproduced without formal editing.

CONTENTS

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK.....	2
1. Place and date.....	2
2. Attendance.....	2
3. Meeting agenda	2
B. REPORTING THE PROCEEDINGS	2
1. Opening of the session.....	2
2. Planning for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States: the process.....	3
3. Methodological approach to be utilized for preparation of reports	4
4. Data and data mining.....	6
5. Monitoring and evaluation framework.....	7
6. Outline/structure: the 10-year review report of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway	9
7. Next steps	10
8. Workshop conclusion	11
Annex I List of participants	12
Annex II Proposed outline: Samoa Pathway review reports	14
Annex III Programme.....	17

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

1. The Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean convened a workshop on the preparation of reports for the 10-year review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway). The virtual workshop took place from 13 to 15 December 2022 (1 p.m.–4 p.m.).

2. Attendance

2. There were 18 persons in attendance and included representation from the following regional commissions of the United Nations: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). There were also participants from departments and offices of the United Nations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), and Development Coordination Office (DCO). The full list of participants can be found in annex I.

3. Meeting agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Planning for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States: the process
3. Methodological approach to be utilized for preparation of the reports
4. Data and data mining
5. Monitoring and evaluation framework
6. Outline/structure: the 10-year review report of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway
7. Next steps
8. Workshop conclusion

B. REPORTING THE PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of the session

3. The Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit welcomed participants and opened the workshop on behalf of the Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. In her opening address, participants were informed that the workshop was being convened to discuss the regional preparatory processes for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, including the steps and actions required towards the preparation of national and regional synthesis reports on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. These reports would serve as inputs to the regional preparatory meeting which will be held in 2023. She noted that the regional commissions serving SIDS were expected to be responsible for preparing the regional synthesis reports with input from national reports and with data and other information obtained from United Nations custodian agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, and other developmental partners. In consideration of these requirements, she stated that it was important that the workshop sought to agree on a common approach to the preparation of the national and regional reports. She closed her remarks by noting the continued commitment of ECLAC to supporting this process.

4. The Economic Affairs Officer, Small Island Developing States Unit (SIDS Unit), DESA, brought greetings on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Chief of the SIDS Unit. She indicated that DESA and UN-OHRLLS were the two United Nations entities responsible for providing substantive support to the preparatory processes for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The Economic Affairs Officer added that this workshop was timely as all preparatory processes for the Samoa Pathway review were expected to be completed ahead of the start of the next General Assembly session in late September 2023. She went on to acknowledge the work of the regional commissions supporting SIDS in providing leadership, capacity development, and in advancing analytical and policy advisory services. The Officer noted that in preparation for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, regional commissions were again being asked to lead in the regional preparatory processes for the Samoa Pathway review and anchor national preparations, together with other United Nations system entities, to support the development of succinct and focused outcome documents. In keeping with the mandate of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly,¹ DESA thanked ESCAP and ECLAC for agreeing to undertake a test run of the Samoa Pathway Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. In closing, she reiterated the Department's commitment to support, within its mandate, the hosting of a successful conference in 2024 and a strong focused outcome document.

5. The Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit outlined the workshop objectives, which included the following:

- Identify and agree on a core set of indicators to be used as part of the monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Discuss and agree on the methodology to be used in the preparation of the national, regional and global reports.
- Review and agree on the outline for the national, regional and global reports.
- Identify the type and format of data required, which organizations that data should be sourced from and the requirements for coordination.
- Agree on a timeline for the preparation and submission of national and regional reports.

2. Planning for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States: the process

6. The Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DESA, provided the workshop with an overview of the draft resolution on the Samoa Pathway modalities, titled "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", which would be expected to be adopted by the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly. She highlighted selected paragraphs relating to the preparatory processes for assessing the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as well as outlining the expected outcomes of the Conference. She noted that because this draft resolution had items on programme budget allocations, it was required to go through additional steps before it could be adopted by the General Assembly by the end of December 2022. She then outlined in more details the expected outputs and timelines towards the preparation of the Conference. These included three SIDS regional consultations and an interregional meeting expected to take place between July and September 2023.

7. The Economic Affairs Officer, DESA, informed the workshop that a Preparatory Committee for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States was to be established and that its first meeting in 2023 was expected to address the outstanding modalities associated with the Conference.

¹ General Assembly resolution 76/203 of 5 January 2022.

The remaining meetings of this Committee were expected to take place in 2024 and to focus on advancing the text of the outcome document.

8. In relation to the preparation of the national implementation reports, she indicated that these reports would be voluntary for Member States. The workshop was informed that DESA would seek to provide financial support to countries willing to prepare national reports. She noted that due to the proposed dates for the regional consultations, reports should be finalized no later than mid-to-late April 2023 to allow for incorporation into the regional synthesis reports. As such, regional reports were to be finalized by mid-to-late July 2023 in preparation for the regional consultations.

9. It was noted that negotiations on the zero draft outcome document would likely commence in early 2024. The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States was expected to take place in Antigua and Barbuda in the summer of 2024.

10. Participants thanked the Economic Affairs Officer for her presentation outlining the processes and milestones towards the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. One of the points raised in relation to African SIDS was the need to cost translation services due to the multiple languages spoken in this region. Participants also queried the expected role of the regional commissions in mobilizing Member States in preparing national reports. The DESA representative noted that regional commissions were expected to play a major role in providing support to countries in the preparation of their reports.

3. Methodological approach to be utilized for preparation of reports

11. The Statistician, ESCAP, provided the workshop with an overview of the methodological approach utilized for the quantitative analysis in the preparation of the 2022 Secretary-General's report on the Samoa Pathway implementation. The workshop was informed that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/217, a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework was developed in 2021 to monitor the Samoa Pathway implementation. To reduce the reporting burden on countries, this framework consisted of indicators from Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Eight new indicators that were not part of any existing M&E framework were proposed. The workshop was informed that for ease of analysis the 30 clusters outlined under the Samoa Pathway were organized under five thematic areas. As the first test run, an analysis of all 93 SDG indicators was undertaken with data being obtained from the Global SDG Indicators Database. In the analysis, it was noted that, as part of the calculation process, several filters were applied and that many data sets were not used due to insufficient data points or redundancies. With the remaining data sets, the calculation process –in the figures provided in the report– sought to determine trends defined as: progress, stagnation, regression and no data. The Statistician then outlined limitations and challenges experienced in utilizing the methodological approach based on the M&E framework. These included that the Samoa Pathway had no defined targets, data was only utilized from the Global SDG Indicators Database to inform the Secretary-General's report and only data series with two or more data points were used. Due to unavailability of required data sets, seven of the Samoa Pathway clusters could not be assessed.

12. The Statistician went on to outline suggestions for short- and long-term approaches which could be adopted to strengthen the quantitative assessment both for the 2023 report preparations and in the ensuing years. In support of the regional Samoa Pathway implementation reports to be prepared in 2023, it was suggested that the same methodological approach used for the 2022 Secretary-General's report could be used with the inclusion of the Sendai Framework indicators. In relation to national data, he suggested that countries might wish to consider developing national data dashboards based on existing global data sets. More long-term suggestions for the preparation of regional reports included undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the quantitative framework with relevant custodian agencies. Once this was achieved,

he suggested the development of an approach to populate the Global SDG Indicators Database, after which the methodological approach used for the 2022 Secretary-General's report would be used to identify progress. To support the quantitative analysis at the national level in the long-term, it was suggested that SIDS could adopt an approach similar to a National SDG Tracker system that ESCAP implemented with their Member States to report against the SDGs. This approach could be adapted and used to track the implementation of the next 10-year SIDS priority action plan.

13. The Sustainable Development Officer, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, outlined the methodological approach utilized in undertaking the assessment for the qualitative (policy-related) indicators outlined under the M&E framework. She noted that a desk review of literature and information from regional commissions, other United Nations agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, donor organizations and national reports from SIDS was used to provide a baseline assessment of policies supportive of the Samoa Pathway implementation. She noted that the Samoa Pathway policy-related clusters were placed within the same five thematic areas used for the quantitative assessment. In relation to the constraints and limitations observed, she noted that there were data and other information gaps, and that the policy analysis conducted in 2022 was only carried out for two of the three SIDS regions.

14. The Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DESA, provided further information on the Samoa Pathway – Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. She noted that past Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway were not providing measurable data on its progress. In this regard and through the General Assembly resolution 74/217, a decision was taken for the development of a framework aligned with the SDGs, Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement. In addition to measuring implementation progress, this same resolution also included the requirement to map data gaps relevant for the reporting of the Samoa Pathway. DESA in 2021 developed the M&E framework which included both quantitative and qualitative indicators to support the Samoa Pathway reporting requirements. The workshop was informed that ECLAC and ESCAP tested this framework in preparing their contributions for the Secretary-General's report covering the period of August 2021 to July 2022.

15. The consultant responsible for the preparation of the M&E framework also informed the meeting that validation workshops were undertaken in 2021 in all three SIDS regions and that more recently consultations were held with SIDS to discuss the use of a core set of indicators. She also noted that the Samoa Pathway had no targets but indicated that this should not prevent the workshop from trying to measure rates of change.

16. Workshop participants expressed support for the adoption of the proposed methodological approach outlined by ESCAP and ECLAC for reporting on the progress of Samoa Pathway. For the preparation of the regional reports, the workshop agreed on including the Sendai Framework indicators. They acknowledged the data gaps that many SIDS may face in obtaining national data to inform the development of national reports. Further, the workshop also endorsed the recommendation of filling national SIDS data gaps in the longer term.

17. The Statistician, Statistics Division, indicated that the data included in the Global SDG Indicators Database came directly from the SDG custodian agencies and in keeping with their respective mandates. She noted that the Statistics Division received country level data, regional and global aggregates that had already been standardized by the custodian agencies before the data was submitted to the platform. She went on to note that some of the indicators outlined within the platform were very established, whilst for others, custodian agencies had just started to collate these data sets. She confirmed that seeking to fill data gaps for certain indicator sets within the next three months would have been a difficult endeavour.

4. Data and data mining

18. The Statistician, Statistics Division, presented the Global SDG Indicators Database. She informed the workshop participants that the data platform was launched in 2021 and consisted of a wide range of data including: country level data, as well as regional and global aggregates for 219 of the 231 SDG indicators. She stated that it was possible to undertake queries and download data for the entire SDG framework, as well as specific geographical areas or for selected countries. She noted that data was also collected for certain groupings and that SIDS fell within one of these groupings. The workshop participants were informed that most of the data in the platform covered the period between 2015 and 2022. She went on to note that a few of the indicators on the platform also had sub-indicators.

19. The Statistician noted that it was possible to view country profiles in the data platform where data existed. She informed the workshop that the database was constantly being updated and that the new SDG analytics option allowed the user to analyse data by availability and observe regional and global trends. The Statistician also indicated that the database was updated four times a year, these being end of March; beginning of July; end of September and mid-December. She noted that the Secretary-General's report and the glossary report were prepared during the first quarter of the year and published by July each year.

20. Participants expressed their thanks to the representative of the Statistics Division for the presentation of the Global SDG Indicators Database. A query pertaining to the alignment of data received from multiple custodian agencies for one indicator was raised. In her response, she noted that custodian agencies had submitted data aligned with a methodology agreed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and stated that when there were multiple custodian agencies responsible for an indicator, the agencies would coordinate amongst themselves to make a single submission aligned with the agreed metadata. Another participant noted that one indicator did not have any custodian agencies associated with it. The representative of the Statistics Division reiterated that there were still 12 indicators lacking data. In relation to queries that were not possible to undertake through the data platform, she noted that requests to support such queries could be sent to her Division and they would undertake the query through the back-end and share the findings accordingly.

21. The Sustainable Development Officer, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, noted the need to have a common agreement on the type of data and its format to support the preparation of the national and regional Samoa Pathway reports. She noted that the quantitative analysis undertaken for the 2022 Secretary-General's report used a traffic light system with the data for the quantitative assessment sourced from the Global SDG Indicator Platform. There was agreement that other data sources should be used to fill data gaps, and to allow for comparisons it was important that these new data sources were in the same format as the data in the platform. It was further suggested that the Commissions reach out to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) very early to ask about the data associated with the Sendai Framework indicators. Such a discussion could assist the agencies better determine the compatibility of different data sets. The term qualitative indicator was confusing because it was sometimes dependent on quantitative data and as such, the term policy indicators was preferred.

22. The workshop participants also discussed the possibility of adding new indicators into the M&E framework. Workshop participants were reminded that the Statistician, ESCAP, had recommended that the Samoa Pathway Monitoring and Evaluation Framework be discussed with custodian agencies in the long term to ensure that the best indicators were being proposed. However, this conversation would most likely take place once the new 10-year SIDS agreement was adopted. The workshop further noted that some of the new indicators that agencies wished to propose did not align with the Samoa Pathway priorities. Participants also considered the possibility of extracting information from other reports that Member States prepared such as the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) on the SDGs. However, it was noted that, at least for the Caribbean region, the VNRs were not prepared in alignment with the Samoa Pathway implementation priorities.

23. The Statistician, ECLAC, facilitated the discussion related to the strategy for engaging non-custodian agencies in providing data sets to support the regional reports. The Sustainable Development Officer introduced the issue noting that whilst there were data gaps on the Global SDG Indicator Platform for SIDS data, many regional intergovernmental organizations were understood to have SIDS data. She noted that for the quantitative indicators, the data on the platform was recognized as globally approved data, making it difficult to use other data sets from other sources. This issue did not pertain to the policy indicators, which were easier to access by regional intergovernmental organizations. This issue was reiterated by the Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DESA, who indicated that in preparing the 2022 Secretary-General's report, quantitative data sets were only used from the platform. She went on to state that upon review of the report, many of SIDS queried the information presented noting that more updated data was available from regional intergovernmental organizations. As such, moving forward, it was suggested that the platform could be used as the primary data source and that the data housed within regional intergovernmental organizations could be used to fill in data gaps. Workshop participants considered this recommendation but noted that data not produced by countries should be sent to them for validation with methodological notes.

24. Participants also asked about the possibility of identifying data gaps for certain indicators and what recommendations could be made to build and strengthen the reporting and validation process within Member States. In response, reference was made to a table which was shared as part of a previous presentation which identified indicators with data gaps. It was further noted that highlighting data challenges faced by SIDS was also important, particularly where there was evidence to support this point. It was also noted that it would be important to provide countries with the opportunity to identify national data gaps and other statistical priorities.

25. Some workshop participants expressed concern about Member States' ability to prepare and submit a national report containing both a policy and quantitative analysis by mid-April 2023, whilst also doing quality control on the data points. In light of these concerns, it was recommended that participants consider tempering the request to countries. Instead, countries could be asked to focus their reporting on the policy indicators and highlight any transformative policies and actions required for recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional commissions would then focus on reporting on trends in relation to the quantitative indicators, as well as amalgamating responses related to the policy indicators for inclusion into the regional synthesis reports. This view however was not shared by all, and it was noted that it would have been unfortunate not to take advantage of obtaining information unavailable on the platform directly from SIDS, particularly as some of the indicators in the Samoa Pathway Monitoring and Evaluation Framework did not overlap with the SDG indicators. The messaging to SIDS in relation to the preparation of the national reports was noted as important and something that would require additional consideration. The potential role of the Resident Coordinator Offices in providing support to the process was also raised.

5. Monitoring and evaluation framework

26. The Sustainable Development Officer, UN-OHRLLS, introduced the consultant who worked on the development of the M&E framework. She informed the workshop that UN-OHRLLS had hosted consultations in previous weeks with their SIDS national focal points who reviewed and discussed the core set of indicators that were developed to support national Samoa Pathway implementation reports submitted by Member States.

27. The UN-OHRLLS consultant provided the workshop with an overview of the M&E framework that was developed for DESA, noting that the Samoa Pathway had 71 policy/qualitative priorities and 68 quantitative priorities, which were grouped in 30 clusters. Eighty-one indicators have been mapped to the qualitative/policy priorities, whilst 108 indicators have been mapped to the quantitative priorities, with most of the indicators included in the M&E framework emanating from the SDG M&E framework.

She indicated that discussions in the workshop had been centered around the issue of reporting, more specifically what data and information that needed to be included in the Samoa Pathway implementation reports. She noted that much of the discussion focused on the lack of data and cautioned participants of getting too caught up on this issue and losing sight of the responsibility to present on SIDS progress on the Samoa Pathway using tangible data sets. This data, she noted, would be part of the national reports prepared by SIDS. She acknowledged that there were challenges which needed to be addressed related to reporting on the policy and quantitative indicators for both national and regional reports, many of which were highlighted in previous agenda items. She noted that the issue of use of data could be controversial, particularly in relation to what data sets should be used when highlighting SIDS progress.

28. The consultant informed the workshop that, to reduce the reporting burden, UN-OHRLLS had contracted her to develop a core set of 70 quantitative indicators, along with the already existing policy indicators for SIDS to report on, as part of their respective national reports. During the consultations held to review these core indicators, different responses were received from the three SIDS groupings on their ability to identify data sets to report on the proposed core indicators. In closing, she reminded the workshop participants of maximizing the opportunity to test this M&E framework both at the national and regional levels, and that lack of data was critical information which should be highlighted, as it could result in data development support for the SIDS moving forward.

29. In the discussion which followed, workshop participants noted that whilst the issues raised in the presentation were important, the timeframe for the preparation of both national and regional reports was very short, and as such, the challenges tabled would unlikely to be addressed in the short-term. Noting the major constraint in the time allocated for the preparation of reports, participants queried if the preparatory processes could not have commenced earlier. It was however noted that it would have been difficult to begin engaging Member States without a clear United Nations mandate –achieved through the adoption of the modalities resolution– and without the availability of resources needed to support the countries and regional commissions in the preparation of national and regional reports and the hosting of the regional and interregional consultations. Considering the constraints and challenges faced, it was noted that United Nations agencies needed to be very strategic in relation to what information countries would be requested to submit to inform the regional synthesis reports. It was noted that Member States would also be asked to submit national reports for the high-level political forum in 2023.

30. One recommendation which was raised included following a process similar to that of the VNRs reporting process. Through this process, regional consultations were organized, and countries were encouraged to come to the consultation with draft reports. Another recommendation which was suggested included the allocation of different deadlines for the submission of national reports addressing policy and quantitative indicators. There was agreement amongst the workshop participants that reporting on the policy indicators might be easier than reporting on the quantitative indicators due to quality control measures required for quantitative data sets.

31. The Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DESA, noted that the regional commissions supporting Caribbean and Pacific SIDS had provided a comprehensive baseline for the policy indicators as part of the 2022 Secretary-General's report and that similar baseline reports would be required for the African SIDS and Bahrain. There was also discussion on whether these baseline reports should be shared with the SIDS for validation.

32. The Sustainable Development Officer, Development Coordination Office (DCO), informed the workshop that the Resident Coordinator (RC) system was committed and willing to assist in the preparation of reports on the Samoa Pathway implementation. She noted that the RC system had a wealth of information and that the common regulatory frameworks contain national level information and encouraged the use of the common country analysis which was updated annually. She went on to note that the RC systems could

provide support to the process through their data officers, communication officers and economists and encouraged the commissions to make use of these services. She noted that it was important to get a sense of the support required from the RC system moving forward to ensure that they planned accordingly.

6. Outline/structure: the 10-year review report of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway

33. The Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DESA, introduced the agenda item, informing participants that the draft outline that would be presented was to support the preparation of the national, regional, and to a lesser extent, contribute to the global synthesis reports. She noted that in previous iterations, it was not possible to compare reports between countries and across regions as a standardized outline was not applied.

34. The Sustainable Development Officer, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, presented a draft outline for the Samoa Pathway reports for the consideration of the workshop participants. The draft outline is included as annex II to this report. During her presentation, the Sustainable Development Officer noted that the intention was that this outline would be used by Member States, as well as regional commissions, when preparing both the national and regional reports. She noted that by utilizing the same outline, comparison amongst countries and between regions would be possible particularly if both Member States and regional commissions were utilizing the same methodology. She stated that the outline incorporated the five thematic areas proposed by ESCAP colleagues and included in the Secretary-General's report. She went on to note that the outline was developed in such a way which would allow countries to report only on the indicators that they were interested in, and it would also allow them to choose whether they wanted to focus on reporting only on policy indicators or on both policy and quantitative indicators.

35. During the discussion which followed the presentation, workshop participants noted that the outline was well-structured and thought out and for the most part endorsed its use. One participant queried whether the same outline would be used when preparing national and regional reports, which was confirmed. It was suggested that the outline should be shared with SIDS as a guide, with Member States being allowed to determine what indicator clusters they would wish to report on. However, it was agreed that regional commissions should utilize the full outline when preparing their reports. Other participants stated that the document should not be very long, especially for national reporting, and that a word limit for sections should be included. This recommendation was endorsed by all and the regional commissions were given that responsibility of determining word limits. Participants were also encouraged to review the 2022 Secretary-General's report which used graphs and provided a general analysis of the findings and trends in relation to what can be expected for the 2023 reports. Participants were encouraged to use charts and figures as much as possible, as readers would prefer to see these in reports instead of large sections of text. The Sustainable Development Officer, DCO, reminded the workshop participants of the common country analysis which contained lots of information on the impact of the pandemic and the global conflict on the economy of SIDS.

36. There was a discussion in relation to whether the methodology for identifying progression, regression, stagnation (traffic light system) as part of the 2022 Secretary-General's report should be revisited. The Associate Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, indicated that the traffic light system used a benchmark of 0.5 per cent to indicate progression and regression once a country was found to have at least two data points for a specific indicator. He noted that it would have been ideal if the approach used in the 2022 Secretary-General's report was supported by literature or empirical data but understood this was due to general unavailability of data, a more pragmatic approach had to be adopted. It was thus suggested that it was unlikely that the methodology would be revisited for the next 10-year review period. Despite this challenge, participants expressed support for the use of the traffic light system, a methodology used globally for decades. The Statistician of the Economic Commission

for Africa noted that a cluster had multiple indicators, and in determining trends at the cluster level, consideration should be given to aggregating data sets. He noted that they had utilized a similar approach when assessing SDG progress for African member States. The Statistician went on to note that it would be important for Member States and regional commissions to utilize the same data sets.

37. The UN-OHRLLS consultant also expressed support for the proposed outline, particularly the way the clusters had been integrated into the five thematic areas. She noted that authors often need to decide how much technical analysis should be included in a report, particularly in instances when data availability was an issue. She noted however that whilst an indicator could be progressing overall, within a 10-year period there could be instances where it could be accelerating or decelerating and a figure would not depict such. As such, she suggested the possible inclusion of a technical note providing additional analysis as an annex. In relation to the issue of data availability, it was noted that this would be an issue for Member States and that as much as possible they should be allowed to pick and choose what they report on within the context of the agreed outline.

7. Next steps

38. The Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DESA, took the floor to indicate that the four meetings pertaining to the preparatory processes of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States needed to take place before the start of the session of the 2023 General Assembly in mid-September, as mandated by the 2022 Samoa Pathway resolution expected to be approved in December of the same year. In relation to the draft outline and methodological approach presented at this workshop, she requested that any additional comments be shared by latest, end of December 2022, which would allow countries to receive the communication about the preparations of the national reports at the beginning of January 2023. Taking the preparations of the VNRs as a benchmark, it was estimated that the national reporting process – the first stage of the Samoa Pathway reporting process – would require approximately three months to be completed. Given the general timeframe mandated by the resolution, the completion of that stage would need to happen no later than end of April 2023. This would then mean that the regional commissions would focus on the preparation of the regional reports between April and July. Based on this timeline, the commissions would be required to produce an advanced draft of the regional reports to support the regional consultations by end of June to mid-July.

39. The Economic Affairs Officer, DESA, indicated that there was very little room available to shift the dates of meetings beyond the September 2023 deadline articulated in the modalities resolution. She went on to point out that the financial resources available to support the preparatory processes was a main constraint especially as extrabudgetary funds would need to be mobilized to fund the regional and interregional meetings. She noted that the thrust to pursue funds would come after the approval of the modalities resolution in December 2022. In closing, the Officer requested feedback from participants on the timelines and conditions presented.

40. In the discussion that followed, workshop participants noted that the availability of resources to Member States and regional commissions in a timely manner was critical for planning and achieving the proposed timeframe. The Economic Affairs Officer, DESA, noted that the amount of US\$ 5,000 per country was made available to support the national reporting processes; this budget could cover consultancy fees and costs associated with consultations/workshops, but additional budget lines would need to be mobilized to cover potential travel costs. Participants then debated strategies to better utilize those funds, such as the pooling of resources across subregions to hire experts or to host workshops to assist groups of SIDS in the preparation of the national reports. In addition to determining if this was possible, participants requested clarification on how the budget allocations would be made available, for example directly to the regional commissions or through DESA for disbursement to Member States.

41. The Economic Affairs Officer, DESA, indicated that the budget distribution information had not been shared with potential donors. As such, participants were invited to provide her office with other ideas for how best to utilize resources within their regions. The Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP, noted that considering the limited financial resources, the availability of human resources provided via the Resident Coordinator system would be important to support the process. It was noted that the common country analysis should be considered as a data source for the preparation of the national reports.

42. Participants questioned Member States' ability to produce high quality reports within a three-month period, especially in a context of competing priorities. It was noted that three months might not be sufficient as the production of a VNR report for a Pacific SIDS in 2022 took approximately seven months. It was also noted that the timeline should include time for countries to review and endorse the draft regional reports, as it may affect how they are received during the regional meetings. Acknowledging that uncertainties still existed in relation to the preparation and submission of the national reports, it was recommended that a short follow-up discussion be held the following week with UN-OHRLS, DESA and the regional commissions to clarify their plans, deadlines, and expectations for the national reports.

43. Participants queried the strategy to mobilize and sensitize Member States about the national reporting process. The Economic Affairs Officer, DESA, indicated that the initial official channel of communication would be the Permanent Representations in New York, but additional entry points would also be mobilized to ensure expediency. She also indicated the interest expressed by other United Nations institutions to collaborate in the process, so they would also need to be contacted to ensure their early involvement and contributions.

8. Workshop conclusion

44. The Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean noted that the workshop was able to successfully achieve its objectives. She then went on to outline the workshop outputs, which included:

- Agreement that the overarching Samoa Pathway Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will be used in the preparation of regional synthesis reports.
- Endorsement of the methodological approach to be used for the preparation of the national and regional synthesis reports.
- Endorsement of the outline/structure for the review of Samoa Pathway implementation reports.
- Agreement on the timeline for the preparation of national and regional synthesis reports.

45. The Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, on behalf of the Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, thanked all participants for their participation during the workshop despite the differing time zones. Special thanks went to the notetakers and the ECLAC team in Port of Spain for their support in the preparations of the workshop.

46. The Economic Affairs Officer, SIDS Unit, DESA, expressed thanks to all the workshop participants for engaging in these important discussions towards the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. She noted that by expressing a willingness to use the M&E framework for the regional reports, the regional commissions would provide countries with information supported by data allowing them to make more informed decisions.

47. The Coordinator adjourned the workshop on Thursday 15 December 2022 at 3 p.m.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. United Nations Secretariat****Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**

- Bartholomew Armah, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, email: armahb@un.org
- Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, email: jean-paul.adam@un.org
- Angela Kiconco, Statistician, African Centre of Statistics, email: angela.kiconco@un.org
- Citra Kumala, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Development Planning Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, email: citra.kumala@un.org
- Freida M'Cormack, Programme Management Officer, email: mcormack@un.org
- Leandre Ngogang Wandji, Statistician, African Centre for Statistics, email: ngogangwandji@un.org
- Aster Denekeew Yilma, Geographic Information Officer, African Centre for Statistics, email: denekeewa@un.org

Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa (ESCWA)

- Youssef Chaitani, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, email: chaitani@un.org
- Raffaele Bertini, Economic Affairs Officer, email: raffaele.bertini@un.org

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, email: basu@un.org
- Christopher Ryan, Statistician, email: ryanc@un.org

Development Coordination Office (DCO)

- Carmen Arguello, Sustainable Development Officer, email: carmen.arguello@un.org

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

- Anya Ihsan Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer, Small Island Developing States Unit (SIDS Unit), Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), email: thomasa@un.org
- Harumi Shibata Salazar, Statistician, Development Data Section, Development Data and Outreach Branch, Statistics Division, email: shibata@un.org
- Saeko Kajima, Associate Sustainable Development Officer, email: kajima@un.org

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

- Miniva Chibuye, Sustainable Development Officer, Small Island Developing States Unit (SIDS Unit), email: chibuye@un.org
- Olney Daly, consultant, email: otd229@hotmail.com

B. Secretariat**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

- Daniel Taccari, Chief, Innovation, Statistical Dissemination and Sustainable Development Goals Unit, email: daniel.taccari@cepal.org
- Georgina Alcantar, Statistician, Environment and Climate Change Statistics Unit, email: georgina.alcantarlopez@cepal.org
- Raquel Frederick, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, email: raquel.frederick@cepal.org
- Alynn Sanchez, Statistics Assistant, email: alynn.sanchez@cepal.org

ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico

- Adrien Randolph Gilbert, Coordinator and Focal Point for Haiti, email: randolph.gilbert@cepal.org

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Artie Dubrie, Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, email: artie.dubrie@eclac.org
- Laverne Walker, Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, email: laverne.walker@eclac.org
- Jônatas de Paula, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, email: jonatas.depaula@eclac.org
- Daniel Leon Barboza, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit, email: daniel.leon1@eclac.org
- Elizabeth Thorne, Economic Affairs Assistant, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, email: elizabeth.thorne@eclac.org
- Esther Chong Ling, Programme Management Assistant, Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, email: esther.kissoon@eclac.org

Annex II**PROPOSED OUTLINE: SAMOA PATHWAY REVIEW REPORTS**

(For discussion)

Acronyms

Executive Summary

I. Introduction*(This section outlines the purpose and mandate for the report, as well as the objective of the report.)***II. Country/Region (AIS, Caribbean, Pacific) Overview***(This section describes the country or region. If country, its size, population, main economic activities, debt to GDP ratios, threats and vulnerabilities. For a region, the number of SIDS found within that region, the main economic activities, vulnerabilities and threats, etc).***III. Background - SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda***(This section outlines the history and timeframe of the SIDS development agenda from the BPOA, MSI and SAMOA. Why each program was perceived to be important to a country and region and what were the challenges and/or main successes faced in the implementation of BPOA and MSI.)***IV. Methodology and Limitations***(The methodological approach to undertake the analysis which informed the report will be outlined here. This will include the use of a monitoring and evaluation framework based on the SDG, Sendai and Paris Agreement Frameworks. A description of how quantitative and qualitative/policy indicators were utilized will also be included. The data sources should be provided as well as any constraints and limitations faced.)***V. Findings and Analysis**

1. Thematic Area: Promote sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable transportation
 - a. Overview

(An overview of the clusters under this thematic area will be presented including the identification of any trends during the implementation of the SAMOA pathway. This will include whether there have been observations of progress, regression, or stagnation in relation to specific indicators where data is available. Where possible figures and charts should be used to support this overview.)

- b. Findings per cluster

(Findings and a short analysis from the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative indicators per cluster will be presented below. Any trends observed over time will be identified.)

- i. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all
 - ii. Sustainable tourism
 - iii. Sustainable transportation
 - iv. Sustainable consumption and production
 - v. Education
2. Thematic Area: Act to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by implementing sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction programmes
 - a. Overview

- b. Findings per cluster
 - i. Climate change
 - ii. Sustainable energy
 - iii. Disaster risk reduction
- 3. Thematic Area: Protect the biodiversity and environmental health of small island developing States by mitigating the impact of invasive species and by properly managing chemicals and water, including hazardous waste, and protecting the oceans and seas
 - a. Overview
 - b. Findings per cluster
 - i. Oceans and seas
 - ii. Management of chemicals and waste
 - iii. Biodiversity
 - iv. Desertification, land degradation and drought
 - v. Forests
 - vi. Invasive alien species
- 4. Thematic Area: Improve human health and social development through food security and nutrition and improved water and sanitation and by reducing the incidence of non-communicable diseases and promoting gender equity and women's empowerment
 - a. Overview
 - b. Findings per clusters
 - i. Food security and nutrition
 - ii. Water and sanitation
 - iii. Health and non-communicable diseases
 - iv. Gender and women's empowerment
 - v. Social development
 - vi. Culture and Sport
 - vii. Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities
- 5. Thematic Area: Fostering partnerships among small island developing States, United Nations agencies, development partners and others to achieve the goals
 - a. Overview
 - b. Findings per clusters
 - i. Means of implementation
 - ii. Partnerships
 - iii. Financing
 - iv. Trade
 - v. Capacity building
 - vi. Technology
 - vii. Data and Statistics
 - viii. Role of UN system and IGOs
 - ix. Institutional support for SIDS

VI. Gaps and Challenges

(Discussion of gaps and challenges that have hindered the successful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway will be presented under this section. Examples could include COVID 19 pandemic, unforeseen national disasters which caused a redirection of development funds, global conflict, etc.)

VII. Recommendations for addressing identified gaps and challenges

(Proposals for addressing the gaps and challenges identified under section VI are outlined here, including the required resources.)

a. National

(Identification of any recommendations that should be implemented at the national level for addressing identified gaps and challenges.)

b. Regional

(Identification of any recommendations that should be implemented at the regional level for addressing identified gaps and challenges.)

c. Inter-regional

(Identification of any recommendations that should be implemented at the inter-regional level for addressing identified gaps and challenges.)

d. International

(Identification of any recommendations that should be implemented at the international level for addressing identified gaps and challenges.)

VIII. Identification of priorities for Fourth International Conference on SIDS

(Identify priorities, new and existing, that should be considered as part of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS)

Annex III**PROGRAMME*****Day 1***

1300 hrs – 1320 hrs

Opening of the session

Welcome remarks (*ECLAC and DESA*)
Workshop Objectives (ECLAC)
 20 mins

1320 hrs – 1420 hrs

Planning for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States – The Process

- Presentation of Resolution A/C.2/77/L.22
- a. Overview of processes and agreed milestones towards the 4th International Conference on SIDS
- b. Process and timeline for the development of national implementation reports
- c. Process and timeline for the development of regional implementation reports
- d. Process and timeline for the development of an outcome document for the 4th International Conference on SIDS (*DESA*)
60 mins

1420 hrs – 1430 hrs

Coffee/Cell Phone Break

1430 hrs – 1530 hrs

Methodological Approach to be Utilized for Preparation of Reports

- Overview and background of the draft Methodological Approach, including thematic areas, used for the 2022 Review of SAMOA Pathway implementation (*ESCAP, ECLAC*)
- Discussion on limitations, challenges, and suggestions for improving methodology (*ESCAP, ECLAC*)
- Utilizing the methodological approach for preparation of the UNSG-annual reports and the 10-year review of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (2014-2024) (*Facilitator*)
60 mins

1530 hrs – 1600hrs

Day 1 Wrap – up and closure*TBC****Day 2***

1300 hrs – 1310 hrs

Opening of the session 2*TBC*

1310 hrs – 1410 hrs

Data and data mining

- Data mining on the SDG Platform (*Statistics Division*)
- What types of data are required and in what format, for reporting (quantitative and qualitative)
- (*ECLAC, ESCAP*)
Identify which United Nations Custodian agencies should be engaged to provide required data sets (*Regional Commissions*)
60 mins

1410 hrs – 1420 hrs	<u>Coffee/Cell Phone Break</u>
1420 hrs – 1500 hrs	<u>Data and data mining (cont'd)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy for engaging and utilizing data from non-custodian intergovernmental agencies (e.g. PIF, SPC, CARICOM, SPREP, Africa Union, others and other United Nations organizations) (<i>Facilitator</i>) - Strategy for incorporating Member States and Territories data from national progress reports into regional reports) (<i>Facilitator</i>) <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>40 mins</i></p>
1500 hrs – 1540 hrs	<u>Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to agenda item <i>Miniva Chibuye, Sustainable Development Officer, SIDS Unit, OHRLLS</i> - Presentation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and core set of indicators to be used to frame the National Reports <i>Olney Daly, Consultant, OHRLLS</i> - Discussion and agreement on indicators to be used as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, in preparation of the reports. (<i>Do they align with the cluster approach utilized for the 2021 annual report</i>) (<i>Participants</i>) <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>50 mins</i></p>
1540 hrs – 1600hrs	<u>Day 2 Wrap – up and closure</u> <i>ECLAC</i>
	<i>Day 3</i>
1300 hrs – 1310 hrs	<u>Opening of the session 3</u> <i>TBC</i>
1310 hrs – 1410 hrs	<u>Outline/structure the 10-year review report of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed structure and outline of 10-year national and regional reports (ECLAC) - Consideration of elements of the synthesis report (<i>Participants</i>) - Discussion and recommendations for improvement of outline (<i>Participants</i>) <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>60 mins</i></p>
1410 hrs – 1420 hrs	<u>Coffee/Cell Phone Break</u>
1420 hrs – 1500 hrs	<u>Next steps</u> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The Workshop agrees on next steps including who does what, and by when. <i>(This will also include an updated timeline which will include agreed dates for submission of national and regional reports which need to feed into the broader processes related to preparations for the Fourth International Conference on SIDS. Date for meeting with custodian agencies)</i> (<i>Facilitator</i>)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>40 mins</i></p>
1500 hrs – 1510hrs	<u>Workshop Wrap – up and closure</u> <i>ECLAC, DESA</i>



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org