



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 December 2020

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 19 (b)

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

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2020

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/75/457/Add.2](#), para. 13)]

75/215. 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

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹ is a stand-alone, overarching framework setting out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States that builds on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States² and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ and recognizing that the Samoa Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁵ and is in line with the

¹ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

² *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁵ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.



Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁶ the New Urban Agenda⁷ and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁸

Reaffirming also that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, renewing thus our solidarity with them, as they continue to face the combined challenges arising, in particular, from their geographical remoteness, the small scale of their economies, high costs and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and remaining particularly concerned that many small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Acknowledging the severe consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the sustainable development of small island developing States envisioned in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including the far-reaching and enduring consequences for poverty eradication, employment, growth and social welfare as a result of the unprecedented contraction of their economies, and noting with concern that the external debt stocks of small island developing States have increased by 70 percentage points since 2009, resulting in the average rate of external debt to gross domestic product in those States rising by 11 percentage points to 61.7 per cent in 2019, while the ability of those States to self-insure against exogenous shocks continues to deteriorate further, highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks,

Acknowledging also the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

Taking note with concern of the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the special reports entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

Welcoming the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September, noting its multi-partner initiatives and commitments, noting also the Youth Climate Summit, held on 21 September 2019, and stressing the urgent need

⁶ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

⁸ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in small island developing States,

Noting the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, acknowledging their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the call made in the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”,⁹ encouraging the fulfilment of voluntary commitments pledged in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and noting the decision to postpone the 2020 conference,¹⁰

Noting with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, welcoming the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020, at the level of Heads of State and Government, and looking forward to the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Underscoring the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and noting that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for small island developing States and other developing countries,

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation, and paragraph 22 of the Samoa Pathway, which underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to address the major challenges facing small island developing States,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹¹
2. *Welcomes* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration,¹² in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening cooperation with and support to small island developing States in the context of sustainable development, in line with their national development strategies and priorities, and looks forward to the implementation of the calls made in the political declaration;
3. *Reiterates* the call to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the

⁹ Resolution 71/312, annex.

¹⁰ Decision 74/548 of 13 April 2020.

¹¹ A/75/273.

¹² Resolution 74/3.

Declaration of Barbados¹³ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalls the discussion during the 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;

4. *Notes* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States have significantly expanded;¹⁴

5. *Notes with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

6. *Calls for* urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the Paris Agreement, to address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

7. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek new solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

8. *Calls for* immediate and substantial actions to facilitate the responses of small island developing States to recover from the unfolding crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and address the unprecedented health and economic crisis unfolding in such States, while preserving their sustainable development achievements and commitments, and reinforce their resilience to climate change in line with the Samoa Pathway and the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide recommendations, as part of his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use;

(b) To use his convening powers with the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to work on devising solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term;

9. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences

¹³ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

¹⁴ See [A/71/324](#), [A/71/324/Corr.1](#) and [A/71/324/Add.1](#).

and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;

10. *Reiterates* that many small island developing States continue to face the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and in this regard recognizes the economic challenges, including unsustainable debt levels, arising in part from extreme weather events and slow-onset events;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to conduct, in consultation with Member States, all relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, an examination of the disaster-related funding and support environment, with a view to the possible development of a targeted voluntary disaster fund, mechanism or financial instrument, coordinated with and complementary to existing mechanisms, to assist small island developing States in managing disaster risk and building back better after disasters, and to report thereon at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly;

12. *Reaffirms* that official development assistance, both technical and financial, can foster resilient societies and economies, and calls upon the international community to mobilize additional development finance from all sources and at all levels to support small island developing States' efforts;

13. *Calls upon* relevant institutions to learn from one another's efforts to address the diverse circumstances of countries, to better manage transitions and graduation, recognizes that official development assistance should continue to focus on countries most in need, and takes note of a willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to invite the World Bank to consider reviving the high-level working group among the development banks and its partners to review the rules governing access for small island developing States to concessional finance;

15. *Underlines* the need to take targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

16. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States is not possible without private investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be facilitated and attracted through the creation of an enabling environment and capacity support for small island developing States;

17. *Notes* the comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria by the Committee for Development Policy, which was concluded at the plenary of the Committee, in 2020;

18. *Recognizes with concern* the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, remains mindful that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multiannual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, inter alia, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macrofinancial stability;

19. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2020, within existing resources, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, convened in September 2019, and on the efforts to assist small island developing States to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic;

21. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General, within existing resources and in consultation with Member States, all relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, to identify the Samoa Pathway priority areas not covered by the Sustainable Development Goals or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and, if any are identified, to develop forthwith targets and indicators for those priority areas while ensuring complementarities and synergies and avoiding duplication, in order to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, and while noting the work being done by the Office of the High Representative to develop a toolkit for a harmonized approach to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway as a whole, and to provide recommendations as part of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “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”.

*48th plenary meeting
21 December 2020*