



*Moving towards a sustainable future for
SIDS*

**UNESCO Rolling Operational Strategy
for Small Island Developing States
2022- 2029**

Advanced Draft – 3 March 2023

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1. Background

UNESCO's Executive Board, at its 211th session (November 2021), adopted a decision (211 EX/5.1.C) to elaborate an Operational Strategy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to frame and lead the next actions through: (a) engaging with UNESCO sectors and offices for SIDS of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and the South China Sea and the Caribbean; and (b) consulting with all SIDS Member States. The Executive Board also requested the Secretariat to report regularly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, focusing on concrete measurable outcomes and impacts of the actions.

The present UNESCO Rolling Operational Strategy for Small Island Developing States 2022-2029 has been prepared under the coordination of the SIDS Section in close consultation with UNESCO Sectors and Field Offices operating within SIDS, as well as SIDS Member States, who had the opportunity to comment a zero draft version of the strategy between July 2022 and January 2023. An advanced draft has been further reviewed with sectors ADG's and with SIDS Member States in February 2023.

UNESCO counts with forty SIDS among its Member States and nine SIDS with Associate Member status, distributed across four regions (annex A). SIDS represent 21% of the Organization Member States and 82% of its Associate Members. The priority group status allocated to SIDS by UNESCO is a response to their specific needs and follows the increase priority allocated to SIDS by governments and other international organizations since almost three decades already.

UNESCO has been among the pioneers in the UN system supporting SIDS in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, mobilizing programmes and networks across all its sectors of competence, thus assisting SIDS in the implementation of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action, the 2005 Mauritius Strategy and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) in effect since 2014. As a follow-up to the Organization's commitment to implement the outcomes of the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa, UNESCO adopted and implemented the SIDS Action Plan (2016-2021), addressing the following five priority areas within UNESCO's mandate:

1. Enhancing island capacities to achieve sustainable development through education and the reinforcement of human and institutional capacities;
2. Enhancing SIDS resilience and the sustainability of human interactions with ecological, freshwater and ocean systems;
3. Supporting SIDS in the management of social transformations and the promotion of social inclusion and social justice;
4. Preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promoting culture for island sustainable development;
5. Increasing connectivity, information management and knowledge-sharing.

The 2019 review of the SIDS Action Plan (206 EX/13) highlighted the fact that this Plan offered effectively a framework for mainstreaming SIDS' issues and priorities within the UNESCO mandate, being also fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals as per the SAMOA Pathway, well echoing the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and of other relevant international frameworks. The same review stressed the fact that to be fully operational, however, such an Action Plan needed to be further tailored to key priorities at national or subregional level, to enhance financial and human resources, to improve internal coordination and strengthen intersectoral cooperation, monitoring, evaluation and communication.

The establishment of the SIDS Section under the overall authority of ADG/SC in February 2021 and the allocation, from the 41C/5 on, of an Output and related budget dedicated to SIDS

as a priority group (3.SC3 - SIDS empowered with strengthened capacities in UNESCO fields of expertise to better address their specific challenges), together with the consolidation of the network of SIDS focal points in sectors and relevant field offices, led to a significant improvement of coordination mechanisms as well as in programme delivery in favour of SIDS. However, most of the challenges and needs for improvement indicated by the 2019 review of the SIDS Action Plan remain and still require joint efforts between UNESCO, its Member States and non-governmental actors to ensure that the necessary resources and operational mechanisms are in place to facilitate cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches to advance the goals set for the implementation of the SAMOA pathway.

From a programmatic point of view, the strategy builds on past, current and anticipated needs of SIDS as assessed by the implementation of programmes, survey conducted during the elaboration of the C4/C5, inputs from SIDS National Commissions, UNESCO field offices and sectors, and drawn from various sources including identification of emerging needs during UNCT programming exercises.

UNESCO's strategic engagement with and for SIDS is fully in phase with the UNESCO 41 C/4 (2022-2029) which provides already an overarching framework – made of Strategic Objectives and Outcomes – based on which more detailed programmatic orientations of engagement with SIDS can be identified, then implemented, through workplans and related budgets as approved by the General Conference on a biennial basis (from 41 to 44 C/5). By this consolidated mechanism, programmatic orientations and the resulting actions and activities can be modified and adapted in the course of time to integrate emerging needs as identified by and with the SIDS, promoting inter-sectoral approaches, strengthening action on SIDS priorities, and fostering partnerships at the regional level, SIDS-SIDS cooperation and North-SIDS-SIDS triangular cooperation. This will materialize in particular in the adoption and implementation of Flagship Programmes for SIDS.

2. Increasing challenges for SIDS

SIDS are widely recognized as some of the most vulnerable countries in the world, and are distributed widely across the planet, notably in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS), the Caribbean and the Pacific. The aggregate population of SIDS is approximately 65 million people, heterogeneously distributed across countries. For instance, Haiti includes around 25% of the Caribbean population, and Papua New Guinea includes over 70% of the Pacific SIDS population. The overall youth population in SIDS (17%) is about the world average, however countries range between 7% in Cook Islands to 28% in Tokelau. The gender ratio is balanced, with an overall SIDS average of 101 males per 100 females, ranging from 85 in Curaçao to 173 in the Maldives.

SIDS are a distinct group of countries facing considerable social, economic, and environmental challenges. Notwithstanding their commonalities, SIDS have varying environments, economies, cultures, histories, and approaches to handling the attendant geographical, socio-ecological and human developmental factors, which leave them vulnerable to numerous external shocks and hazards.

Economic challenges

Island economies have tended to be service based (e.g., coastal tourism, creative industries, financial services) and commodity based (fisheries, oil/gas, lumber/wood). Agricultural land can be scarce and challenged by climatic conditions contributing to food insecurity, particularly in rural areas. Small and undiversified economies make it difficult to generate foreign

exchange, decent work and tax receipts. Although significant disparities exist between different SIDS, remittances are often one of the largest sources of external finance. These resources are provided by diaspora populations and often facilitated by regional migrant worker schemes. Retaining skilled workers is a common problem due lack of sufficient opportunities in SIDS. While new economic opportunities for SIDS are emerging, particularly around the renewable and efficient energy (green economy), ocean (blue economy) and digital and creative industries (orange economy) the reality is that investment is insufficient.

Medium sized privately owned and public private partnerships have been successful in a few sectors including transport and telecommunications. Small domestic market size, the high cost of doing business and perceived risks has focused foreign direct investment on few high return/low risk industries such as offshore banking, tourism, and extractive industries. There tend to be large informal sectors and many local micro enterprises. Governments have developed state-owned enterprises to fill gaps and maintain sovereignty over strategic services especially electricity, water and sanitation, ports, and airports, especially in microstates.

Recent global reforms related to anti-money laundering, anti-terrorism and just share of taxes, global minimum tax agreements have increased cost of financial services. High-income commodity exporters have experienced somewhat lessor impact from the recent pandemic and war. SIDS with diversified advanced economies (Singapore and Bahrain) and resources necessary to withstand external shocks are exceptions.

Access to concessional finance and debt sustainability are long standing issues. The need to request loans for climate-related disaster losses is particularly painful for SIDS, which as a group have been responsible for less than 2% of global emissions of greenhouse gases. The global community estimates on average SIDS disaster losses are between 2 and 4% of GDP per year. However, these statistics hide the fact that disasters can be devastating for specific islands and their cost can exceed the total annual GDP of the country.

About two thirds of SIDS are currently classified as middle- and high-income countries. Multilateral and regional development banks are significant partners, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the African (AfDB), Asian (ADB) and Caribbean (CDB) Development Banks, among others. Some SIDS also rely on commercial loans from state-owned or private banks from other countries. While 33 SIDS were eligible for ODA in 2021, the level of access is highly differentiated by income levels. In addition, 40 SIDS are eligible for climate finance, but the current international fiduciary, environmental and social standards make access extremely complex. SIDS with advanced economy status are often outliers.

SIDS external debt amounts on average to 72% of GDP, reaching up to 200% in the Seychelles and the Bahamas according to UNCTAD. Several SIDS are forced to take repeated loans to recover from shocks and to finance disaster risk reduction, and debt servicing cost can reach as high as 40% of public revenues. Combined with large recurrent costs associated with basic public services, SIDS tend to have limited fiscal space for public investment in adaptation and sustainable development goals.

While SIDS have so far been able to contain the health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are among the worst hit developing economies in economic and fiscal terms. In 2020 their GDP dropped by 6.9%, versus 4.8% in all other developing countries. This is mainly due to global contractions in two ocean economy sectors: coastal tourism and fisheries. The crisis is amplified by SIDS' structural vulnerabilities, such as over-reliance on a small number of economic sectors, high fiscal deficits and public debt levels, and significant constraints to the mobilization of both public and private finance (OECD, 2021).

Environmental challenges

SIDS are extremely important for global biodiversity as they harbour 20% of all plant, bird, and reptile species on only about 3% of the Earth's land surface.

They are custodian of a wealth of land and marine biodiversity and ecosystems with a concentration of endemic species unmatched elsewhere on earth because of their isolation. Recognized as some of the most biologically and culturally diverse countries in the world, SIDS find themselves facing new challenges, placing some in extreme vulnerability. Islands generally have fragile ecosystems, with high vulnerability to natural hazards and disasters, multiple threats to biodiversity and to freshwater resources, degradation of coastal environments, invasive species, plastic and other pollution pressures to soil and water, and experiencing climate change impacts on land and ocean ecosystems. The SAMOA Pathway strongly highlights these risks and seeks to address them.

Natural and anthropogenic hazards affecting SIDS include droughts, floods, storms, hurricanes or cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. A single event can result in devastating losses, with no parallel to the impact experienced by advanced economies. The increasing intensity and frequency of these hazards, plus long-term and persistent risks including ocean acidification, threaten food and water systems, coral reef ecosystems and undermine the security of people living on low-lying atolls and remote and coastal areas. The resilience of SIDS and, thus, their ability to recover from such shocks, is often weakened by the underlying economic and social challenges described above and below and a lack of accessible and usable ocean-related data, information and knowledge. Universal access to water and sanitation is off track across SIDS.

Social challenges

SIDS face many challenges and their inhabitants continue to develop strategies that make them resourceful, adaptable, and resilient. Indigenous practices are grounded in the principles of inter-generational stewardship of the natural environment. SIDS cultural expressions and expressions are diverse and vibrant and offer a wealth of knowledge systems and practices that form the bedrock of resilience and are essential for the sustainable development of SIDS.

There are limited economic opportunities, especially for young adults and women. Rapid change driven by the global digital revolution and low carbon technologies has widened skills gaps, while also opening opportunities for change. The achievement of SDG education targets remains a distant objective in SIDS. Since 2015 education completion rates slightly improved but in 2020 remained lower than the global averages, indicating that less than one in two youth are completing the upper secondary level of education. Gender disparity towards females is persistent across these levels of education.

COVID-19 has also impacted inclusion and gender equality across SIDS. Women suffered most from jobs losses, including loss of incomes in the informal sector including the creative industries. The Pandemic has disrupted participation in education during the 2020-22 school years, creating learning loss. There is some evidence that domestic violence and violence in schools has increased. The digital divide has exacerbated inequalities, impacting the most vulnerable children and girls. Costs of COVID testing, and prevention have placed public budgets under further strain.

The pandemic has also laid bare SIDS large informal sectors and fragmented and incomplete, when even inexistent, social protection systems. Bearing in mind significant data gaps, in general, social security coverage tends to be relatively better than social assistance schemes that address poverty.

While globalization and advances in technology have created new opportunities for SIDS to be connected to the information highway, and be part of a truly global community, it is important for SIDS to have their place in multilateral decision-making and sustain a balance

between being part of global knowledge society, co-producing knowledge, while sustaining local cultures and island knowledge systems. In fact, SIDS include some of the mostly highly diverse linguistic societies, and a wealth of indigenous knowledge of biodiversity, the marine and coastal environment, as well as disaster preparedness and climate adaptation. Indigenous peoples, overall, experience greater vulnerabilities in terms of resource tenure, income sources, access to school and climate impact exposure, and should be paid particular attention in sustainable development processes.

In summary, the pandemic recovery and technological transformations provide SIDS with significant but differentiated opportunities for resilient socio-economic development. To overcome constraints SIDS have called for enhanced international and regional cooperation to boost human and technical capacity, SIDS appropriate technology transfer and access to sufficient and sustainable financing.

This includes calling for system reforms as the SIDS experience appears to contradict conventional development theory. As they grow richer, they retain acute vulnerability to global economic shocks and the impacts of climate change and natural disasters (OECD, 2018). As a result, the UN Secretary General committed the United Nations to advocate for SIDS on the issue of access to concessional finance and called for the development and coordination of work on a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) (SG's Report, 2021, p. 31).

3. The Strategic Framework

3.1. Guiding principles

UNESCO's medium-term strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) recognizes SIDS as a priority group that are disproportionately affected by global changes and have specific needs. Given the potentially devastating social and economic impacts of these changes, especially in key areas such as education, culture, gender equality, global migration and sustainable tourism, it highlights the need to enhance efforts and mobilize resources for the relevant strategic and programmatic areas, in order to join the efforts of the international community and strengthen engagement across the UN development system in pursuing the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

UNESCO will base its support for the SIDS following the principles of SIDS-led and SIDS-guided development, regionalism, sovereignty, transparency and accountability, giving high political visibility to the challenges in SIDS, supporting the response to SIDS-defined needs with strengthened SIDS-up approaches and regional collaboration. UNESCO will bring together and scale-up work aligned with the UNESCO results framework.

In close cooperation with its SIDS Group, UNESCO will launch analytical and research initiatives supporting the definition of policies and innovative programmes of action, in response to the challenges and opportunities related to the development and transformation of SIDS societies, thus contribution to a new narrative for SIDS. These initiatives will also inform global debates and advocacy campaigns, and support awareness-raising activities, involving State actors and civil society. In all this, UNESCO will also engage more with youth and marginalized groups in the design, decision making and implementation of actions.

UNESCO's strategic engagement with and for SIDS builds on past, current and anticipated needs and opportunities of SIDS as assessed by the implementation of programmes, survey conducted during the elaboration of the C4/C5, feedback from SIDS, National Commissions for UNESCO, field offices and sectors, and drawn from various sources including identification of emerging needs during UNCT planning exercises. Its implementation is fully embedded into the wider UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4), and the present Chapter highlights SIDS specific entry points for implementation of each of UNESCO's current Strategic Objectives and associated outcomes (**Sub-chapter 3.2**), with a view also to mainstreaming UNESCO's cross-cutting theme on crisis preparedness and response, global priorities Africa and Gender Equality, and the Youth priority group (**Sub-chapter 3.3**). It also highlights the Global and Regional Strategic Frameworks and/or Action Plans to which UNESCO contributes and are particularly relevant for SIDS (**Sub-chapter 3.4**).

3.2. UNESCO's strategic framework

The UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) provides an overarching framework – made of Strategic Objectives and Outcomes – based on which more detailed programmatic orientations of engagement with SIDS can be identified, then implemented, through workplans and related budgets approved by the General Conference on a biennial basis (see figure 1). In reference to these strategic objectives, possible entry points for mainstreaming SIDS priorities in UNESCO's action are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

UNESCO's strategic objectives, enabling objectives and their corresponding outcomes

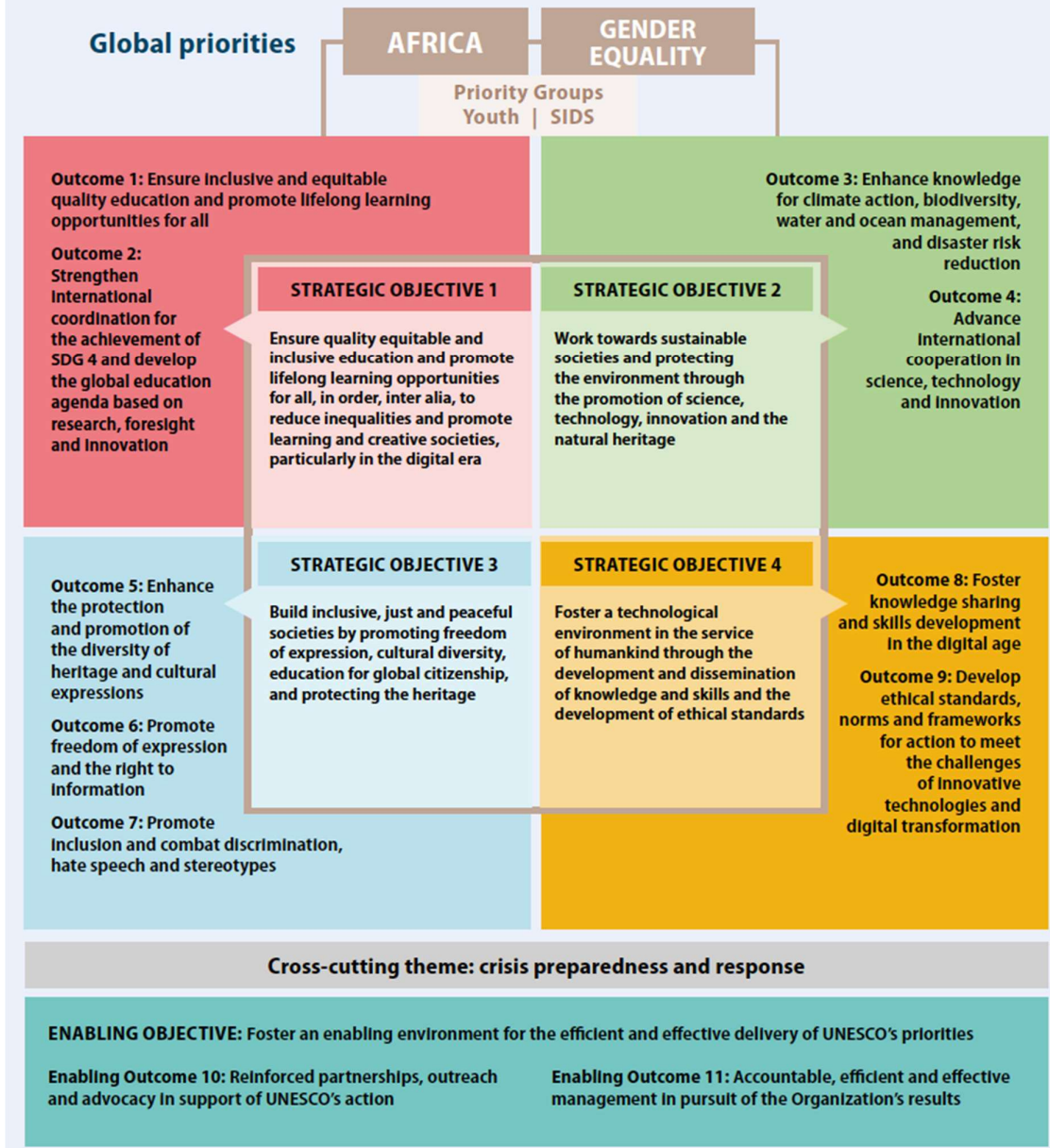


Figure 1 UNESCO Strategic Objectives and Outcomes (UNESCO, 2022)

3.2.1. Meeting the educational challenges and embracing the opportunities

For Strategic Objective 1, UNESCO will support SIDS in advancing quality education, prioritizing education policies and data, education for sustainable development (ESD) including a strong focus on climate change education, reskilling and upskilling learners to

enhance employment opportunities (TVET and STEM, literacy and higher education), and leveraging the use of technology for better learning outcomes. Teacher training and professional development will be a cross-cutting activity across the key areas and will include the development and update of competency standards for teachers, teacher training, including on gender-transformative pedagogies, and the production of relevant educational materials.

More specific and intersectoral entry points include:

The Education Sector will promote climate action in and for SIDS through scientific and environmental education for sustainable and resilient societies in collaboration with the Natural Sciences Sector. UNESCO will coordinate and support the implementation of the ESD for 2030 country initiatives and the road map of the Berlin Declaration, placing particular attention on teacher education in SIDS. Efforts will be made to engage SIDS in the Greening Education Partnership and its pillars - greening schools, greening learning, greening teachers' capacities, and greening communities. Particular emphasis will be placed on the environment-related SDGs and their interlinkages with the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development in the context of the intersectoral programme.

UNESCO will prioritize support for education policy and data collection in SIDS. This includes addressing the gender gap and strengthening skills development for youth and adults in SIDS through literacy, greening TVET, STEM, higher education and MIL. To help meet individual labour market and societal demands, UNESCO will provide relevant training; activities focused on youth empowerment and integration of the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to face global challenges and promote sustainable and just societies.

UNESCO will leverage technologies to build crisis-resilient inclusive policies and strategies in SIDS. This will include support to address digital divides and learning losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic through technical advice and assistance in developing inclusive digital learning policies and platforms, mainstreaming digital learning and teaching, including blended and Open and Distance Learning (ODL), developing teachers' digital competencies and advocating for digital public goods for education, while promoting the social inclusion of people with disabilities and special needs.

UNESCO will create opportunities for partnerships between cultural and educational institutions in order to ground learning process in peoples' culture and social contexts, develop teacher capacities in cultural and arts education, and contribute to improved learning outcomes.

3.2.2. Meeting the environmental challenges and embracing the opportunities

Under Strategic Objective 2, UNESCO will reinforce the capacity for resilience in SIDS, given their extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards, leveraging its international/intergovernmental science programmes and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. UNESCO will support the reversing of the deterioration of the natural environment and related loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services by reinforcing research and knowledge sharing, cooperation and concerted action on environment and climate-related issues through UNESCO's science programmes like the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme.

More specific and intersectoral entry points include:

UNESCO will reinforce the capacity for resilience in SIDS, given their extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards, alongside two major directions: i) enhancing SIDS's capacity to address existing challenges and prepare for future ones by focusing on monitoring, assessing, understanding and communicating disaster risks in a multi-sectoral perspective, and; ii) strengthening SIDS's skills and resources for preparedness and prevention, management, response and post-disaster recovery, through capacity building, knowledge sharing and networking, and policy advice.

UNESCO will support SIDS in strengthening their capacity in the field of marine science and technology, and in implementing the tsunami early warning and mitigation systems. Through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), they will reinforce their cooperation to address the specific challenges posed by sea-level rise, ocean pollution and acidification, loss of marine biodiversity, and coastal erosion.

UNESCO endeavours to advance sustainable development and social cohesion in SIDS by promoting indigenous knowledge, practices and cultural and linguistic expressions, which constitute a rich living heritage, and by underscoring the deep connections which exist between people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment. To this end, UNESCO will support transdisciplinary cooperation between indigenous and local knowledge systems with natural and social sciences, and promote indigenous and traditional knowledge as valuable and context-specific resources for sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

UNESCO will support the establishment of UNESCO designated sites like Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks and natural World Heritage sites, to strengthen the sustainable management of water and promote solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity and geodiversity with its sustainable use in favour of more resilient local communities. Particular attention will be paid to green and circular economy, sustainable tourism development, as well as the conservation and restoration of coral reefs and mangroves.

UNESCO will support SIDS in improved water security in the framework of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan "Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment"; in particular, by supporting SIDS in adaptation and resilience in water management, enhancing their capacities to deal with water-related disasters, paying attention to the water-energy-food nexus prevalent in SIDS.

UNESCO will further strengthen SIDS youth engagement in STEM, also integrating climate change, environmental protection and conservation in curriculums.

UNESCO will ensure that SIDS are actively engaged in the co-design of an interoperable digital ecosystem for ocean data and have the skills, technology and capacity to contribute to and access relevant ocean data, information and knowledge, and engage in advancing ocean observation and data management through the Global Ocean Observing System.

3.2.3. Meeting the challenges of social cohesion and embracing the opportunities

With Strategic Objective 3, UNESCO supports the promotion of cultural content and universal participation in cultural life, strengthens free, independent and pluralistic media landscapes and supports policy frameworks contributing to the fight against inequalities and all forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

More specific and intersectoral entry points for SIDS include:

UNESCO will promote, safeguard and protect diverse cultural expressions and forms of cultural heritage (built, immovable, underwater, documentary and intangible) in SIDS, supporting the revision/development of national legislations and policy frameworks.

UNESCO will contribute to rebuilding and revitalizing cultural life and practices in SIDS countries hit by disasters, health crisis and conflicts.

UNESCO will strengthen capacity and resources for recording of SIDS cultural heritage also to respond to the lack of digital access to documentary heritage during the pandemic and to contribute to the preparedness, response and recovery following emergencies so to increase resilience of heritage sites and cultural repositories to natural disasters.

UNESCO will raise awareness about the economic potential of culture including in the field of the creative industries. Cultural and creative industries and sustainable tourism practices will be promoted as foundations for recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and local resilience. Indigenous and traditional knowledge will be promoted with UNESCO Designated Sites (World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks) as laboratories for sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

UNESCO will ensure access to diverse sources of information and cultural expressions and activities to protect multilingualism in general and indigenous languages, in particular in the framework of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

UNESCO will conduct monitoring and analysis, build citizenship, transparency and solidarity in the digital environment, all the while protecting the right to freedom of expression and artistic freedom including through the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

UNESCO will continue to promote media and information literacy (MIL) skills, which are essential to enabling citizens, especially young persons, to find their bearings and interpret the different sources of information in the digital age.

UNESCO will contribute to research and the production of data and knowledge, bridging the research-policy nexus, and integrating issues of well-being in the field of economic and social inclusion policies.

UNESCO will build on common living heritage histories and shared memories, including those around the General History of the Caribbean as well as the Routes of Enslaved Peoples Project, to promote peacebuilding, intercultural dialogue, non-discrimination, equality, respect and tolerance, bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind.

UNESCO will promote the inclusion of indigenous languages and knowledge in SIDS educational programmes and schools in order to enhance the intergenerational transmission and viability of languages and the living heritage associated with them, while also reaffirming the status of indigenous communities as knowledge holders and enhancing community self-esteem and pride, thereby mitigating the loss of social cohesion.

UNESCO will create an enabling environment in SIDS for the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital context and support of the digital creative economy to optimize the economic, social and cultural benefits emerging from the digital transformation.

3.2.4. Meeting the technological challenges and embracing the opportunities

Strategic Priority 4 pursues two outcomes to enhance the respect for human rights, openness, inclusivity and ethics to shape the new digital environment and enhance strategic and legal tools that can identify and address the ethical questions raised by the development of digital technologies. The digital transformation has created new spaces for human invention, imagination and expression, as well as growing digital divides, including digital gender divides, cyber threats, including unethical behaviour, and human rights violations.

More specific and intersectoral entry points for SIDS include:

UNESCO will support governments to ensure that data gathering and the development of frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence, are used for the common good and that rights are guaranteed and respected. Equality also means having the digital skills and media and information literacy competencies to ensure that every person can fully participate in and benefit from the digital transformation.

UNESCO will strengthen access to information and knowledge especially for marginalized groups and persons with disabilities, through the development of digital skills, the promotion of open access to scientific information in line with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, the promotion of multilingualism and the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage including through the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

UNESCO will facilitate knowledge sharing, access to open educational resources (OER) and the design and use of open-source solutions and open data. These are critical to addressing inequalities and bridging the technology innovation and knowledge divides. New digital transformation technologies (such as satellite imagery 3D modelling and the use of drones to safeguard heritage, artificial intelligence tools for the management of natural hazards, etc.) should also be harnessed to help the most vulnerable countries to respond to crisis situations.

UNESCO will assist in the development, monitoring and implementation of policies aimed at adapting legislation and policy frameworks to ensure a more diverse digital ecosystem and to foster the availability discovery and delivery of diverse content. This will include building capacities in policy-making and governance in the field of science, technology and innovation to address local needs.

UNESCO will explore innovative ways to enrich knowledge in line with the concept of Internet Universality with an Internet that is human rights-based open accessible to all and nurtured by the participation of multiple stakeholders (ROAM principles).

3.3. UNESCO global priorities and priority groups

Within UNESCO's Mid-term Strategy 2022-2029, global priorities Africa and Gender Equality as well Youth and SIDS priority groups are mainstreamed under all Strategic Objectives and related Outcomes, and particular attention is also dedicated to the cross-cutting theme "Crisis preparedness and response". Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have been introduced to report on programme implementation against these priorities, facilitated by dedicated sections of planning, monitoring and reporting tools such as SISTER (until 2022) and CORE PLANNER (starting from 2023).

3.3.1. Priority Africa

Within the framework of the Operational Strategy for Priority Africa 2022-2029, UNESCO is committed to address 5 major challenges:

- Demographic growth and sustainable development;
- Education and knowledge sharing;
- Climate change and the environment;
- Cultural renaissance, heritage and history;
- Peace and democracy.

This is achieved at an operational level mainly through the implementation of five Flagship Programmes, two of which are specifically targeting African SIDS:

- Flagship programme 4: "Harnessing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development in Africa, including through the implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" (SHS-SC-CI).

Under Flagship Programme 4, UNESCO will continue to support African SIDS to strengthen institutional and human capacities to integrate media and information literacy (MIL) in policies and strategies, and to bridge the digital and knowledge divides, through the development of digital skills and competencies, particularly among women and girls and different marginalized and vulnerable groups.

- Flagship Programme 5: "Enhance Open Science, reinforce capacity building in Basic and Applied Sciences and Scientific Research to strengthen innovation and technology development and use in Ocean Science, climate change resilience and water resource management in Africa (SC-IOC).

Under Flagship Programme 5, UNESCO will continue to contribute to enhance understanding and use of opportunities for socio-economic transformation in the SIDS, with a meaningful engagement and participation of the youth, as well as to strengthen capacities of SIDS Member States on resilience building for climate change, biodiversity and DRR.

Efforts will be made to strengthening collaboration and sharing good practices between SIDS in Africa through improved coordination of programmes, particularly in Field Offices, to guide the programme implementation of activities in SIDS.

3.3.2. Priority Gender Equality

As a global priority for UNESCO, gender equality is mainstreamed across the UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS, including the sector and intersectoral programmes. Within this priority, UNESCO will:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote gender-transformative education systems, empower learners, ensure safe learning environments, and address the educational barriers, particularly for girls and women, exacerbated by the learning crisis. UNESCO will promote gender sensitive pedagogy and teacher training, equitable, gender-responsive and quality-assured higher education provision. UNESCO will support gender sensitive policies, curriculum, and systems for AI, TVET and STEM education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support development of gender inclusive knowledge and capacities for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and disaster risk resilience. UNESCO will promote gender sensitive water management and governance, including development of indicators. This includes gender-responsive scientific assessments conducted and knowledge networks supported that mobilize, enhance, and reinforce transmission of local and Indigenous knowledge particularly transmitted by women contributing to climate change issues, ecosystems and biodiversity monitoring including in the UNESCO designated sites.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support initiatives in capacity-building and training programmes on gender-transformative STI policy including Open Science policy and practice. UNESCO will strengthen capacity in marine scientific research and biodiversity observations, and services, through the IOC Capacity Development. It will also promote women and girls in science, in particular through its For Women in Science Programme in SIDS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support evidence-based policies towards building inclusive and peaceful societies, addressing the major challenges of inequalities of income and opportunities, including of gender, the social impact and ethical dimensions of the climate transition, and the fast-paced digital transformation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support Member States to implement gender responsive educational and training activities in the field of culture in times of peace and in emergency situations, in the culture and creative sectors with particular attention to closing the gender gap and empowering women artists to create, produce, distribute and access cultural goods and services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Women's Associations at national and regional levels as well as local/grassroots NGOs, CSOs, associations and networks of women, to amplify women's voices in national, regional fora to advance gender equality, political participation and address inequalities.

3.3.3. Youth in SIDS

In line with the UN Youth Strategy, Youth 2030, UNESCO will work on advancing the meaningful engagement and participation of SIDS youth, including indigenous youth, across the design and implementation of programmes and initiatives. This will be done leveraging the involvement of networks and platforms, such as the Associated Schools Network (ASPNet), the Youth Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN), the MAB Youth Network, the Youth and Young

Professionals on Innovation Science and Technology Platform of Resiliency (U-INSPIRE) or the Caribbean Risk and Disaster Management (CARIDIMA) Youth network. In particular, UNESCO will:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance youth rights in SIDS by recognizing youth as partners and advocating for their meaningful participation in decision-making processes by providing policy advice, technical guidance, and strengthening capacities of national stakeholders and other partners to develop opportunities to foster the meaningful participation of youth. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningfully engage with youth as change-makers, knowledge-holders and innovative solution drivers to address challenges and crises in SIDS through capacity development activities, supporting youth-led action and youth-led knowledge creation, and advocacy and awareness-raising, in particular within the framework of UNESCO’s international and intergovernmental programmes (MAB, IHP, UGGP, etc.), also for what concerns DRR initiatives, STI-related incubators and entrepreneurship. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance partnerships with youth-led organizations and youth structures, to amplify youth voices and highlight the potential of youth-led solutions and youth-led knowledge creation, through communications and visibility activities, and fostering youth participation in national, regional and international fora/events. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on extending youth engagement at local and community levels in SIDS by associating schools with SIDS UNESCO designated sites (World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks) to deliver ESD and Climate Education. This approach will also support young learners’ awareness of indigenous knowledge, technology, climate change, biodiversity and science. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote opportunities (within the UN System and beyond) to build the capacity of young researchers and professionals from SIDS countries and their coastal communities emerging from the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, including via the Early Career Ocean Professionals programme and diverse initiatives on Ocean Literacy including the Ocean Literacy With All Programme and the Ocean Voices Initiative. |

3.3.4. Disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery

Investing in disaster risk management that includes preventative measures and considers the economic costs of disaster risk reduction is vital for long-term planning and sustainable development in SIDS, for which there is a critical need to build resilience and to provide particular support through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹¹ in the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR).



Figure 2 - UNESCO's action on Disaster Risk Reduction

In this view, it is necessary to identify the achievements, challenges, constraints, and gaps that SIDS face in implementing the Sendai Framework. This gap assessment will seek to document, synthesize, and consolidate SIDS' experiences and constraints to form a repository where shared concerns and specific national examples illustrating barriers are captured.

UNESCO takes a multidisciplinary, multi-hazards, multi stakeholder engagement approach for its intervention in this area, utilizing its wide mandate in different sectors and disciplines. UNESCO works on both weather-related hazards such as flood, drought and glacier melting mudflow as well as geo-hazards such as tsunami and earthquake. With its extensive expert network, in earth, ocean, water, ecological, social and human sciences as well its multiple connections with the civil society, youth in particular, also through national UNESCO bodies such as the National Commissions to UNESCO, UNESCO can plan and implement DRR action in close communication and cooperation with the governments. With relevance to SIDS, UNESCO will:

With relevance to SIDS, UNESCO will:

- Promote the use of innovative technologies and research and development to tailor capacity-building to needs and build resilience.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support SIDS to benefit from the new generation of early warning systems including Tsunami fostering community preparedness through the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, and data collection on disaster risk reduction in SIDS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster sharing of best practices between SIDS and scale up activities that work including integrated approaches to ecosystem management to increase economic and environmental resilience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate SIDS initiatives integrating nature-based solutions valuing local and indigenous knowledge and languages, to be included in technical and financial support for more efficient disaster risk reduction and, at the same time, protect, restore and secure fragile ecosystems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include UNESCO Designated Sites (World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks), intangible cultural heritage and other cultural and natural assets, in disaster risk reduction programmes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in the digital transformation of the education sector in SIDS, including skills development for the digital economy, support for higher education and STI, as well as the use of digitalization to strengthen education systems to respond to the challenges of disaster risk reduction, including COVID-19.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and encourage the integration of disaster risk reduction literacy into SIDS education curriculums
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for disaster risk reduction finance and national plans as well as alignment with the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Extend collaboration with UNDRR for support to the SIDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and focus development efforts on sectors where SIDS have opportunities for growth and support SIDS-up community-based approaches for policy processes, programme planning and implementation.

3.4. UN Framework for Action

UNESCO's action within the framework of its Medium-term Strategy 2022-2029, and therefore its action with and for SIDS, are inspired and guided by numerous global strategic frameworks, action plans and commitments, including the **2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals**, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the **Doha Action Plan on LDC's**, the **United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** which emphasizes the necessity to support SIDS (2015-2030), the 2021 Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development (which recognizes "climate change as a priority area of ESD of particular importance to SIDS), the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the New Urban Agenda, the Istanbul Plan of Action for the LDCs, the United Nations SDG 6 Water & Sanitation Accelerator Framework, the UN Systems Wide Action Plan on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These include also a series of UN Decades to which UNESCO contributes in a cross-sectoral perspective and for which SIDS are often indicated as one of the priority targets: the **United Nations decade for Action on Water for**

Sustainable Development (2018-2028), the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** (2021-2030), the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** (2021-2030), the **United Nations International Decade for Indigenous Languages** (2022-2032).

Furthermore, UNESCO places specific emphasis on internationally agreed regional frameworks, including the African Union (AU) Blue Economy Strategy and Green Recovery Action Plan, the **African Union Agenda 2063**, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Caribbean Community Strategic Plan, and the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) Declaration for the enhancement of marine scientific knowledge, research capacity and transfer of marine technology to SIDS.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have been introduced to report on programme implementation against most of these internationally agreed frameworks for action (see those highlighted in blue in the present chapter).

In this context, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (**SAMOA Pathway**), the dedicated, internationally agreed, programme of action for small island developing States (SIDS) for the decade 2014 – 2024, occupies a privileged place

The SAMOA Pathway was the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa in 2014 on the theme “The Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Through Genuine and Durable Partnerships”, indicating a series of key priority areas for action relevant to UNESCO’s mandate:

- Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth with Decent Work for All
- Oceans and Seas
- Climate Change
- Water and Sanitation
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
- Biodiversity
- Social Development
- Invasive Alien Species

UNESCO and SIDS Member States will be closely involved in the preparation and running of the fourth **International Conference on SIDS** in 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda, to take stock of the lessons learned in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and discuss development priorities for SIDS.

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) plays a leading role in convening the UN system through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for SIDS to ensure coherent and coordinated support to SIDS and collaborates with UN agencies and other partners. Through a system of SIDS National Focal Points established by UN-OHRLLS in 2018, the Office engages directly with representatives from SIDS to ensure coherence in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels. National Focal Points meetings are convened annually.

Ongoing advocacy and exchange of knowledge between and about SIDS is important to support the collective efforts of SIDS to lead and retain momentum needed to drive policy changes at global, regional and national levels that build sustainable development, resilience and reduce the impact of external shocks. It also inspires UNESCO’s action with and for SIDS.

In this view, UNESCO will:

- **Strengthen collaboration with the SIDS Focal Points under UN-OHRLLS; support and participate in regional and national conferences and workshops organized as**

<p>part of UNESCO projects or by National Commissions and regional partners to contribute to policy dialogue and shared narratives between global, regional and national levels.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support SIDS, via its Participation Programme, in relevant regional and international dialogue processes. This includes SIDS advocating for women, African and youth priority group and SIDS media organizations covering climate change negotiations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue engagement at the global level in processes such as the Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) that provides a richer picture of development challenges and contributes to moving past the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita as the measure that determines access to concessional finance for SIDS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advocate for donors to meet the UN target of 0.7% of GNI and for increased contributions to the multilateral funds, such as the UN SGD fund. ODA provides a highly concessional source for eligible SIDS and supports technical assistance from a range of UN agencies including UNESCO.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize, advocate and support SIDS participation in conferences that contribute to ongoing dialogue and advocacy on issues relevant to SIDS including the UN Transformation of Education Summit and follow up meetings as well as thematic events within UNESCO's mandate.

4. Operationalizing UNESCO's engagement with and for SIDS

4.1. Principles and tools for planning, monitoring and reporting

UNESCO will develop SIDS specific priorities in an ongoing process of consultation that builds on a long engagement of UNESCO with and for SIDS, in the overall approved strategic framework offered by the Medium-term Strategy 2022-2029 which has been developed with national, regional and global inputs. The present Chapter further elaborates on the already established cooperation mechanism between the UNESCO Secretariat (all sectors and field offices), SIDS Member States, National Commissions, and other partners, which materialized in regular SIDS Exchanges (between the UNESCO SIDS Group and sector ADG's), the Global SIDS Dialogue Series (the 2021 edition was dedicated to "Disaster risk reduction: from vulnerability to resilience", the 2023 edition will be dedicated to "Transforming education in the digital age") or regular meetings with the Friends of SIDS Group.

Once identified the more detailed programmatic orientations of engagement with SIDS, these will be submitted for approval by the General Conference on a biennial basis, then implemented and monitored involving various complementary entities/structures within the Secretariat, including the Field Offices and SIDS Member States, whose role is briefly described in **sub-chapters 4.2** (Secretariat and Field Offices) and **sub-chapter 4.3**. (SIDS Member States). Achieving our objectives for SIDS will require the mobilization of resources and partnerships which are introduced into **sub-chapter 4.4**.

UNESCO's actions in favour of SIDS will address different vulnerabilities of individual countries including: i) high frequency and exposure to natural hazards and climate change; ii) sensitivity of ecological systems (land, ocean, and other natural systems/resources); iii) diversity in geopolitical structure, sizes and location and iv) varied human and institutional capacities. In doing so, UNESCO will pursue results-based management approaches and will foster intersectoral initiatives and programmes. The following, already included in the 41 C/4 and C/5 as Intersectoral Programmes, are all of particular interest to SIDS:

- **Learning for Diversity:** Strengthening synergies between culture and education for inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.
- **Advancing Scientific and Environmental Education for Sustainable and Resilient Societies:** UNESCO's intersectoral programme on environmental education will build upon the Organization's experience in education for sustainable development (ESD), water education, ocean literacy, climate change education and science-based environmental education, STEM education (including micro science hands on experiments, girls science education, training in robotics and AI via the STEM toolkit) as well as in sustainability science to develop an innovative vision for reshaping educational, learning and knowledge systems.
- **Promoting Indigenous Knowledge, Culture and Languages as a Pathway to Inclusion.** UNESCO will ensure a transversal response to support the promotion and safeguarding of indigenous knowledge, cultures and languages, while mainstreaming gender equality and a human rights-based approach.
- **Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and Digital Competencies:** Empowering learners of all ages with skills to navigate an evolving information and knowledge landscape in the digital age.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** ethics and digital innovation.

The outcomes of these intersectoral programmes will be an important source of inspiration for the development, adoption and implementation of specific cross-sectoral flagship programs for SIDS.

In its work with and for SIDS, UNESCO will also consider more generally how to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overcome the constrained capacity and administrative burden on SIDS agencies when planning and delivering interventions. Associated high transaction costs are a function of structural constraints such as small size, distance between islands. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster shared online platforms and digital skills to increase communication and collaboration across SIDS in a manner that reduces costs, in particular the time commitment required to reach distant destinations. This is a major barrier to broader participation of SIDS in UNESCO governance and across programme effecting youth and women. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systematically support UNESCO planning and delivery with SIDS through digital platforms. This includes facilitating governance meetings, advisory committees, regional coordination, youth and other networks, capacity building and outreach. This would be especially relevant to improving cooperation between field offices, national commissions, permanent delegations as well as developing working relations with regional partners. These platforms would be relevant to onboarding new Secretaries-General, National Commission officials, committee members, women and youth leaders as well as mentoring potential site managers and staff. Making workshops, webinars, training modules and communications resources available online and in relevant languages to facilitate ongoing mentoring, training and capacity building. |

4.2. Dedicated structures in UNESCO's Secretariat

4.2.1. UNESCO Field Offices

UNESCO Field Offices encompassing SIDS are instrumental for the detailed planning, implementation and monitoring of activities, and to achieve impact with and within SIDS. Within the framework of the overall Field Reform process, UNESCO will provide an appropriate architecture of field offices with sufficient capabilities to work with SIDS, the UN family and partners in the different regions.

Through their active participation in joint programming exercises with other United Nations agencies in fact, Field Offices have the capacity to collect, elaborate and share detailed strategic inputs for further defining the framework under which programme activities and intersectoral flagship programmes/initiatives could be more efficiently delivered within SIDS Member States, in alignment with the with SIDS national planning and financing frameworks, the C/4 and C/5 strategic orientations and the SIDS operational strategy itself. Similarly, this gives them opportunities to mobilize resources for joint actions, benefitting also from the support provided by partners/resources mobilization officers present in major SIDS Offices (Apia and Kingston). They have the capacity to concretely integrate UNESCO Programmes and networks in national plans and programmes thus addressing priority needs of Member States.

UNESCO Field Offices will therefore:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and mobilise dedicated resources at the regional and national level for impact driven initiatives that are measurable. This includes resourcing locally driven design initiatives adapted to SIDS specific contexts, referring to multi-country and intersectoral programmatic approaches. They will develop joint initiatives with UN agencies and SIDS regional organisations within the framework of UNSDCFs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and support development of capacity of SIDS National Commissions, in close cooperation and with the support of PAX.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster integration of UNESCO programmes with SIDS national planning and financing frameworks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize joined up approaches including joint missions and regular formal and informal dialogues with National Commissions and Permanent Delegations especially during programme planning cycles.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies informed by ongoing consultative process with sectors, national commissions and SIDS groups to strengthen synergies between National Commissions, Field Offices and Permanent Delegations. This will include strengthened regional consultations with National Commissions, field offices and permanent delegations as part of the development of each budget and programme cycle.

4.2.2. The UNESCO SIDS section

UNESCO has established in 2021 a Section specifically and exclusively devoted to SIDS, within the Office of the ADG for Natural Sciences, in order to improve coordination, communication and collaboration between SIDS Member States, National Commissions, field offices and headquarters bureaux and sections. The SIDS Section will intensify its work to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as UNESCO focal point for the SIDS group, as well as for UNESCO sectors' focal points, and the UN System, in particular the SIDS units in UNDESA and UN-OHRLLS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the development, monitoring and visibility of UNESCO's programmes for SIDS. This includes generating knowledge and evidence-based analysis, based on inputs from UNESCO Sectors, that can inform global debates, advocacy campaigns and outreach activities that are multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary and intergenerational.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster alliances within the UN, with international and regional organisations, and other partners to position SIDS and UNESCO's programmes in the international agendas on the blue economy, marine and terrestrial biodiversity, water security, and climate change, among others. Identify and catalyse initiatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile information from all sectors to report on the implementation of the SIDS Operational Strategy under EX/4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and compile information for the UN report on UNESCO's contribution to the SAMOA Pathway and specific agreements related to SIDS within UNESCO's mandate.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on mapping by sectors of SIDS Member States participation in key UNESCO networks, intergovernmental programs, scientific and advisory committees, chairs, research working groups and relevant bodies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize regular joint planning and monitoring meetings with the SIDS group, including formal and informal meetings with SIDS Delegations, National Commissions, ADGs and Field Offices to track progress and coordinate actions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In close cooperation with the BSP, facilitate exchanges with ADGs and SIDS Permanent Delegations, to clearly identify priorities, set by SIDS before finalizing each biennium programme and budget for all sectors. The meeting will provide dialogue on the programme and inform SIDS Member States.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate an on-line list of SIDS related events and activities to increase awareness and promote knowledge exchange between organizations, programmes and regions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent UNESCO and ensure that UNESCO's programmes are duly reflected in the global UN Dialogue on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In close cooperation with the BSP, facilitate the elaboration of a SIDS results framework to monitor and evaluate progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate regular communications materials prepared by sectors on engagements with the SIDS and promote knowledge exchange with and between SIDS.

4.3. The contribution of SIDS Member States

4.3.1. Enhancing dialogue with SIDS Member States

Cost and distance are difficult barriers for resource constrained Islands. Many SIDS lack the capacity to have Permanent Delegations physically located in Paris. Participation at UNESCO's Executive Board and other bodies, or meeting such as SIDS Exchanges or SIDS Dialogue, is limited by these constraints and political considerations relating to relative size and power.

In this regard, UNESCO will:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place greater emphasis on using technology to engage SIDS member states through online meeting platforms that enable teleconferencing, recording of meetings, publishing information, and fostering networks and informal groups to increase information flows, foster co-creation and exchange between programmes, countries, regions and global SIDS communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support groups of SIDS Member States in the organization of meetings dealing with the development, implementation, and monitoring of the SIDS operational strategy. UNESCO will share strategies and programmes, providing updates on the

operational results to foster mutual understanding and coordination between national, regional, and global levels.

- Organize SIDS UNESCO Exchange with ADGs and SIDS Permanent Delegations before finalizing each biennium programme and budget. The meeting will provide dialogue on results and future intentions and inform SIDS Member States about SIDS specific programmes and budgets, ahead the approval by the General Conference.

UNESCO Global SIDS Dialogue Series

The cycle theme and focus as well as target participants will vary depending on the priority and technical requirements. A cycle of one dialogue per year is anticipated over the operational period. These meetings will support the operational strategy identify financial and technical pathways and inspire new flagship initiatives with and for SIDS in various sectors. These meetings will inform Members States and stakeholders on key SIDS issues and foster the exchange of information/knowledge and the mobilization of resources, contributing to the implementation of the SIDS operational strategy. In this view, UNESCO will:

- Mobilize sectors to support the UNESCO SIDS Group to organize the UNESCO Global SIDS dialogue series, with a different focus every year.

4.3.2. Supporting SIDS National Commissions for UNESCO

National Commissions are fundamental to involve in UNESCO's activities the various ministerial departments, agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals working for the advancement of education, science, culture and information in a given Member States.

UNESCO will:

- Consolidate the involvement of National Commissions in the effective planning and implementation of, and reporting about, UNESCO's programmes (mainly through their involvement in yearly sub-regional, regional and interregional meetings of National Commissions), strengthen collaboration and partnerships, and supporting universal and inclusive multilateralism through cooperation between them at the regional and international levels, in line with SIDS priority group.

- Encourage SIDS National Commissions to develop and implement project under the Participation Programme well aligned with priority orientations of the UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS.

- Support knowledge sharing, resource development and foster capacity building and relationship building for SIDS National Commissions through regional networks, SIDS-SIDS and North/South-SIDS cooperation. This will include promoting and supporting National Commissions through fostering exchanges between policy makers from islands and other countries, developing networks and collaboration with UNESCO Chairs and Centres, different territorial levels, national institutions, umbrella associations, academia, NGOs and civil society to raise awareness on SIDS challenges and facilitate integration of UNESCO programmes to address

<p>vulnerability. This will need to be adapted to SIDS National Commissions context including ‘one person operations’, “overwhelmed” by demands with “too many hats” and dependency on overloaded Ministries limited competencies outside of education or focal point arrangements.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support National Commissions to engage more local experts and form partnerships with civil society groups to supplement public sector capacity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Member States to strengthen the capacity of their UNESCO National Commissions and foster collaboration with broader National Sustainable Development planning and financing platforms established by SIDS Member States. This will include joint working groups to identify programme priorities, financing opportunities and to co-design and implementation programmes in a manner that fosters equity and sustainability.

4.3.3. Strengthening SIDS participation in UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Commissions and Programmes

UNESCO’s Intergovernmental and International Commissions and Programmes are at the forefront of international cooperation and programme implementation within their field of operation. These include the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Information for All Program (IFAP), the Management of Social Transformations intergovernmental science program (MOST), the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) among others.

All UNESCO Sectors and concerned Field Offices will:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with SIDS to strengthen or assist in the establishment of National Committees or Focal Points for intergovernmental commissions and programmes, as appropriate, to enhance their participation in and contribution to programmes and networks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support SIDS-related regional approaches such as regional committees, consider multi-country representation and closer cooperation and integration with the programmes of regional agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster mentoring, training, pairing arrangements, including intergenerational collaboration between young and senior experts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize support for SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation between culturally or linguistically linked islands to facilitate sharing of experiences and build capacity to scale up programme implementation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and track the participation of SIDS members states in committees and SIDS beneficiaries of the programme and report on the same.

4.3.4. Enhancing SIDS participation in UNESCO Normative instruments

UNESCO normative frameworks define rules with which States undertake to comply and implement. They are managed through the General Conference or by intergovernmental conferences convened by UNESCO alone or jointly with other international organisations. International conventions are subject to ratification, acceptance or accession by States.

UNESCO will:

- Map and track SIDS status and identify gaps and opportunities related with SIDS ratification and implementation of UNESCO normative instruments.

4.3.5. Engaging with UNESCO Category 1 Institutes & Category 2 Centers in SIDS

Category 1 institutes are an integral part of UNESCO and directly contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's results. UNESCO will reinforce synergies between SIDS and these entities, with a view in particular to:

- Facilitate partnerships, including through the UN SIDS inter agency consultancy group, to reinforce the whole of system approach to data for SIDS and strengthen data coordination with UN regional commissions, SIDS regional and national agencies and extend capacity through networks and inter sectoral programmes.
- Encourage the establishment of programmes involving Institutes and Centres specifically targeting SIDS needs, especially to fill persisting data and information gaps.
- Request the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to provide relevant data on each and every SIDS and contribute to the country profile database developed by the Natural Sciences sector.
- Encourage SIDS to engage with category 1 Institutes and make sure they align with the orientations of the Operational Strategy for SIDS and closely cooperate with UNESCO Field Offices operating in the same country/region.

Category 2 centres are hosted by Member States and provide an important contribution to the achievement of UNESCO's programmes. Of the regional and international centres under the auspices of UNESCO, only one is in SIDS and has specific focus on the SIDS context.

UNESCO will:

- Encourage, in close cooperation with SIDS, the establishment of regional centres of excellence in SIDS, responding to SIDS priorities and, thus, well aligning with the orientations of the Operational Strategy for SIDS and closely cooperating with UNESCO Field Offices operating in the same country/region.
- Elaborate a data base on SIDS Centres and institutes.

4.3.6. Leveraging UNITWIN, UNESCO Chairs and other Networks

Networks of SIDS UNESCO Chairs/regional centres and university professors, Biosphere reserves, Global Geoparks Network (GGN) will be promoted to support SIDS.

UNESCO will:

- Promote, in close cooperation with SIDS, the establishment of chairs in SIDS that are well aligned with priority needs of SIDS, as also identified by the Operational Strategy for SIDS.

- Promote, in close cooperation with SIDS, the establishment in SIDS of UNESCO Designated Sites (WH Sites, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks).
- Mobilise networks to promote research, training, policy advice on relevant issues/priorities for SIDS.
- Foster a revitalized SIDS university consortium extending membership to new SIDS based universities and linking to UNESCO programmes.
- Elaborate a data base on all SIDS Chairs.

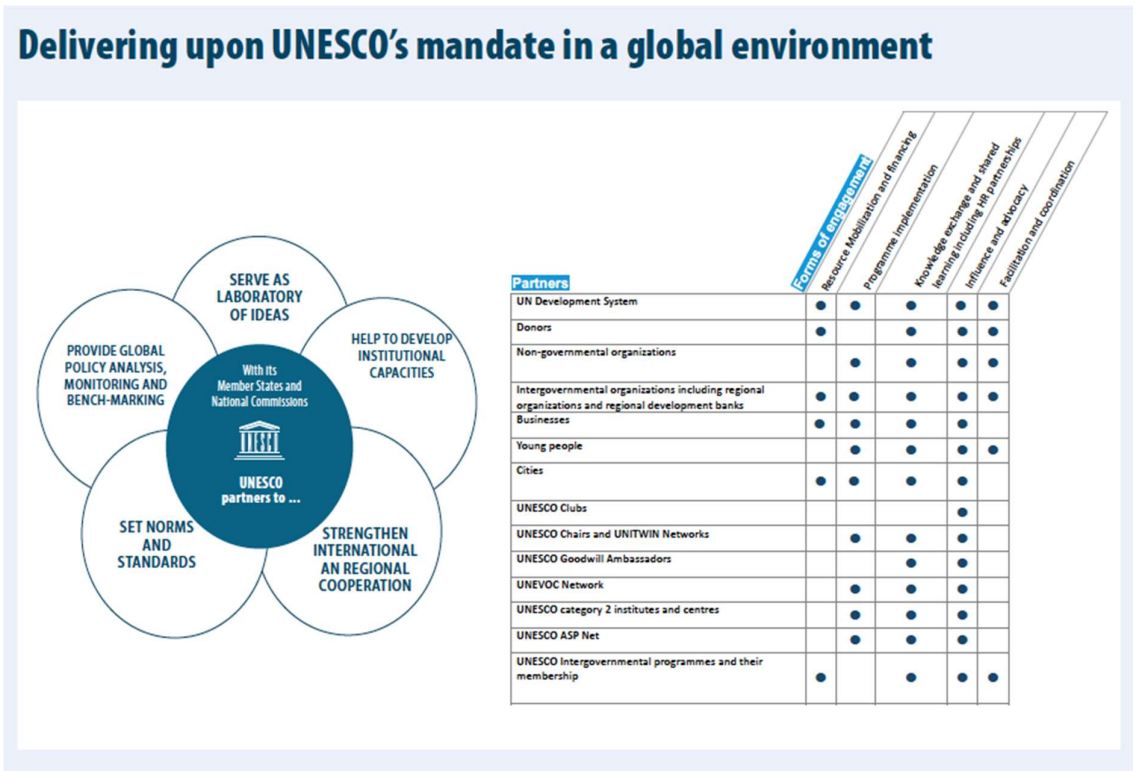


Figure 3 – UNESCO's partners for delivering in a global environment

4.4. Partners and resource mobilization

The UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS aims for meaningful collaboration between societal and organizational sectors (intersectoral cooperation), between regions and between islands of different affiliations (interregional cooperation) and between generations (intergenerational cooperation). UNESCO will do this together with governments, civil society, regional bodies and other international organizations. In terms of deepening and diversifying partnerships, resource mobilization efforts will be further focused on programmes and projects for global priorities Africa and gender equality, and for priority groups youth and SIDS, thus responding effectively to emerging needs and priorities at national and regional levels. The

following sections of the document will consider UNESCO’s partnership with the UN Development System (**Chapter 5.1**), Intergovernmental Regional Organizations (**Chapter 5.2**), bilateral partners (**Chapter 5.3**), the private sector (**Chapter 5.4**) and Non-Governmental Organizations (**Chapter 5.5**),

The SIDS operational strategy aligns with UNESCO’s “enabling environment” objective to ensure the Organization’s responsiveness, preparedness and adaptability to the SIDS context. UNESCO will sharpen focus on the 2030 Agenda and its financing, drawing lessons from the COVID-19 response, notably regarding the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and coalitions (such as the Global Education Coalition and regional approaches), and innovative public private partnerships in emerging areas such as digital transformation. Deepening and reinforcing partnerships and collaboration and will focus particularly on coordination, scaling up and capacity building.

UNESCO will:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forge alliances and multistakeholder partnerships with all relevant interested parties for the pursuit of its strategic objectives and will harness partners’ different comparative advantages to create synergies, develop innovative approaches and solutions, and add value. It will leverage both financial and non-financial, public and private resources geared towards this objective (financial support, advocacy, access and outreach, expertise and data, implementation support and in-kind contributions, for example). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize resources for the SIDS operational strategy in alignment with the Organization’s vision, strategic direction and programmatic priorities. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify programme funding gaps related to the SIDS strategy and increase awareness of the specific financing barriers faced by SIDS. Scoping the funding gap for UNESCO SIDS programmes will be a work in progress and will build on partial information provided in the 2022-23 budget. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with SIDS and their partners to ensure that the programme and budget responds to priorities of SIDS, that mechanisms are fit for purpose and that programmes are extended to cover more UNESCO SIDS. UNESCO will prioritize approaches that enable coordination between partners and merge small projects around common outcomes and indicators. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider creating a SIDS specific funds in trust account, such as a SIDS accelerator fund, to pool smaller ad hoc contributions to support the implementation of the SIDS Operational Strategy. |

4.4.1. The United Nations Development System

UNESCO will foster integration with the United Nations Development System (UNDS) and its cooperation with other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes (including UN Economic Commission, UNEP-GEF, etc.). This is important to reducing the administrative burden on SIDS by directly addressing duplication, reducing competition and increasing coordination between UN agencies and donors.

The main mechanism for ensuring this will be the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Country Implementation Plans (CIPs), well grounded in the needs and priorities of SIDS, and in which the UNESCO Field Offices play a central role (as a

member of UN Country Teams). For smaller SIDS, the UN-Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF 2022-2026) will be particularly important to delivering as one UN.

UNESCO will:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form partnerships to secure sufficient technical regional knowledge and local delivery capacity to deliver high quality and high impact initiatives on an ongoing basis. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-develop multicounty and specific country projects for SIDS with large populations. |

4.4.2. Intergovernmental Regional Organizations

Regional agencies, directly controlled by SIDS Member States, help SIDS fill gaps between global and national capacities. Global agencies find it difficult to justify sustained national level support except in a small minority of SIDS with large populations (e.g., Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Jamaica). Additional specialist capacity in UNESCO fields is especially important where regional agencies are over committed and unable to respond to SIDS needs.

Regional Development Banks are increasingly relevant development financing partners as they have invested in networks of local offices and frameworks adapted to SIDS member countries including Oceans. Concessional borrowing is a highly valued financial flow for SIDS. All regional partners pool support from major regional bilateral, multilateral agencies and vertical funds such as the Green Climate and Adaptation funds.

UNESCO will:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperate with the relevant umbrella regional agencies including the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the African Union and Indian Ocean Commission. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate with regional technical agencies in its areas of expertise to supplement regional and national capacity gaps and coordinate programmes. (See annexes for non-exhaustive list of additional regional agencies). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen cooperation with regional technical agencies to advance SIDS ocean observation and data management through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) and ensure regional leadership and engagement in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. |

UNESCO could also consider innovative financing mechanisms including:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seeking to partner with regional Development Banks in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as multilateral financial institutions, to scale up impact for SIDS in UNESCO priority areas. |
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- Partnering with regional development banks and international financial institutions to scale up debt swaps for SIDS including swaps for education, sustainable development, adaptation, resilience, biodiversity, nature conservation.

- Seeking long term partnerships with regional development banks and partners to support skills development for STI, STEM and AI in SIDS.

4.4.3. Bilateral Partners

Access to sufficient financial and technical resources and technology are major barriers to sustainable development of SIDS. With limited fiscal space and debt sustainability issues, mobilizing ODA and climate finance at scale is among the priorities. It should be noted that some SIDS are also donors. Bilateral partners are significant for SIDS, particularly in key sectors such as education and climate change. These are associated with specific historical, cultural, and economic relations and include OECD donors as well as South-South Cooperation partners.

UNESCO will especially:

- Promote North-SIDS & SIDS-SIDS cooperation arrangements between National Commissions as means to promote build capacity.

UNESCO will:

- Promote contributions for SIDS across a broad range of programmes and funds as well as foster new and innovative fit for purpose modalities. Focus will be on intersectoral, large-scale and medium-term programmes that are integrated with national and regional development actions and priorities.

- Promote donor contributions to multilateral global funds such as the UN SDG fund, IDA, IMF, Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund as well as regional development funds managed by SIDS.

- Advocate for strategic financing with SIDS donors and SIDS national financing agencies

UNESCO will consider:

- Periodic structured financing dialogues to launch and monitor resource mobilization associated with the SIDS operational strategy and boost awareness of financing constraints.

- Creating specific trust funds governed by SIDS member states and administered by UNESCO (e.g. “SIDS accelerator fund”) to pool smaller ad hoc contributions to support the implementation of the UNESCO SIDS operational strategy.

4.4.4. The Private Sector

UNESCO will consider opportunities to build relations between National Commissions and SIDS chambers of commerce and industry-based associations. This includes tourism, fisheries, agriculture, creative and cultural industries, media communication and ICT services to make links across UNESCO programmes including education, natural and cultural heritage protection, UNESCO designated sites and digital transformation.

UNESCO will:

- Adapt partnership modalities to support the smaller end of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) range including the informal sector.
- Facilitate engagement from employers about TVET needs as well as strengthen locally relevant learning models including apprenticeships and mentoring.

4.4.5. Non-Governmental Organizations

Engaging local civil society as actors in development is an important strategy to address capacity constraints in the SIDS and increases coordination between programmes.

UNESCO will:

- Support SIDS National Commissions to partner with national women's associations research associations, youth groups, parent teacher associations, local community groups, environmental NGOs, traditional leaders, creative industries and artists associations, media and journalist associations.
- Facilitate engagement from youth groups and employers about skills needs especially for youth and informal sectors as well as opportunities to lever local expertise and locally relevant learning models.

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6. Annex A: UNESCO draft SIDS list (TBC with Member States and Associate Members).

Table 1 : List of UNESCO Member States (MS) and Associate Members (AM) with SIDS status, organized by UNESCO regions

<p>Africa (6 MS, 3 LDCs) Cabo Verde, Comoros*, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe*, Seychelles</p> <p>Arab States (1 MS) Bahrain</p> <p>Asia and the Pacific (17 MS, 2 AM, 4 LDCs) MS: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati*, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands*, Timor-Leste*, Tonga, Tuvalu*, Vanuatu* AM: New Caledonia, Tokelau</p> <p>Latin America and the Caribbean (16 MS, 7 AM, 1 LDC) MS: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti*, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago AM: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat, Sint Maarten</p>

Source: list of UNESCO Member States and list of SIDS by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States). In this table, SIDS with Least Developed Countries (LDC) status are noted with an asterisk (*).

7. Annex B: Country income status

Table 2 Least Developed Country SIDS

LDC SIDS	IDA only	IDA blend	AfDB	AsDB	CBD	HIPC	Income status	FCS
Comoros	Y		Y			Y	LMIC	Y
Guinea-Bissau	Y		Y			Y	LIC	Y
Haiti	Y				Y	Y	LMIC	Y
Kiribati *2021	Y			Y			LMIC	Y
Sao Tome and Principe *2024	Y		Y			Y	LMIC	N
Solomon Islands *2024	Y			Y			LMIC	Y
Timor-Leste		Y		Y			LMIC	Y
Tuvalu *2021	Y			Y			UMIC	Y

* Denotes year for graduation projected by 2018 LDC review.

Table 3 Middle Income Classification of SIDS according to World Bank, based on Gross National Income per capita.

Middle income SIDS	IDA only	IDA blend	IBRD only	AfDB	AsDB	CDB	HIPC	FCS	UN member
Lower middle-income country (LMIC)									
Belize			Y			Y			Y
Cabo Verde		Y		Y					Y
Federated States of Micronesia	Y				Y			Y	Y
Papua New Guinea		Y			Y			Y	Y
Samoa	Y				Y				Y
Vanuatu	Y				Y				Y
Upper middle-income country (UMIC)									
Cuba									Y
Dominica		Y				Y			Y

Middle income SIDS	IDA only	IDA blend	IBRD only	AfDB	AsDB	CDB	HIPC	FCS	UN member
Dominican Republic			Y						Y
Fiji		Y			Y				Y
Grenada		Y				Y			Y
Guyana	Y					Y	Y		Y
Jamaica			Y			Y			Y
Maldives	Y				Y				Y
Marshall Islands	Y				Y			Y	Y
Mauritius			Y	Y					Y
Niue					Y				N
Saint Lucia		Y				Y			Y
St Vincent and the Grenadines		Y				Y			Y
Suriname			Y			Y			Y
Tonga	Y				Y				Y

Table 4 High income SIDS

High Income SIDS	IDA only	IDA blend	IBRD only	AfDB	AsDB	CDB	UN member
Anguilla						Y	N
Antigua & Barbuda			Y			Y	Y
Aruba							N
Bahrain							Y
Bahamas						Y	Y
Barbados						Y	Y
British Virgin Islands						Y	N
Cayman Islands						Y	N
Cook Islands					Y		N
Curacao							N
Montserrat						Y	N
Nauru			Y		Y		Y
Palau			Y		Y		Y
Seychelles			Y	Y			Y
Singapore							Y
St Kitts & Nevis			Y			Y	Y
Trinidad & Tobago			Y			Y	Y

Key Tables 1-3: IDA International development Association, IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, AfDB African Development Bank, AsDB Asian Development Bank, CDB Caribbean Development Bank, HIPC Heavily Indebted Poor Country, FCS Fragile Conflict Affected State, LIC Low-income country. The Inter-American Development Bank also provides support to Caribbean SIDS and recently announced significant new financing for the Ocean economy.

8. Annex C: UNESCO field offices and SIDS

Asia and Pacific (3 Offices)

- UNESCO Office in Apia and Fiji
- UNESCO Office in Jakarta
- UNESCO Office in Bangkok

The Caribbean (5 Offices)

- UNESCO Office in Kingston
- UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince
- UNESCO Office in Havana
- UNESCO Office in Santiago
- UNESCO Office in Montevideo.

The Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Seas (AIS) region (5 Offices).

- UNESCO Office in Dakar
- UNESCO Office in Nairobi
- UNESCO Office in Yaoundé Office
- UNESCO New Delhi Office
- UNESCO Office in Doha


9. Annex D: Caribbean regional agencies

Institutions	Work area
Caribbean Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE)	This institution of CARICOM promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, markets, and industries in the Caribbean.
CARICOM Development Fund (CDF)	Financial or technical assistance to disadvantaged countries, regions, and sectors in the Community Members: 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.
Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	Facilitate the development of the regional telecommunications sector
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)	Coordinates the Caribbean region's response to climate change, working on effective solutions and projects to combat its environmental impacts and global warming. Provides climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States through the CARICOM Secretariat and to the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories. It is an archive and clearinghouse for regional climate change data and documentation.
CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)	promoting efficiency and competitive production in goods and services, through the process of standardization and the verification of quality. Harmonize and circulate regional standards, facilitate competitiveness, and trade both regionally and internationally and to enable the sustainable production of goods and services in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) for the enhancement of social and economic development of the region.
Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO)	Coordinate regional scientific and technical activities in weather, climate, and water. In this context, it advises governments on international weather and climate issues and represents the Community's meteorological interests at the international level. It works closely with regional agencies involved in disaster preparedness, response, and relief.
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	Promotes and facilitates the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the people of the region Members: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and

	Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands
CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)	Multilateral Crime and Security management architecture, specifically designed to administer a collective response to the Crime and Security priorities of Member States
Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)	Training for the Region's weather observers and technicians, weather forecasters, specialists in hydrology, agrometeorology and other related disciplines. Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology in cooperation with the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus. The CIMH also serves as the CMO's research and climate center, as well as the regional instrument calibration and maintenance center. Issues also the Caribbean Precipitation Outlook, a three-month seasonal forecast for the Region.
Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)	Regional and internationally recognized secondary school leaving examinations relevant to the needs of the region; assist in Common Entrance and other types of examinations; produce teaching materials and train teachers to use the CXC syllabi; and advise regional governments on education.
Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)	Determines how the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) functions and disputes under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas . Attract investment to the region by providing stability through the uniform interpretation and application of the law.
CARICOM Competition Commission (CCC)	Ensure that the benefits expected from the establishment of the CSME are not frustrated by anti-competitive business conduct
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)	Disaster management that falls directly under the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Immediate and coordinated response to any disastrous event affecting any member-state of CARICOM, once the state requires such assistance. CARICOM member states and associate members benefits directly, in means of assistance services, monetary donations, financial grants and essential food and medical supplies.
Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)	Regional and national support in establishing, managing, and operating national agricultural health and food safety systems in accordance with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement.
Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System- (CASSOS)	Technical assistance for certified and experienced operations and airworthiness inspectors, training facilities and courses, developing, common procedures, criteria, and guidance materials. CAAs of Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	Regional public health agency provides strategic direction, in analysing, defining, and responding to public health priorities of CARICOM member states and associate members, to prevent disease, promote health and to respond to public health emergencies. Combines functions of five Caribbean Regional Health Institutes (RHIs) into a single agency.
Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)	Public Sector transformation, modernization, and development; Strategic Planning, Performance Results-Based Management, Business Process Analysis and Redesign, Change and Public Financial Management, Human Resource Planning & Development, and e-Government
Caribbean Agricultural Development Institute – CARDI	Research and development needs of the agriculture identified in national plans and policies, as well as providing an appropriate research and development service to the agricultural sector of member countries.
Caribbean Organization of Tax Administrators (COTA)	Tax database with information on CARICOM Tax Systems in terms of tax structures and revenues providing cross-country comparisons. Improving the use of best practices in taxation and support efforts towards more harmonization and cooperation among the CARICOM Member States .
The Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC)	CARTAC provides technical assistance in Public Finance Management, Tax and Customs Administration, Financial Sector Supervision & Financial Stability, Debt

	Management, Economic and financial statistics, Macroeconomic Programming Analysis:
University of West Indies (UWI)	UWI has campus in Antigua & Barbuda, Bermuda, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and serves as the Secretariat for Universities Caribbean , an association of Caribbean-based universities and research institutes spread across CARICOM countries as well as Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and the French and Dutch-speaking Antilles.
Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)	Prepares country risk profiles for each member country for tropical cyclones, earthquakes, and excess rainfall. The profiles provide an outline of the hazard characteristics and risks for the country as well as economic loss information used by our catastrophe models and include information about the models that underpin the associated products. The profiles have been designed to provide this information in a simple, accurate and robust manner covering the demographic, geological and economic characteristics of their territories, whilst at the same time assessing the impacts of historical events that may have caused damage to infrastructure, population, and the economy. The profiles act as the basis for pricing for countries' CCRIF policies.
Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic Regional Technical Assistance Center (CAPTAC-DR)	Provides technical assistance and training to the Dominican Republic in tax administration, customs administration, public financial management, financial regulation and supervision, monetary and exchange operations, real sector statistics, and finance statistics.

10. Annex E: Pacific regional agencies

Institutions	Work area
Pacific Community (SPC)	<p>SPC is sometimes referred to as a mini-UN for the Pacific. It provides a broad range of services represented in the image below to 14 Pacific Island countries and receives significant support from many partners.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPC'S DIVISIONS</p> 
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Resilience • Environmental Governance • Island And Ocean Ecosystem Services • Waste Management And Pollution Control
Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre.	The Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) promote macro-financial stability in the Pacific Island countries (PICs) through technical assistance and training to design and implement sound macroeconomic and financial policies.
The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)	Controls the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery and is an example of a successful sub-regional approach by SIDS to coordinate and raise fisheries revenues. PNA Members are Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu plus Tokelau. PNA controls around 50% of the global supply of skipjack tuna, the most canned tuna. The focus of PNA efforts to sustainably manage tuna is the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS).

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Established by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention). Commission formulates Conservation and Management Measures.
Forum Fisheries Agency	Established to help countries sustainably manage their fishery resources that fall within their 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). Based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, FFA's 17 Pacific Island members are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility	PRIF helps meet Pacific Infrastructure Challenges by improving the quality and coverage of infrastructure, identification of priority national infrastructure project pipelines, facilitates coordination among donors as well as with Pacific countries and key stakeholders. Identifies gaps and help build capacity in infrastructure planning and management. Helps find best practice/technology solutions to infrastructure issues and act as a knowledge hub. It is supported by AsDB, Australia, EIB, EU, Japan, NZ, USA, World Bank
Pacific Tourism Organization.	Brings together individuals, businesses, Government agencies, experts, development partners and travellers to share information, learn from experiences and promote collective efforts in preserving Pacific destinations and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. 21 Government members from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, Rapa Nui, and the People's Republic of China. 200 private sector members. Support by the United Nations Development Programme, EU.
The Pacific Centre PCREEE	Under the SIDS-DOCK sustainable energy framework provides technical assistance, knowledge sharing and policy advice to 14 PSIDS.
Universities of South Pacific (USP)	USP provides a broad education offer including international accredited programs with campuses in 12 Pacific Islands.
Pacific Water and Waste Association (PWWA)	Capacity building in the water and sanitation sector in the region.
The PCRAFI Pacific Risk Information System	Hosted by the SPC and provides risk-related geospatial data sets for enabling better information for smarter investments, ranging from satellite, aerial imagery to project-related asset, risk, and hazard data for 15 Pacific Island Countries.
Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company and Foundation (PCRIC/F)	Regionally focused captive insurance company and foundation owned by Pacific Island nations through the based in the Cook Islands. Offers parametric insurance policies covering Tropical Cyclone Event and Pacific Earthquake Event (including tsunami) with plans to extend to parametric insurance for excess rainfall events from 2022. Products are designed to meet specific needs identified by Pacific Island nations, and in times of crisis aim to deliver timely post-disaster liquidity to support rapid relief. PCRIC can facilitate technical assistance to help countries build resilience to disaster and climate risks. Current Pacific Island country members of the Foundation are Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu. All other member nations of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) are eligible to become members.

11. Annex F: List of AIS Regional agencies

[African Union](#) Commission (AUC) and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and Regional Economic Commissions with SIDS members.

[South AFRITAC](#) serve 13 countries in Southern Africa including the Comoros, Mauritius, and the Seychelles.

West AFRITAC in Bamako, Mali serves ten countries including Guinea-Bissau.

[South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center \(SARTTAC\)](#) covers the Maldives.

[ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency \(ECREEE\)](#), based in Cabo Verde coordinates, executes, co-funds and supports programs, projects, and activities in partnership with the UNIDO, World Bank, EU, Spain, and Austria. Active projects include Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde.

The African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group is a Specialized Agency of the African Union established to help African governments improve their capacities to better plan, prepare, and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters. It is supported by a broad range of partners. African Risk Capacity established ARC Insurance Company Limited (ARC Ltd) to manage the risk taken on through underwriting a pool of weather and other disaster risks for the region. The ARC facility provides drought and tropical cyclone insurance and targets African and Southwest Indian Ocean SIDS including Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome et Principe, Mauritius, and Seychelles. ARC uses [RiskView](#), an advanced satellite weather surveillance and software developed by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to estimate the level of damage from a disaster, and trigger readily available funds to African countries to enable response.

[The Indian Ocean Commission](#) is an intergovernmental organization made up of founding members Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles, with France (on behalf of La Reunion) and the Comoros. There are five areas of intervention:

1. Entrepreneurship, tourism and mobility, gender, disaster risk management.
2. Economy, island interests, maritime security, regional connectivity, and migration.
3. Governance and security, sustainable agriculture, and fisheries.
4. Sustainable environment and climate change.
5. Public health, education, training and research, culture, sustainable energies.