

+. The structure of the meeting included an opening segment and four (+) main sessions: (1) Interactive Discussion and Adoption of the Terms of Reference for SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs); (2) Monitoring the Implementation of the S-04 - Path2a' and SDGs; (3) Towards a Toolkit for a Harmonised Approach for Monitoring and Reporting on the S-04 - Path2a' (3); (4) Localisation of the S-04 - Path2a' and the Sustainable Development and SDGs: Lessons from the UN1s and (5) High Level Dialogue/Workshop of the Samoa Path2a' and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (SDG Summit (1)).

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#. The opening segment was led by His Excellency António Guterres, Permanent Mission of Cabo Verde to the UN, as the Master of Ceremonies and commenced with opening remarks from His Excellency Feilitamoeloa Aatoa Baiti, Minister/Secretary/General and High Representative for FDCs, WDCs, and SIDS (UN/4.177S), followed by Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director, UN Development Cooperation, UN. His Excellency Tichele Coombs, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (ASIS), and Mr. Paulo Pereira, State Secretary for Maritime Economy, Republic of Cabo Verde.

\$. Remarks from the opening segment acknowledged the significance of the SIDS NFP meeting to help continue chart the future and direction of the national focal points initiative to better support small island governments in implementing internationally agreed goals and programmes of action. The adoption of the Terms of Reference will be an important milestone in the process of fully operationalising the SIDS NFP network. The SIDS national focal points meeting has the advantage to bring to close contact and for collaboration the experts and institutions responsible for the implementation of S-04 - Path2a', enabling, on the one hand, to increase coherence in the handling of SIDS issues in the United Nations

stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogues, and a Partnership Reporting Template. In 2015, the outputs of the SIDS Partnership Framework included a partnership analysis, a regional partnership dialogue, criteria and norms, and a partnership tool kit. In order to monitor and ensure the full implementation of Partnerships for SIDS, the SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS/G=N) was launched to establish a bridge for closer private sector ties, between the three SIDS regions as well as the wider business community.

- 1+. The SIDS/G=N focuses on key priority areas for SIDS including, ocean, connectivity, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy and financing. The SIDS/G=N consists of in-person forums and an online platform. The forums provide a platform for stakeholders to share their experiences, networks and announce commitments to support sustainable development in SIDS, bringing together the private, public and finance sectors, and UN system entities. The forum is also open to businesses that are not engaged in SIDS networking in sectors where they can share relevant experiences and lessons learnt for the benefit of SIDS. The SIDS/G=N has also established an online platform, which acts as a hub for the continuity of the engagement and discussions that take place at the forums, through which one can access information at global, regional and national levels.
- 1#. - part from launching new partnerships, these forums are also platforms for raising awareness. Given that the forums bring together multilateral financial institutions, regional banks and development partners from the finance sector, the forums are an opportunity for the private sector to collaborate and explore existing mechanisms that are geared towards promoting private sector investment. Furthermore, it creates an opportunity for the private sector to embrace climate/smart economic infrastructure to build SIDS resilience.
- 1\$. - as NFPs, follow-up and reporting on the framework, support in the launching of new partnerships, and participation at the multi-stakeholder dialogues and SIDS/G=N forums would be required.
- 1*. To increase internal capacities, the meeting highlighted the critical role that global partnerships must play to achieve increased levels of funding and technical assistance to support accelerated implementation of the S-04 - Pathway. It also called on strengthening South/South cooperation at all levels, including ramping up cooperation between SIDS themselves as they lead on various commitments.
15. The meeting underscored the importance of alignment of the reporting and implementation mechanisms on the S-04 - Pathway and the agenda to national development frameworks and regional reporting mechanisms to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure congruence of the processes.
- 1). The meeting called for systematic continuity within the SIDS NFPs network over the next few years and past through renewed long-term commitments from member states, political commitment to NFPs, national ownership of the SIDS agenda, exploration of NFP guidelines, deliverables and positioning at the national level, addressing roles and

responsibilities of regional and international institutions, including the UN system, and effective resource allocation for focused implementation of the S-04-Path2a'.

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"(. This session was chaired by Mr. George Looffarello, NDP. Ms. Lisa Sarmiento (4.177S) made a presentation, outlining the elements of a toolkit for a harmonised approach for monitoring and reporting on the S-04-Path2a'. National Focal Point presentations were received from Ms. Lisebeth Gathine (Senegal), Ms. Oa'eha (Zambia), and Mr. Sheldon (Jamaica). Expert presentations were provided by C-1IC40, SPC, Paris and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The session provided strategic feedback on the toolkit to address duplication and mainstreaming efforts, data capacities, national ownership and accountability. The session concluded with final comments from Ms. Sarmiento. Ms. Lois Co'ng, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations, in her capacity as Chair of SIDS and Ms. Sh'ea Francis (4.177S).

"1. The toolkit aims to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development in SIDS, through accelerated implementation of the S-04-Path2a', and provide guidance to national governments and relevant stakeholders on effective and harmonised monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the S-04-Path2a', in alignment with the monitoring and reporting frameworks of other international agreements including the SDGs, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

"". In preparing the toolkit, a participatory approach was adopted, relying on consultations, focusing on countries' needs and resources, conducting a results-based management, and ensuring data harmonisation and integration on the international, regional and national levels. Through conducting a mapping exercise, identified gaps were bridged and indicators were compared to avoid duplication and minimise overlap.

".: The toolkit would consist of 15 dimensions: (1) sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all, (2) social development, (3) gender equality and women's empowerment, (4) health and non-communicable diseases, (5) sustainable energy, (6) sustainable transportation, (7) water and sanitation, (8) management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste, (9) sustainable consumption and production, (10) food security and nutrition, (11) climate change, (12) biodiversity, (13)

official statistics, the lack of demand for data by policy makers and the lack of interest in NSIs to produce data for policy-making, issues of validity and reliability of information, limited supply of statisticians and relevant expertise in the statistical system, technological challenges and constant demand to respond to climate induced and natural disasters while reporting on multiple global and regional commitments.

17. The meeting also noted that the tool kit can be used as an integrated tool to provide a single repository of performance data for SIDS. The tool kit would analyse information in a multi-dimensional way, aggregating sectoral and thematic information across countries and regions. This would allow for evidence on performance and benchmarking, additional learning and accountability, easier access to trustworthy information, and availability of the tool kit to a wide range of stakeholders.

18. During the meeting, feedback on the tool kit included?

- a) - call for a strong focus in developing the tool kit based on the status of national statistical systems to provide support to building statistical capacity in SIDS and ensure localisation to national development frameworks.
 - b) - call for ensuring that the tool kit is not burdensome to update, in that it is feasible relative to the number of indicators for reporting on the S - 04 - Path 2a' as it could impact timeliness.
- c) - call for user/friendliness including metadata and to take into consideration those that are I3/challenged, the I3 infrastructure and system should be compatible across all SIDS and should be integrated and interoperable. Including in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities into the system to generate maps at various levels as encouraged.
- d) - call for ensuring the data collection framework takes into consideration data quality, availability, granularity, accessibility, and integration. It was also suggested for indicators to be both quantitative and qualitative, as well as to include indicators on output, outcome and impact.
- e) - call for the integration of the tool kit with current processes, including those related to performance management, to avoid multiple tool kit reporting. An integrated, consultative SIDS/wide approach in developing the indicator framework for reporting on the S - 04 - Path 2a' was also suggested, citing reporting fatigue in light of challenges of a small administrations, limited resources and data capacities.
- f) - call for examining existing tool kits for best practices such as the , NDC - 06 Integrated Planning and Reporting tool kit and the Common Health's SDG tool kit.
- g) - call to get high/level political buy-in in order to ensure that it will be used and maintained, and to ensure accountability.
- h) more resources, capacity building including technical and financial support for the implementation of the tool kit will be required.
- i) There is a need to standardise of tool kits across the international and regional framework, SDGs, S - 04 - Path 2a', - agenda "(\$: etc.

- "*. The meeting called for institutionalising the reporting tool within SIDS governments, agencies, and NSAs to ensure regular monitoring and evaluation and sustainability of the tool.
- "5. The meeting also called for building and supporting the implementation of strategic approaches regionally, taking note of existing Regional Coordinating Mechanisms in support of the implementation of the SIDS agendas. The meeting stressed the need to consult with relevant organisations, particularly in the A-LS region, to better reflect the circumstances of all SIDS.
- "6. The meeting further called for alignment of the reporting process for SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, and other international agreements to be done at the national level, in national plans and budgets where it is applicable to national priorities. Furthermore, it called for a whole-of-government approach, with effective collaborations between central agencies to ensure that no one is left behind.
- "7. The meeting noted that challenges still remain in terms of accountability as limited numbers of partnerships have reported officially, citing that there is limited awareness, tracking, funding, and human resource capacity at the national level. It was also noted that the majority of accountability practices currently are external and called for

- :+. This session was chaired by Patricia Graca, Resident Coordinator, Cabo Verde. Member States presentations on lessons from the UN1s were received from Or. 1a6esh =h&c6or' (Oa&riti&s), Or. =rendos6i 7imen (Na&r&), and Os. %eanel !olne' (St. 7&cia). Regional and international response presentations were also received from >C7 - C, >SC - P, F - 4 and ,N>SC4. The meeting underscored the importance of co&ntr'/led initiatives, effective localisation of the S - 0 4 - Path2a', building partnerships and cohesive national strategies, capacity building, policies to address AIDS challenges, benefit of strengthening national planning systems and processes for improved development outcomes.
- :#. The meeting noted that the localisation of the "(: (- genda and preparation of UN1s require political commitment at the highest level. The meeting noted that the approach should be co&ntr'/led, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, with respect to national policy frameworks and priorities. It should build on existing platforms and processes to avoid duplication, and evolve over time, taking into account emerging issues and the development of new methodologies to minimise the reporting burden on national administrations.
- :\$. The meeting emphasised leveraging the interlinkages across sectoral and cross/sectoral aspects and integrating implementation connecting plans with budgets to help prioritise allocations according to coordinating development partner resources towards national priorities, orienting institutional mechanisms to facilitate implementation, noting national capacities, regularising monitoring to support policy making and reporting, and reporting on national plans, with global commitments in mind to be used for S - 0 4 - Path2a' and UN1 reporting.
- :* . The meeting noted the importance of adopting a whole/of/government approach to preparing the UN1s, and the need to entrench alignment in SDG and S - 0 4 - Path2a' implementation. The need to help line ministries understand their role in the process was emphasised, ensuring that they recognise how their work is already contributing to the implementation of the SDGs and the S - 0 4 - Path2a' towards enhanced UN1 reporting.
- :5. The meeting noted the importance of highlighting the need for financing SDG implementation in the context of the UN1 process. Given that many AIDS are middle income countries, and not eligible for concessional financing, the meeting stressed the importance of exploring new ways of working with partners and innovative methods of financing.
- :). The meeting affirmed the crucial role partnerships with donor partners, regional organisations, civil society, and the private sector play in ensuring proper UN1 preparation as well as progress with SDG implementation in general. The meeting stressed the need to consolidate partnerships and strengthen targeted collaboration. The meeting also stressed the need to raise awareness among stakeholders around each of the 17 SDGs, and to work with stakeholders to mobilise the necessary resources in this context.

+. The meeting further noted the importance of strengthening partnerships, including in the areas of the 'real economy', 'renewable energy' and science, technology and innovation. Partnerships such as the SIDS High Seas Initiative were highlighted as important platforms

Transition finance

- +\$. Development Assistance Committee (DAC) partner countries' transition from official to private resources as a country's GNI per capita rises, has "tipping points" (1) a substitution of external with domestic resources and (2) a substitution of public with private resources.
- +*. At any given point of DAC partner countries' transition, the ultimate objective of transition finance should be to optimise access to finance for sustainable development, ensuring a smooth deployment of financing /avoiding major financing gaps

- ##. IC3s can help overcome many of the challenges affecting SIDS. There is a need for greater, reliable, affordable, modern, and environmentally sound technologies; access for SIDS to achieve their sustainable development objectives, and reviewed progress in access to affordable and modern digital technologies since the 1st International Conference on SIDS.
- ###. Basic IC3s, particularly wireless technologies, have proliferated throughout SIDS. In over half of the SIDS, more than 50% of households have a cell phone. Mobile road and coverage has improved significantly, with 50% reach in 2015. Through public/private investment, significant improvement in submarine cables and international connectivity has been recorded, however improvements in satellite connectivity still remain critical, particularly for SIDS where large segments of the population live far away from submarine landing stations, and for disaster resilience. Furthermore, SIDS remain short of the world average for internet usage. The meeting highlighted the correlation between education and internet usage improvements and called for improvements in secondary school enrolment.
- ##+. - regulatory regime to foster private investment for deploying IC3 networks in a competitive environment which can result in lower prices and better quality, and for clear government strategies for applying IC3s across a spectrum of development challenges to ensure digital technologies have the intended impacts is required.
- ##. The meeting heard of SIDS performance with regards to the I3, 1 regulator tracker (a tool for measuring progress in IC3 regulation) which constitutes four (+) generations of regulation: (1) regulated public monopolies which requires a command and control approach, (2) basic reform which involves establishing partial liberalisation and privatisation across markets, (3) enabling investment, innovation and access with a dual focus on stimulating competition in service and content delivery, and consumer protection and (4) integrated regulation led to economic and social policy goals. SIDS are lagging on regulations, with over half of SIDS in the first or second generation of regulation, citing a reflection of small market sizes where competition tends to be limited compounded with resource constraints. Approaches to overcome such constraints include using a multi/sector or regional regulator and leveraging expertise of other government agencies.
- ##\$. The meeting shared concrete solutions to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs including new technologies such as telemedicine connecting a hospital in Canada to sick Caribbean countries, online university learning in the Caribbean, Artificial Intelligence to accelerate transition to renewable energy in Palau, mobile money for Pacific countries with large diasporas, blockchain technology to trace tuna supply chain to promote sustainable ethical fishing in Fiji, and drones in Vanuatu to conduct rapid damage assessments.
- ##*. Given the large direct and indirect economic impacts of IC3s for SIDS in significantly increasing the GDP per capita, the meeting called for strengthening IC3s and reducing the infrastructure and application gap through strategic regulation and capacity building.

- b) Having the SIDS NFPs as the same person or department as the existing SDG focal points or establishing a coordination mechanism ensuring coordinated work of the various focal points as encouraged.
- c) - call for the UN system to provide native language translations of the S-04 - Path2a' guidelines so as to gain a better understanding of what resources are available and what is expected from members states.
- d) In order to strengthen institutional partnerships with the UN system, the meeting called for moving forward with the reform of the UN Development System in the North Pacific through the establishment of a North Pacific Office/Counter Office.

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\$. Concluding remarks were received from Mr. Francesco Poffarello (UNDP), Ms. Patricia Graca (Resident Coordinator, Cabo Verde), Mr. José Fialho Rocha (Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde in the United Nations), as well as, Ms. Felicitamoeloa Aatoa Baitiamani, Under/Secretary General and High Representative for WDCs, WDCs, and SIDS (UN/4.177S), and Mr. António Guterres, General Director, UN/C, Republic of Cabo Verde.

\$. The adoption of the terms of reference for the SIDS national focal points is an important milestone, but there is more to be done? capacity building and dedicated resources for NFPs, as well as the need for institutional continuity of the mechanism.

\$. - harmonised approach to monitoring and reporting is necessary to drive the implementation of the S-04 - Path2a' and other global frameworks. The toolkit for monitoring and reporting on the S-04 - should build on what already exists and including the need to reduce the burden of reporting in SIDS, while taking an integrated, coherent and coordinated approach to moving the process forward, and have a high/level of involvement at all levels.

\$. International National Reviews (INRs) provides an opportunity to enhance coordination and inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs and S-04 - Path2a'. Breaking down silos and strengthening institutions is important and efforts to align the SDGs and the S-04 - Path2a' should be entrenched in all national systems of implementation.

\$. 4.177S will provide a timeline for finalisation of the toolkit and will support efforts to

