



## Meeting Summary - DRAFT

### Virtual Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs) of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

#### Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS

Date: 24 November 2021

*(Zoom with interpretations to French & Portuguese)*

### **Enhancing coherence in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and SDGs: Focus on COVID-19 recovery and building back better in SIDS – lessons from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).**

1. Government designated National focal points and representatives of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS met virtually on 24 November 2021 to share experiences and best practices, drawing from 2021 VNRs on the implementation SAMOA Pathway and SDGs. The meeting also sought to share experiences and draw best practices on mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs into national development processes, as well as their implementation and follow up, in the context of COVID-19 recovery efforts, in keeping with building back better.
2. The meeting was attended by participants from Cabo Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, Singapore, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, UN agencies included the UN-OHRLLS (organizer), UN-DESA, UNDRR, UN-HABITAT, regional organizations including UNECA, UN resident coordinator from Cabo Verde and representation from the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).
3. The structure of the virtual meeting included an opening segment and 2 main sessions; (1) Key issues: implementation of SDGs and SAMOA pathway in COVID-19 era and beyond and (2) Country experiences: implementation of SDGs and SAMOA pathway in COVID-19 era and beyond.
4. The opening segment was moderated by Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of the SIDS Sub-programme, at UN-OHRLLS. The segment commenced with remarks (recorded) from H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray, High Representative, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS) and H.E. Mr. Aubrey Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the United Nations, Chair of AOSIS.
5. Remarks from the opening segment acknowledged the continued impact that COVID-19 has had on the already vulnerable SIDS. SIDS have been disproportionately impacted. However, this impact has not been adequately factored into the global economic reconstruction and

recovery plans. The “old” GDP per capita criteria continue to inhibit access to much needed development finance in SIDS. The limited fiscal resources for SIDS have been stretched beyond the limits due to COVID-19. The only recourse for SIDS has been to rely on borrowing resulting in an insurmountable debt crisis. The high debt levels continue to stifle the ability of SIDS to make critical public investments, among which are in adaptation projects, and these must be tackled as a matter of urgency.

6. AOSIS is working tirelessly to deliver targeted solutions to overcome some of these challenges, including a focus on the Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). The introduction of a Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index will help smooth the way for concessionary finance – for which most SIDS remain ineligible.
7. Time is not on SIDS’ side to make good progress towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the emerging climate imperatives from the Paris Agreement. Bringing coherence to the implementation and follow up of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda is tough, but essential work.
8. While the support of the international community is essential, the future of SIDS will ultimately be shaped by SIDS’ own actions, guided by their national priorities and their circumstances. There is a need to ensure alignment of domestic policies and frameworks with the broader sustainable development agenda and climate goals. There is a need to guarantee the enabling environment that fulfills and enhances the potential of solutions which already exist and innovate new ones to make progress.
9. The opening segment also noted the importance AIS region coordination, the significance of the NFP network, and the annual NFP meetings that allow NFPs to share information, lessons learned, and best practices. The network also seeks to bridge the gap between the discussions that take place at the global with the local level, where NFPs are, and the continued support of our Resident Coordinators is paramount.

***Session 1: Key issues: implementation of SDGs and SAMOA pathway in COVID-19 era and beyond***

10. This session was chaired by Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of the SIDS Sub-programme (UN-OHRLLS). The session provided an overview of key issues & lessons learnt from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and on building back better for effective COVID-19 recovery in AIS SIDS. Ms Tonya Vaturi, Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA, gave a presentation on the “*Key issues & Lessons learnt from VNRs.*” Mr Eric Akobeng, Chief, Development Planning Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division (MGD), Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) gave a presentation on “*IPRT and its applications in shaping national development plans*”.

### ***Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)***

11. A total 176 out of 197 member countries (since 2016 to 2021), have presented at least one VNR; 188 is expected to have presented by 2022, nine (9) of these are from SIDS, seven for the first time. In 2021, 6 of the 42 countries that presented VNRs were from SIDS; three SIDS conducted their first VNR (Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba and Marshall Islands), and three were second time reporters (Bahamas, Cabo Verde and Dominican Republic). SIDS countries formulated and integrated a common section in their respective VNRs, referencing the SAMOA Pathway, underlining common challenges and vulnerabilities, and highlighting opportunities and the need for regional cooperation, including SIDS to SIDS cooperation.
12. The VNR Synthesis Report, available on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, which also houses VNR Database, provides a sample of challenges, lessons learned and best practices, which are included within the newly expanded chapter on countries in special situations, a relatively new chapter itself from 2020 to shine a spotlight on LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, African countries, MIC, and countries in conflict and post conflict situations. The shift to an increasingly virtual VNR process, includes a new section on best practices, effective policies, inclusive approaches, and innovative measures to respond to the pandemic and collaborate in an increasingly digital world.
13. The VNR synthesis report underscores consequences of the pandemic have impeded progress for nearly all countries in various ways, but SIDS have been especially hard hit by related social and economic setbacks. Coupled with the devastating effects of climate change, progress towards the SDGs in all six SIDS countries reporting their VNRs have either been slowed or completely derailed.
14. The unique structural and exogenous vulnerabilities of SIDS, and common development challenges, which are well known, are emphasized: small landmass; small populations; geographical isolation and spatial dispersion; high cost of transport, communication and energy; low-lying areas and extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural hazard; fragility of island ecosystems and high level of endemism; narrow resource-based and undiversified economies; remoteness from markets and strong dependence on trade, travel and remittances; high sensitivity to international fluctuations and narrow trade partners and lack of access to concessional financing.
15. Despite these vulnerabilities SIDS are leading by example and have reported successes and progress in numerous areas that are important for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic. A wide range of local, national and regional actors from SIDS countries have joined forces to deliver significant sustainable development outcomes. SIDS recognize that recovery represents a unique opportunity to catalyze transformative sustainable development.
16. SDGs are increasingly integrated into national development plans, and national institutions are evolving. Antigua and Barbuda, for example, have established a national SDG Committee to guide implementation. Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, and Marshall Islands are reportedly all prioritizing the inclusion of youth in the labour market and focusing on the

well-being of both urban and rural populations. Bahamas launched a National Food Distribution Taskforce that delivered emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations. Cabo Verde and Cuba undertook similar initiatives. Antigua and Barbuda, Cabo Verde, and Cuba all reported success in improving gender parity in political decision-making bodies and highlighted other advances in gender equality. The Marshall Islands conducted a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment identifying risks related to rising sea levels and frequent coastal flooding.

17. SIDS VNRs collectively call for “the scaling-up and development of genuine and durable partnerships with all stakeholders at national, regional and international levels”, echoing the SAMOA Pathway mid-term Review. To reduce vulnerability and build resilience, the global community should support SIDS to implement innovative solutions fueled by public and private investments, enhance access to development finance, scale-up investments for economic growth and diversification, and support ocean-based economies and creative and cultural industries.
18. VNRs underline a commitment and willingness to recognize shared unique challenges, and join forces to address them, also pledged to improve inter-regional and intra-regional cooperation and collaboration.
19. VNRs remain an important tool; for many countries they are central to a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic. VNRs can integrate and institutionalize the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the targets of the SDGs into national-level planning, legislation and policy. The VNR exercise also helps to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation, to inspire new partnerships, and support innovative policies, including the use of new tools and methods to collect data and information in an increasingly digitized world.

### ***Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT)***

20. African member states have made several continental and global commitments including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (which has 17 goals, 169 targets and 244 indicators within five dimensions: people, prosperity, planet, partnership and peace) and Agenda 2063 (which has 20 goals), Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), Paris Agreement (Climate Change), the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa agenda and others.
21. Member states are fraught with Development Planning challenges, and in the context of limited resources and the need to leave no one behind, means they need to develop strategic and robust development plans that are resilient (can withstand shocks), inclusive and coherent (ensuring alignment of the vision, mission, objectives including monitoring and evaluation strategies to deliver on results). Traditional planning approaches and tools are inadequate, hence the demand for new planning approaches and tools that take into account continental and global agreements.

22. In this context, ECA has developed a mainstreaming toolkit, known as <sup>1</sup>Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT). The idea of the toolkit emanated from the 2016 Conference of Ministers which requested ECA & AUC to develop a tool that can help align development agendas at national and subnational levels. There were series of workshops (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia and Bukina Faso) that have been held to help countries to align plans with the two agendas; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.
23. The toolkit allows for an integrated approach to implementing the SDGs. It facilitates the integration of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 at goal, target and indicator levels (Horizontal alignment); allows for assessing the alignment of NDPs with both agendas (Vertical alignment) and assist with evaluating the degree of alignment by sector of the plans.
24. The IPRT allows for generating of reports; tracks performance of NDPs and identifies gaps between actual performance and targets; provides visualization of the alignment process while also allowing for the identification for reasons for non-integration; which is invaluable as a basis for providing support.
25. The IPRT has trickle down effects to the national level and sub-national levels; helps to strengthen the capacity of the National Development Planning Teams; helps to integrate National Development Plans into sub-national development plans, improves the quality of NDPs indicators, provides understanding of the complementary relationships between Agendas 2030 and 2063, improves data collection on governance and economic indicators, improves M&E arrangements, improves guidelines issued by the National Development Planning Authorities, improves data collection on governance and economic indicators.
26. IPRT Adoption and Impact Pathways follows 3 stages: introductory stage (includes IPRT exposure and training through workshops), deployment stage (mainstreaming of the NDPs) and adoption stage (marked by tracking of progress). A total of 29 countries are benefitting and at various stages of this continuum.
27. Due to the flexibility of the toolkit, which allows integration of multiple development agendas into NDPs, and also tracks progress towards achieving Agenda 2030 and A2063, as an All-in-one, it can also be used to track the SAMOA Pathway.

## ***Session 2: Country Experiences: Implementation of SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in COVID-19 Era and Beyond***

28. This session was chaired by Ms. Ana Graca, Resident Coordinator, Cabo Verde. The session allowed for the sharing experiences and best practices, drawing from 2021 VNRs on the implementation SAMOA Pathway and SDGs. Countries also shared their experiences and drew best practices and lessons learnt on mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs into national development processes, as well as their implementation and follow up, in the

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<sup>1</sup> The IPRT is a web application sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and developed in response to the needs of African countries to simultaneously adopt and integrate both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into their national development and enable them to report their progress in a harmonized way - <https://iprt.uneca.org/> .

context of COVID-19 recovery efforts, in keeping with building back better. Country experiences were shared by Ambassador Maria Jesus Miranda, National Focal Point, Cabo Verde and Mme Abdallah Fatouma, National Focal Point, Comoros.

### *Country Experiences*

#### **Comoros**

29. Like all SIDS, Comoros is committed to the implementation of the SDGs, SAMOA Pathway in the context of COVID-19. The government of Comoros developed the Emerging Comoros Plan to put the country on the path to emergence by 2030. The plan, which will contribute significantly to the implementation of the SDGs if well implemented, espouses five pillars and 5 catalysts.
30. The Five pillars include a focus on: (1) tourism and crafts, as major assets for the Comoros in the Indian Ocean; (2) promoting the structural transformation of the blue economy of Comoros to revive the economy; (3) promoting Comoros as a hub for financial and logistics services; (4) modernized agriculture; and (5) establishing industrial niches to diversify the economy.
31. The five catalysts are: (1) ensuring a reformed and more stable policy and institutional environment; (2) improved infrastructure for a high-performance economy; (3) human capital development that is geared for the future; (4) structural reforms for a conducive competitive environment; and (5) asserting the Comoros as a key player in the digital revolution.
32. How to effectively implement SDGs remains some of the major challenges for Comoros, including the vulnerability to climate change. To make strides in the implementation of the SDGs, the implementation of projects in key sectors that advance the SDGs, responding to climate change and reducing the impacts of COVID-19 are key.
33. Some of the best emerging practices includes updating the basic texts of environmental policies, strategies, law and regulations to adapt them to new challenges; the project to set up a special fund for the environment, continue search for innovative solutions to combat climate vulnerability and promoting an environmentally friendly energy mix.
34. The critical issues related to global and/or regional funding and response include challenges related to the implementation of the Paris agreement; the difficulty of mobilizing available funds such as those of GCF, the lack of special funds to respond to vulnerability of SIDS which is recognized by all, especially "loss and damage"; lack of sufficient funds for the COVID-19 response and general lack of support for the creation of special funds in SIDS.
35. There is a need for International and regional platforms to continue to support SIDS through strong advocacy, through AOSIS and the capacity building of those involved in the negotiations, and others including NFPs.
36. Some of the SDG related projects relates to improving resiliency: the Climate Change Resilient Water Supply Project (funded by GCF/UND) to strengthen the climate resilience of water supply by integrating systematic climate risk reduction approaches into governance and water supply , including in planning, investments, design and targeting 64% of the

Comoros population (450 000 people (including 229,500 women) in the urban and peri-urban agglomerations of each of the island capitals, as well as 139 rural villages)). The aim is to improve the resilience of the drinking water supply to offset impacts of drought, flood damage and poor water quality.

37. The project aims to promote a paradigm shift in water supply through 3 specific objectives: strengthening the institutional, regulatory and policy framework for the management and reduction of climate risks related to water supply; integration of climate risks in the management some resources in water resources and strengthening the climate resilience of water supply infrastructure and systems.
38. Another project is to support the strengthening of the SDG financing framework and ecosystem in the Comoros by strengthening the framework and ecosystem for financing the SDGs with a view to achieving its national development goals and SDGs. The project entails fiscal system reform including with support from Inspectors from taxes without Borders; strengthening of taxation of the informal sector; and a financing strategy to address the key challenges identified in the evaluation of financing for development is developed and a national multi-stakeholder platform is developed to facilitate dialogue and participation around integrated national funding financing framework.
39. Another project regards strengthening the Comoros' resilience to disaster risks related to climate change and variability, which entails: strengthening of the institutional, policy and Regulatory framework with regards to Climate risks and disasters; Improved and strengthened knowledge and understanding of the climatic drivers of natural disasters and their long-term influence on the frequency and intensity of disasters and their impact on local communities; and strengthening of the resilience of communities to the risks of catastrophes caused by climate change.

## **Cabo Verde**

***[Lost in Portuguese- seek English version]***

### ***Interactive Discussion - Responses from SIDS NFPs and Interventions from (other) UN System***

40. After the presentations, interventions were received from Ms. Elizabeth Agathine, Principal Secretary-Economic Planning and SIDS national focal point, Seychelles, and Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Chief of New York Office of UNDRR.
41. The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Seychelles was mainly the decline of the tourism activities, resulting in a significant decline in the tourism revenue, because tourism is the mainstay of the country's economy. The decline in the government revenues as well as the increase in government spending created a deficit that significantly increased Seychelles' debt to GDP ratio. Prior to COVID, Seychelles was on a debt sustainability path - was to reach 50% debt to GDP ratio by 2021. However, by the end of 2020 Seychelles was nearly 100% to GDP ratio.

42. To maintain livelihoods, the government of Seychelles introduced financial assistance, including job retention scheme. It was initially introduced for three months and then there was the need to extend it with the enduring impact of COVID-19, and with that to include the coverage for the social protection to cater for the most vulnerable and people that were losing their jobs, especially from the tourism industries and all the small businesses within the country. This further created significant spending that further increased Seychelles' Debt GDP ratio.
43. However, COVID-19 has also forced a rethink regarding how the economy is structured right, which now is highly dependent on tourism. While tourism will remain important, economic transformation needs to take place, with diversification into other economic sectors. While it may not be easy to diversify the country's tourism in the traditional sense, it can be transformed in the sense of the kind of tourism product Seychelles could provide.
44. The fishery sector (Seychelles has a tuna canning factory) remained relatively buoyant when borders were closed; revenues from the factory rose, as well exports which underscores the need to look at other sectors like fisheries and agriculture, bringing them into the added value chains, to diversify the economy so that they can actually bring in revenues while the tourism is not performing that well.
45. Human capital became a critical issue for Seychelles, and this was evident when borders closed because Seychelles is highly dependent on foreign labour, especially in the tourism industry and certain other sectors. Some of the foreign labor which had travelled could not come back, leading to huge delays in critical projects.
46. Climate change is another critical issue; the issue of preparedness comes to the fore, to ensure there is contingency planning to be able to respond to some of the climate related issues. In this context, the national development planning process, tries to integrate better that contingency planning element.
47. On the issues related to financing, considering the issue of vulnerability of SIDS is paramount. COVID-19 is bringing to the fore the issues of SIDS vulnerability, which requires an unequivocal response. International financing institutions need to be a little bit more responsive to the issues of vulnerability. Some SIDS are classified as high income countries and miss on financing initiatives, including those in the wake of COVID-19 related to debt. The vulnerability criteria need to be taken very seriously, including the debt sustainability issue because due to COVID-19 all key economic sectors came to a standstill. Hence issues of economic diversification and economic transformation needs much greater focus.
48. There is still a need to understand a little bit better the social impact that COVID-19 has on our countries, in addition to the economic impact which relatively understood by now. There is need to better understand the social impact and how far back development has been set back in this respect.



## **Risks**

49. The meeting heard the nature and scale of risk is changing. Integrating risk considerations into the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and SAMOA Pathway in the COVID-19 era and beyond, including emerging lessons learned from the ongoing pandemic and associated crisis, is fundamental for a green, resilient, and equitable recovery from the crisis. Comprehensive Risk Management (CRM) approaches that locate risk at the core of all development and humanitarian interventions and focus on nurturing a common understanding of risk is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda.
50. National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies should be established or revised, incorporating inter-related risks including climate change. Quality and reliable data on systemic risk is necessary to inform policies and programs in all sectors and at all levels.
51. Voluntary National Reviews are an opportunity to analyze if policies and programs are prevention-oriented and risk-informed and determine next steps for reducing and preventing exposure and vulnerability across the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDRR has prepared an approach for consideration when preparing Voluntary National Reviews to build synergies with the national-level processes of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework (2023) and to integrate DRR across sectors.
52. Risk-informed investment, including consistent international development cooperation targeted to prevention, is essential to build long-term resilience. A shift from focusing on short-term outlooks and under-prioritizing disaster risks to promoting a ‘Think Resilience’ approach that becomes mandatory in all public, as well as private sector investments.

## ***Closing***

53. In closing, the moderator underscored the crisis of climate change, inequality and COVID-19 which is exacerbating the issues in SIDS; the huge fiscal and economic impact on SIDS, which is hampering recovery efforts and any efforts of public investment for SDGs, including for climate action; the importance of common solutions including the importance of domestic financing, not just for recovery but also for economic diversification etc. The need for innovative financing solutions that look at domestic financing and access to external financing, be it private or public, and requiring also special attention on the vulnerability criteria.
54. The need for continued data and statistics; especially countries need to really know the social impacts beyond the economic impacts of COVID-19, in particular to the most vulnerable to be able to make a case for better integrated policy; responsive programming; integrated national financing frameworks, including from a risk perspective.
55. The important issue of building resilience was raised; be it adaptation and mitigation regarding risk considerations in all processes on national planning or UN or other partners,

regards to disasters or to the economic shocks considering structural issues with a view to prevention, preparedness and response as key lesson learnt coming out of COVID-19

56. Ms Tishka Francis provided brief closing remarks, noting the conclusion of NFP meetings for 2021. In person NFP meetings will be held in the Caribbean in 2022. OHRLLS will prepare a summary of this meeting and share in due course.

## Participants List

### 1. NFPs & Member states representatives

Name	Organization	Title	Email	NFP	Country
1. Elizabeth Agathine	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Trade	Principal Secretary-Economic Planning	elizabeth@finance.gov.sc	Y	Seychelles
2. Fatouma Abdallah	Ministère de l'environnement	Mme	alifat89@gmail.com	Y	Comoros
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### 2. Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs)

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1. Ana	Graça	Resident Coordinator Cabo Verde	Secretariat	ana.graca@un.org	AIS
2. Sebastien	Vauzelle	Economist RCO CV	Secretariat	sebastien.vauzelle@un.org	AIS

### 3. AOSIS Office

Name	Surname	Title	Organization	Email
1. WALTON	Webson	Ambassador	AOSIS	

#### 4. IACG Members

Name	Surname	Title	Organization	Email
1. Tonya	Vaturi	Sustainable development officer	UN DESA	
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#### 5. Organizers

Name	UN-System
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Tishka Francis	OHRLLS
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## 6. Other

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## Virtual Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs) of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

### Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS

Wednesday, 24 November 2021 8:00 am – 10:00 am (New York Time)

[\(ZOOM\)](#)

**Enhancing coherence in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and SDGs: Focus on COVID-19 recovery and building back better in SIDS – lessons from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).**

### AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
8:00am-8:10am	<b>1. OPENING</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme (UN-OHRLS)  <b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray, High Representative, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLS) – <i>by Video</i></li> <li>H.E. Mr. Aubrey Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua &amp; Barbuda to the United Nations, Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)</li> </ul>
8:10am- 8:30am	<b>2. KEY ISSUES: IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS AND SAMOA PATHWAY IN COVID-19 ERA AND BEYOND</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme (UN-OHRLS)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation I:</b> Summary of Key issues &amp; Lessons learnt from VNRs – <b>Ms Tonya Vaturi, Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination, UNDESA</b></li> <li>• <b>Presentation II &amp; :</b> Building back better: Towards effective COVID-19 recovery in SIDS – <b>Mr. Eric Akobeng, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, UNECA</b></li> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>GUIDING QUESTIONS</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the key issues &amp; Lessons learnt from VNRs on the implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the COVID-19 era? What are the implications for further practice?</li> <li>2. What are the challenges, opportunities and emerging best practices to build back better (at the global and regional levels) to respond effectively and recover from COVID-19 in SIDS?</li> <li>3. What have been the critical issues related to finance and response at the global and/or regional level? Are there vignettes of success stories that could be replicated elsewhere?</li> <li>4. How can international and regional platforms continue to support SIDS to build back better? What are the challenges and successes? What could be the missing link(s) and the ways to address these?</li> </ol>
8:30am–9:55am	<p><b>3. COUNTRY EXPERIENCES: IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS AND SAMOA PATHWAY IN COVID-19 ERA AND BEYOND</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Ana Graca,</b> Resident Coordinator, Cabo Verde</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentations I: Ambassador Maria Jesus Miranda, National Focal Point,</b> Cabo Verde</li> <li>• <b>Presentation III: Mme Abdallah Fatouma, National Focal Point,</b> Comoros</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Discussion</b> - Responses from SIDS NFPs and Interventions from (other) UN System</p>

	<p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seychelles - Ms Elizabeth Agathine, Principal Secretary - Economic Planning</b></li> <li>• <b>UNDRR – Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Chief of New York Office</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator’s Summary</b></p> <p><b><u>GUIDING QUESTIONS</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the key issues &amp; lessons learnt, drawing from VNRs, on the implementation of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in the COVID-19 era?</li> <li>2. How is your country building back better? What are the opportunities, emerging priorities, and best practices to build back better to respond effectively and recover from COVID-19 in SIDS?</li> <li>3. How have your country responded to some of the critical issues related to finance? Are there vignettes of success stories that could be replicated elsewhere?</li> <li>4. How can international and regional platforms continue to support SIDS to build back better? What are the lessons learnt? What could be the missing link(s) and the possible ways to address these?</li> </ol>
9:55am–10:00am	<p><b>CLOSING</b></p> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-Programme (UN-OHRLLS)</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup>SIDS VNRs 2016-2021

<sup>2</sup> 2016: [Samoa](#)

2017: [Belize](#) & [Maldives](#)

2018: [Bahamas](#), [Bahrain](#), [Cabo Verde](#), [Dominican Republic](#), [Kiribati](#) & [Singapore](#)

2019: [Fiji](#), [Mauritius](#), [Nauru](#), [Palau](#), [Saint Lucia](#), [Timor-Leste](#), [Tonga](#) & [Vanuatu](#)

2020: [Barbados](#), [Comoros](#), [Micronesia](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#), [Samoa](#), [Seychelles](#) & [Trinidad and Tobago](#)

2021: [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [Bahamas](#), [Cabo Verde](#), [Cuba](#), [Dominican Republic](#) & [Marshall Islands](#)

2022: Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Suriname and Tuvalu