

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



Report of the seventh meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



UNITED NATIONS



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

Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee
of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism
23 March 2018
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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REPORT OF SEVENTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM

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A. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The meeting made the following recommendations:
 - The Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM), should be maintained as an important mechanism in advocating for the advancement of the SIDS development agenda within the multilateral framework.
 - The national focal point mechanism should be activated in order to fully operationalize the RCM.
 - Additionally, it was agreed that National Focal Points, where identified should be institutions rather than individuals.
 - While it is important to explore the synergies between the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs, the particularities of SIDS should be identified and emphasized, especially where the SDGs did not treat specifically with SIDS specific issues.
 - The proposal for revision of the RCM should be conveyed to the CDCC for endorsement.
 - Given the additional reporting burdens and limited time to deliver on the first post-SAMOA report as well as past, financial resources that were made available to assist countries with their reporting responsibilities, ECLAC should explore with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) what options are available, especially considering the kind of support given in other regions.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date

2. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) convened a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM/TAC) for implementation of the small island developing States (SIDS) development agenda at its office, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 23 March 2018.

2. Attendance

3. There were ten participants in attendance: seven were representatives from Member States of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) these being Antigua and Barbuda (by WebEx), Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Representatives from the following organizations were also in attendance: the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), CARICOM, and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). The list of participants is attached in annex I.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of meeting

4. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, welcomed the participants to the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism. Noting the evolution of the RCM, as well as the evolving institutional framework for the monitoring of the implementation of the SIDS development agenda, the Director reiterated the importance role which the RCM can play in giving focus to the peculiarities of the Caribbean SIDS development experience. These

she noted to include the specific challenges of climate change, natural vulnerability, unsustainable debt, the proliferation of non-communicable diseases, aging, high youth unemployment, and gender inequality. She further observed that to date, the RCM had not yet risen to this task in a fulsome way, and called upon the delegates to ensure that arising out of the meeting, concrete proposals were agreed upon in respect of the revitalization of the RCM, as a vehicle for advancing the coordination of SIDS development in the subregion.

5. In this regard, the Director drew specific attention to the proposals prepared for consideration in by meeting in the document titled *“Review of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the sustainable development agenda in the small island developing States of the Caribbean”*, and urged meeting participants to give it their earnest attention, as this proposal was to be advanced for endorsement at the next meeting of the CDCC in April 2018.

6. In closing, the Director expressed the hope that the day’s discussions would be fruitful especially in so far as it advanced the resolution of the institutional challenges which constrained the effective functioning of the RCM.

D. REVIEW OF THE RCM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN THE CARIBBEAN

7. The Economic Affairs Officer and the Research Assistant of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit made the presentation “Review of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in Caribbean SIDS”. The Economic Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Development Unit of ECLAC presented a review of the existing RCM and discussed potential ways it could be enhanced. The lack of selection of national focal points was highlighted as one of the main deficiencies to the implementation of the mandate given by Member States. The lack of clarity on reporting roles of RCM and clear organizational guidelines for appointing and replacing members were other constraints cited in the presentation. Finally, the presentation discussed ideas on how the RCM could be improved, especially considering the need to integrate its functions into SDG monitoring framework. The presentations were followed by a discussion in which the attendees expressed their views, made suggestions and clarified questions regarding the functioning of the RCM.

8. The representative from Trinidad and Tobago voiced his opinion that the roles and functions of TAC and the RCM are already clearly laid out, but there seems to be a confusion in the performance of these roles. He expressed the importance of national focal points (NFP) to operationalize the RCM and suggested that the NFP should be institutions and not individuals and that periodic meetings should be organized among them. The representative also stressed that it is important to clarify how the RCM fits into the SDG monitoring responsibilities having in mind the necessity to decrease the reporting burden of Members States and to find ways of integrating SAMOA and SDGs reporting. In this regard, the RCM could have a strategic position in codifying and quantifying national reporting mechanisms.

9. The representative from Saint Lucia stated the relevance of the RCM, however, stressed the need for the RCM and the CDCC to be better linked. She agreed with the proposal that the national focal points are set up as institutions and not individuals. She also suggested that the national focal points and the Technical Advisory Committee should still be linked to facilitate information exchange and continuity, since different government departments work on different United Nations and SDGs related processes and not always communicate. She highlighted the importance of maintaining the SIDS agenda and its particularities within the Agenda 2030 framework. Finally, she suggested that correspondences related to environmental issues and SIDS related topics should have the national focal points or other counterparts in

the Ministry of Environment (or any ministry responsible for the agenda) in copy if sent only to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs directly.

10. The CARICOM representative stressed that the RCM is an important tool to maintain the SIDS movement in the Caribbean as it allows countries to engage in SIDS discussions as a region. She expressed the concern that the SIDS agenda is diluted into the SDGs, emphasized the importance of maintaining a sustainable development agenda based on the SIDS special characteristics (cited examples of transport problems and disaster vulnerabilities specific to the SIDS). She explained that although the SIDS agenda focus was mainly in the Ministry of Environment this pattern has changed in the recent times comprising other ministries and government sectors and it would be important for the RCM to adapt to this change. She also suggested that Member States be guided in the process on selecting potential national focal points for the RCM with a set of clear criteria. Finally, she stressed that for the RCM to be effective, CARICOM, Dominican Republic and Cuba should have a voice, as usually their priorities are interesting and already aligned.

11. The representative from Jamaica stressed the importance of SDGs and SIDS related processes and objectives to fit within national development plans and priorities and highlighted the lack of clarity of the functioning of the RCM and the connection between the different bodies. The representative from Antigua and Barbuda stressed the importance of mainstreaming sustainable development issues in different ministries and the need to ensure a clear strategy to channel climate change related funds into country programmes. She also expressed the concern regarding the limited influence of Ministries of Environment, when Ministries of Finance take control of climate change related financial resources traditionally the preview of fiscal and budgetary objectives.

12. Addressing some of the questions and suggestions proposed, the Director of ECLAC explained that RCM was established within the CDCC due to the CDCC extended membership including territories and countries not part of the CARICOM. Therefore, the importance of the Committee to represent the larger Caribbean region's interests in the multilateral discussion forums. She clarified that the RCM legitimacy is a normative one derived from the mandate given by a CDCC resolution. As a relevant part of the RCM, the TAC was thought as a mechanism to include a broader range of stakeholders into discussions (civil society and other regional organizations), so decision making is not only limited to states. She highlighted the difference between the SDGs process which embraces all countries and the RCM/TAC role in pushing forward the SIDS agenda, considering their vulnerabilities and priorities. Finally, she invited participants to reflect on where does the SIDS agenda fits within the countries' SDGs framework.

13. The Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit Coordinator of ECLAC reminded the meeting participants that while the Agenda 2030 is a national process, the SIDS agenda presents a regional perspective, therefore the need for a regional coordination mechanism distinct from SDGs specific ones.

14. The Economic Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Development Unit of ECLAC summarized the main issues raised. He reiterated the agreement that the RCM national focal points should be an institution and suggested that it would be the countries' decision to select the specific institution. He reminded the attendees that decreasing countries' reporting burden was one of the key motivations to have such a regional coordination mechanism, therefore, if the relevance of the RCM has been agreed upon then measures should be taken for it to exist de facto. He further clarified the role of the CDCC as the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean comprises 29 countries and territories. CDCC is reasonable for approving ECLAC work programme for the region and produces resolutions to be eventually presented at the United Nations General Assembly. He restated that role of ECLAC as RCM secretariat is for documenting and reporting the voice of states and not for expressing countries' positions. He highlighted an existing constraint in the CDCC functioning as meetings are normally attended by the representatives of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs which are not necessarily the Ministries that carry out the discussions on sustainable development agenda in their countries. He stressed that the fundamental decision to be made is to select which institution will embody the RCM functions at the national level and become the connecting point between the TAC and CDCC member states. Finally, he emphasized that the complete operationalization of the RCM might require some financial commitment from countries or pursuing other external sources.

E. REVIEW OF THE PROJECT FOR ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY’S CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND SUPPORTING THE EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICES IN NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

15. As a representative of civil society organizations, the CANARI representative introduced the work of the network of NGOS supporting the SDGs implementations processes in Trinidad and Tobago. She also shared details of a project currently under execution by CANARI, for strengthening the governance framework which will monitor SDG implementation.

16. As part of the ensuing discussions, the ECLAC representative expressed the importance of these types of initiatives as they contribute for environmental governance locally. He also requested clarification on how these NGOs will engage in the governmental decision-making processes and if there is a link between the project and national implementation plans. The CANARI representative clarified that the network of NGOS notes and documents what is being done and advocates for collaboration with specific sectors in the government, if the link is not yet in place.

F. STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING SYNERGY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY AND THE SDGs AND DISCUSSING THE LAUNCH FOR THE PREPARATION OF FIRST POST-SAMOA REVIEW

17. Strategies for building synergy in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDG 2030 Agenda: the Sustainable Development Officer presented on the revised CDCC draft resolution- 94(XXVI): Ensuring Synergy in the Implementation of The Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) in The Caribbean region. The presentation also looked at corresponding decisions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that calls for greater synergies in implementation between the SDG Agenda 2030 and the SIDS agenda. This segment discussed also how the RCM could be best placed to support this process. The comments and observations received will be used for the further elaboration of a draft resolution to be presented for consideration at the upcoming CDCC meeting in Saint Lucia on 27 April 2018. The following comments and observations were noted:

- The CANARI representative acknowledged the importance of synergizing the Agenda 2030 with the SAMOA Pathway, considering in particular the resource constraints for reporting on both. However, it was emphasized that the unique issues of SIDS should still be maintained.
- The meeting attendees provided suggested changes to the draft resolution which will be submitted for consideration at the next CDCC meeting (annex III).
- In clarifying the question if a budget has been presented to the CDCC to support the fully operationalization of the RCM and national focal points, the ECLAC representative explained that ECLAC has presented some budget proposals to the CDCC, but none has been adopted so far. He also stated that countries are better placed to pursue funding options. It was also explained that the upcoming CDCC agenda

includes the endorsement of the report on the RCM setbacks and suggestions for improvement, which would invite Member States to reflect how to fully reform the RCM and consider the further ideas discussed in the meeting.

- It was agreed by participants that an operationalization memo will be useful to guide in more detail the functioning aspects of the draft resolution such as the possibility of an alternative chair for the national focal points institutions. The Sustainable Development Officer suggested that follow-up actions to be made on this resolution will be guided by the related decisions taken at the CDCC meeting.

18. This second part of this presentation was dedicated to the preparation (including discussion on the time-lines) of the Caribbean Regional SIDS, SAMOA Pathway implementation review report and in line with the UNGA 72/217 decision¹. Based on the information provided by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the meeting was also informed that the Caribbean Regional SAMOA Pathway meeting is scheduled to take place in Belize from 7 to 9, August 2018.

19. Comments and observations received from this segment were tabled as follows:

- Participants informed that an official letter from DESA will be required to begin the national report preparation processes. They also requested that such letter should be made available to the national focal points.
- ECLAC informed that at the recent UNDESA Interagency Coordinating Group meeting, the Permanent representatives were engaged in these discussions.
- The communications to country are normally done through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
- The CARICOM representative underscored the need to keep abreast of the work being done for SIDS, and to follow-up with the UNDESA Interagency Coordinating Group.
- The representative from Saint Lucia inquired whether UNDESA is willing to provide any kind of support for the country reports for example such as consultants. The representative from Saint Lucia explained that the country has already prepared a national report which could provide useful information for the SAMOA review. She inquired whether UNDESA has already sent an official request for the report and suggested that given the timetable, a questionnaire like the one prepared for SAMOA in 2014 would be a good approach to collect information.
- The representative from Jamaica indicated that the country will prepare its SDG-Voluntary National Review (VNR) report which will be presented to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2018. She mentioned that preparing a separate report on the progress of SAMOA considering the time constraints would be challenging. Additionally, such report will need to go through a cabinet approval process.
- The representative from Trinidad and Tobago inquired if this report would be an updated version of the report previously prepared in 2014 for the SAMOA meeting. He expressed that data collection is a challenge for many countries.
- The CARICOM representative requested that some sort of financial or in-kind support be provided to assist countries to properly prepare the reports. She mentioned that CARICOM has been collecting data and information that could be useful for the regional report, but assistance would be required to put it all together in a comprehensive manner so that all Member States are reflected. Finally, she mentioned that a roadmap for Belize is still to be prepared. Although, meeting acknowledged the

¹ UN GA resolution on SAMOA Pathway Report preparation: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/217

importance of having available funds to support the report preparation, it expressed doubt as to the possible sources of such funding at this time.

- The CANARI representative expressed the concern that the tight deadline might sacrifice civil society inputs in the report. Although it is up to Member States to engage with internal stakeholders, civil society would have to somehow be included and informed of the reporting procedures and progress.
- The representative from Saint Kitts and Nevis mentioned it would be challenging for the country to prepare such report within a month, although the information could be potentially collected.
- As with the RCM there is the need for national SIDS institutionalized focal points.
- Participants expressed concerns on the limited time to prepare national and regional reports and that to date there is no assigned resources including financial. Members queried whether the date for the meeting in Belize can be deferred. The Sustainable Development Officer responded by indicating that this was currently under consideration by UNDESA.
- That in the regional report it is important for the work of the Member States to be visibly reflected. It was noted that the content of the regional report would feed from the national reports. It is also important to have good showing at the meeting in Belize. The CARICOM representative informed that her agency will work with ECLAC and with the purpose of making this region shine.

G. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20. The chair highlighted the following points raised, and conclusions arrived at during the meeting:

- That there is value in maintaining the RCM, as an important mechanism in advocating for the advancement of the SIDS development agenda within the multilateral framework.
- The national focal point mechanism is essential to fully operationalize the RCM. Additionally, it was agreed that National Focal Points, where identified should be institutions rather than individuals.
- It is important to explore the synergies between SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs, but particularities of SIDS should be identified and emphasized, especially where the SDGs did not treat specifically with SIDS specific issues.
- Initiatives such as the CANARI project are important to enhance the governance machinery of NGOs in monitoring and advancing the process of implementation of the SDGs at the country level.
- Together with the proposal for revision of the RCM, the message to be conveyed to the CDCC is that the RCM is still an important tool to advocate for the SIDS development agenda.
- As regards the SAMOA Mid-term implementation report, the commitment to fulfil the UNGA decisions was noted. However, there were concerns expressed on additional reporting burdens implied and limited time to deliver on the first post-SAMOA report noted. Moreover, given that in the past, financial resources were made available to assist countries with their reporting responsibilities, ECLAC will explore with DESA the best way to proceed in considering in particular the kind of support being given in other regions.

- Related to the above, there was agreement that the proposal to use a questionnaire to facilitate and guide the countries' reports should be considered.

21. The draft resolution prepared for consideration by the upcoming CDCC meeting on the synergies between SAMOA and the SDGs was approved by participants with suggested changes.

H. CLOSURE OF MEETING

22. The Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, ECLAC closed the meeting, thanking the participants for their valuable input.

Annex I**List of participants**

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Annex II

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Presentation: Review of the RCM for the Implementation of the SIDS agenda in the Caribbean
3. Presentation: CSOs for Good Governance – Enhancing civil society’s contribution to good governance and the development process in Trinidad and Tobago
4. Presentation: Synergizing SDG’s and the SAMAO Pathway
5. Conclusions and recommendations
6. Any other business
7. Evaluation
8. Closure

Annex III**Draft resolution****ENSURING SYNERGY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION (SAMOA) PATHWAY IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which adopted a transformative, people-centered set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States² and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States³, and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁴;

Recalling also the General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, which endorsed the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

Recalling the fifth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) held in Bogota on 5 March 2013, which sought to revitalize the role of the RCM in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and to strengthen coordination and oversight in this regard,

Recalling General Assembly paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of July 2016 and urges the United Nations Systems to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden of the small islands developing States through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes⁵;

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 Urges the United Nations development system to continue to enhance its support for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 of 2016,⁹ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹⁰ and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,¹¹ as well as the African Union Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, ¹² all of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to integrate and mainstream them fully into their operational activities for development;⁶

² United Nations, *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9)*, 1994.

³ United Nations, *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005*.

⁴ United Nations, *Report in the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, Apia, Samoa, 1-4 September 2014*.

⁵ https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/849317/files/A_C-2_71_L-41-EN.pdf.

⁶ Resolution 71/256.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/217 of 20 December 2017⁷ on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Recalling paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 72/217 of 20 December 2017⁸, that urges all partners to integrate the SAMOA Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate to ensure effective follow-up and implementation

Bearing in mind the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) resolutions 65(XXI) adopted at its twenty-first session in 2006,⁹ 71(XXII) adopted at its twenty-second session in 2008,¹⁰ and 74(XXIII) adopted at its twenty-third session in 2010,¹¹ concerning the Regional Coordinating Mechanism, its Technical Advisory Committee and their role in supporting implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States,

Acknowledging that transboundary issues listed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and SAMOA pathway such as the impact of Climate Change and requiring a coordinated approach among members

Recognizing the national challenges faced including but not limited to financial, institutional, human resources for the sustainable implementation of these agreements

Noting that the Membership of the CDCC comprises within the sphere of action of the ECLAC Sub-regional Headquarters for the Caribbean, the following *Member countries*: Antigua and Barbuda, The 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 and *Associate members*: Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands;

Noting the outcomes of the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the

Noting that at the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM/TAC) meeting held of 23 March 2018 in which concluded on the importance of having national institutionalized coordinating mechanisms support in a synergistic platform the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and SDG 2030 and also allowing for reduced reporting burdens.

Acknowledging the need to enhance regional coordination in support of the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the small island developing States of the Caribbean by strengthening the national institutional framework for sustainable development and building partnerships,

⁷ Resolution A/RES/72/217.

⁸ Resolution A/RES/72/217.

⁹ LC/CAR/L.086.

¹⁰ LC/CAR/L.196rev.1.

¹¹ LC/CAR/L.257.

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to fully operationalize the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) in the Caribbean, with a view to monitoring and supporting integration in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Resolves* to encourage its members to make every effort to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in their national development plans;
3. *Request that the membership of the RCM and its organs agrees for the full participation as members the Associated States including Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands;*
4. *Encourages* more active exploration and pursuit of partnerships among Caribbean small island developing States and between them and other partners through South-South, north/south and triangular cooperation;
5. *Calls once again upon* its members, in this regard, to designate a national entity as the focal point for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism;
6. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and in collaboration with the relevant agencies of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community, to provide the institutional support to facilitate synergy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway at the national and regional levels;
7. *Requests* the Technical Advisory Committee to develop a strategy for the mobilization of resources with a view to providing sustained support to the work of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism.

Annex IV

Overarching approach to regional report (draft template)

- Trends report on overall progress NOT a theme by theme assessment of progress on the Samoa Pathway
- No country specific statistical tables and data sheets. Regional aggregates where possible on selected issues is preferred
- National best practices may be included in special boxes to highlight specific points or examples
- Focus should be on regional priorities
- Focus on regional and/or national efforts to embed the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs in planning, budgeting, reporting processes, where this has occurred
- Identify a LIMITED number of proposals for practical and pragmatic action-oriented strategies for the further implementation of the Samoa Pathway in the region

Report structure

1. Executive Summary & Key Messages [2 pages max]
2. Introduction [3 pages max]
 - Set the Context – Regional Narrative
 - What has taken place? What national and regional institutional structures/mechanisms are in place if any
 - What progress has been made and constraints confronted at the national and/or regional levels if any?
 - Coherence and linkages with the 2030 Development Agenda and other global processes
3. Regional progress, trends and challenges in implementing the Samoa pathway [10 pages max]
 - The section will highlight the major achievements, identify the challenges and gaps (text boxes could be useful here highlighting national best practices/success stories/examples).
 - Data availability challenges should also feature prominently in this section
 - Section could be broken down to examine the issues under 3 Pillars of Sustainable Development (Economic, Social and Environmental)
4. Means of Implementation – Development effectiveness and Partnerships [10 pages max]
 - National and regional capacities & systems to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments
 - Data Challenges: Progress in strengthening statistical capacities, availability of quality disaggregated data etc
 - Regional governance, financing, coordination and cooperation
 - how effective has the global support been to regional and national efforts in areas such as development finance and climate finance, technical assistance, technology and trade etc
5. Priorities of the Region for the Mid Term Review of the Samoa pathway and Proposals for practical and pragmatic action-oriented strategies for the further implementation of the Samoa pathway [5 pages max]
6. Conclusions and Recommendations [1 page]

Annexes

- Annex 1: Specific National Case Studies with associated Data Tables as relevant
- Annex 2: SAMOA Pathway Partnerships Progress Report



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