

UNODC's inputs to the SG report on the 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

PART A
VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for achieving Resilient Prosperity in SIDS

The theme for the SIDS4 Conference is "Charting a Course toward Resilient Prosperity" as such resilience building will be at the core of the new Programme of Action for SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that will be implemented at national or regional levels aimed specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available.

Corruption

- UNODC leverages a regional approach in its anti-corruption technical assistance delivery, including creating regional platforms worldwide to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In April 2023, UNODC launched the Regional Platform to Fast-Track UNCAC Implementation in Central America, including Costa Rica, the **Dominican Republic**, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. In October 2023, a Regional Platform for the Caribbean was launched, covering **Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia**, and **Trinidad and Tobago**.
- In line with the priorities identified by these regional platforms, as specified in their roadmaps, UNODC is delivering technical assistance to facilitate UNCAC implementation. National workshops and technical missions were delivered in 2023 and 2024 in **Barbados** (following the country's ratification of UNCAC in October 2023), **Belize, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica**, and **Trinidad and Tobago**. The exchange of good practices and bilateral cooperation is also facilitated at the regional level. Additionally, an ad hoc anti-corruption programme is being implemented in **Haiti**.
- UNODC actively cooperates with international partners such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and provided technical advice on the CARICOM IMPACS model law on the Return or Sharing of Recovered Assets.
- In 2023, UNODC and UNDP published a joint briefing paper entitled "*Corruption Below the Water*" on improving governance in the fisheries sector of Pacific Island Countries by using corruption risk management as a key preventive measure.
- UNODC supports the prevention of corruption as it links to crimes that affect the

environment, including corruption in the wildlife, fisheries, and forestry sectors. In August 2023, UNODC facilitated a corruption risk management process within the Environment and Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of **Solomon Islands**, with the aim of supporting the Ministry to develop attainable and effective corruption risk mitigation strategies.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

- In **Maldives**, UNODC contributes to strengthening the resilience of Maldivian society toward serious crimes on land and sea. The focus is on preventing and combating violent radicalization of at-risk segments of Maldivian society, possible returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters, and persons in detention facilities, and protecting children against violence. Workshops were delivered on conducting child assessments and on cooperation and coordination for the effective implementation of diversion and restorative justice approaches to criminal justice officers. Additionally, UNODC, jointly with the Department of Juvenile Justice, conducted an online training of trainers on juvenile justice.
- Within the framework of a cross-regional project, UNODC delivered a two-day training on strengthening non-custodial measures to reduce overcrowding in **Maldives** prisons. The training sensitized relevant stakeholders on the implementation of non-custodial measures based on international standards and norms, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).
- In **Cabo Verde**, UNODC joined forces with INTERPOL, particularly its Centre for Combating Financial Crime and Corruption, to carry out specialized training in the collection and sharing of financial information in Praia, focusing on strengthening criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking and transnational organized crime.
- Ethics and integrity of law enforcement agencies in **Cabo Verde** and **Guinea-Bissau** have been strengthened with UNODC support through capacity building.

Organized Crime

- In 2023, UNODC organized an interregional workshop focused on strengthening resilience in organized crime responses during crisis situations. This workshop included participants from SIDS such as **Fiji, Jamaica, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea**, and **Timor-Leste**. As a result of this collaborative effort, an Annex to the Organized Crime Strategy Toolkit was created, which specifically addresses the building and strengthening of resilience to organized crime during times of crisis.
- UNODC continues to strengthen the capacities of SIDS to proactively address illicit trafficking at international airports. The Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITF)

from **Cabo Verde** and **Guinea-Bissau** received training on the study of high-risk passenger profiles, including analyses of passenger lists, reservations/tickets, analyses and risk profiles of passengers at check-in, boarding, disembarking, interview techniques, cargo manifests, and express mail.

Firearms Trafficking

- SIDS in the Caribbean region are adversely impacted by armed violence and high homicide rates that undermine peace, human security, and sustainable development. Preventing and combating firearms trafficking and illicit arms flows in the Caribbean directly strengthens the resilience of the SIDS in the region. Since 2021, UNODC has supported the implementation of the *“Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030”* (Caribbean Firearms Roadmap). UNODC assists 10 Caribbean SIDS to enhance their security infrastructure, provides legislative support and equipment, and strengthens the capacities of criminal justice practitioners to effectively detect, investigate, and prosecute firearms trafficking, fostering bilateral, regional, and international cooperation.

Maritime Crime

- UNODC, through its Global Programme to Combat Maritime Crime, has supported **Cabo Verde**, **Guinea-Bissau**, and **Sao Tome and Principe** in preventing and combating maritime crime through training, exercises at sea, and the creation of operational tools.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

The New SIDS Programme of Action will require improved, tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries. Please include indications of resource allocations if available.

Corruption

- In **Haiti**, UNODC is implementing a project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), jointly with UNDP and OHCHR, to strengthen institutions preventing and combating corruption and empower civil society, including women and youth, for effective anti-corruption advocacy. Additionally, UNODC and the Organization of American States are enhancing Haiti’s capacity to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate corruption, money-laundering and economic crimes through international cooperation and information sharing. A new initiative with OHCHR focuses on establishing specialized judicial chambers targeting financial crimes,

corruption, and mass crimes, including sexual violence.

- In the **Dominican Republic**, UNODC has been providing technical advice to revise the criminal code in line with UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism recommendations.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

- UNODC supported the **Dominican Republic** in conducting national victimization surveys to develop tailored and knowledge-based crime prevention interventions. A technical needs assessment on access to justice for women in cases of gender-based violence was conducted, training 103 criminal justice professionals to enhance judicial responses.
- UNODC supported **Papua New Guinea** in developing its National Crime Prevention Policy (2022-2032).
- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, UNODC's work with Venezuelan migrants, to promote early identification and safe case referral to authorities, led to the identification and referral of a potential cybercrime case, now under investigation by local authorities.
- In **Sao Tome and Principe**, a UNDP and UNODC-led technical mission took place in November 2023 with a view to identifying key programmatic areas for intervention in close consultation with national stakeholders. The mission also included a member from the Security Sector Reform Unit of the United Nations Department of Peace Operations. The findings of this mission led to the development of a joint UNODC-UNDP project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund which aims to support Sao Tome and Principe in strengthening the rule of law and supporting judicial and security sector reform.

Organized Crime

- In **Jamaica**, UNODC supported the development of the national strategy against organized crime, including mainstreaming of gender and human rights dimension into the draft strategy.
- UNODC collaborated with **Suriname** to review its mining legislation.
- UNODC enhanced the skills and knowledge of criminal justice practitioners, policymakers, legislators, and civil society organizations in **Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Timor-Leste, and Trinidad and Tobago** to apply gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches in implementing the UNTOC.

Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

- UNODC continued its support through the *Strengthening Transregional Action and Responses against the Smuggling of Migrants* (STARSOM) project (funded by Canada) and the *Transforming alerts into criminal justice responses to combat*

trafficking in persons within the migration flows (TRACK4TIP) project (funded by the US), organizing training and mentoring activities to increase gender-responsive investigations and prosecutions related to transregional migrant smuggling, benefiting **Aruba, the Dominican Republic, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and the Turks and Caicos Islands**. UNODC also facilitated South-South Cooperation activities, which led to identifying new migrant smuggling routes, and the initiation of a bilateral exchange between **Sri Lanka** and Malaysia.

- In the **Dominican Republic**, UNODC trained law enforcement officers and prosecutors on investigating cyber-enabled trafficking in persons and facilitated the establishment of a specialized task force against aggravated migrant smuggling.
- UNODC supported six Pacific Islands (**Fiji, the Federal State of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, and Tonga**) in producing a [Regional Report on the existing capacities to measure trafficking in persons in the Pacific Islands](#), assessing [trafficking patterns](#), and improving national capacities.
- UNODC continued its support to SIDS in preventing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. In **Guinea-Bissau**, UNODC is actively supporting national authorities, particularly the Women and Children's Institute, in combatting trafficking in persons through various initiatives. In collaboration with the Judicial Training Centre (CENFOJ), UNODC developed a manual on trafficking in persons aimed at professionals in the criminal justice system. This manual's validation marked a significant milestone in enhancing professionals' capacities, ensuring that their approaches align with international best practices. Furthermore, UNODC supported **Guinea-Bissau** in strengthening the national policy against trafficking in persons, particularly focusing on child trafficking. This effort involved the elaboration of a new National Strategic Plan against trafficking in persons, spanning five years and adopting a participatory approach across administrative regions.

Human Security Approach

- A joint UNODC and UN-Habitat programme "Promoting awareness and advocacy of the human security approach in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic in vulnerable communities in **Cabo Verde**," funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, aimed to integrate a human security perspective into the participatory local strategies of three highly vulnerable urban communities in Cabo Verde, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to development. The training on the use of the human security tool as a planning instrument, aimed at municipal technicians, representatives of the central administration, and civil society organizations, was guided by the Reference Guide for Integrating the Human Security Approach into Local Development Plans and Other Sectoral Plans, drawn up by UNODC and UN-Habitat and inspired by best practices on the subject. The training took place in Praia, Sal Rei, and Espargos, which are covered by the joint

programme. Additionally, during the training, terms of commitment were signed with the mayors of these localities, through which the municipalities undertake to integrate the human security approach into their future development plans, according to the Guidelines issued.

Firearms Trafficking

- In 2020, 15 CARICOM States and the **Dominican Republic** adopted the 'Caribbean Firearms Roadmap'. This Roadmap aims for a safer Caribbean by addressing illicit firearms and ammunition proliferation, serving as a guide for strategic, policy, and operational performance tailored to the region's needs. UNODC supports its criminal justice pillar, helping Caribbean SIDS prevent and combat illicit firearms and ammunition trafficking.

Border Management

- Through UNODC-WCO-INTERPOL *Airport Communication Programme* (AIRCOP) and the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP), UNODC supports **Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago** in strengthening the capacities of international ports and airports to intercept illicit flows and enhance regional capabilities against transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Terrorism

- To support local communities in **Maldives** in strengthening their resilience to violent extremism through a whole-of-society approach, UNODC, in cooperation with the National Counter Terrorism Centre and the Ministry of Home Affairs, facilitated dialogue between law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations to develop community-based, gender-responsive, and age-sensitive rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.
- UNODC promotes adherence to 19 international legal instruments against terrorism, assisting Pacific countries, including SIDS, in implementing the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism.
- SIDS benefit from the Countering Terrorist Travel programme, receiving legislative assistance to develop frameworks on advance passenger information and passenger name records in line with international human rights standards.

PART B

MULTIDIMENSIONAL VULNERABILITY IN THE WORK OF THE UN SYSTEM

Paragraph 13 of Resolution 78/232 Requests the Secretary-General to assess how multidimensional vulnerability is currently considered by the United Nations system. Please indicate how your entity considers multidimensional vulnerability in your policies, practices and Programmes.

In the context of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), multidimensional vulnerability encompasses the various challenges these nations face due to their unique geographical, economic, and social characteristics. Addressing multidimensional vulnerability requires comprehensive and integrated strategies that take into account all these different aspects to enhance resilience and sustainable development.

From UNODC's point of view, SIDS need a consistent and comprehensive intervention strategy focused on long-term impact and the evolving nature of criminal threats. The focus areas should include drugs (supply and demand reduction, and rehabilitation of drug users), organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism, financial crimes, corruption, maritime safety and security, and trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Emerging digital threats related to these areas must also be taken into consideration. Due to the unique geographical configuration of most SIDS, interventions must be delivered at both central and local levels. The most vulnerable groups, such as hard-to-reach individuals and those in remote islands, must be factored in when planning interventions to ensure they are not left behind.

Continued efforts to strengthen anti-corruption measures at the national and regional levels are essential to further advance the SIDS development agenda. Preventing and countering corruption contributes to sustainable development and effective resource mobilization, while also helping to ensure trust in institutions and access to public services.