Internal Oversight Service Evaluation Office

Mid-term review of the UNESCO Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan (2016-2021)
Purpose of this review

• Requested by EXB (201 EX/5 Part I-A & 201 EX/Decision 5.I.A (7))

• Assess progress achieved to date

• Determine potential improvements for the remaining implementation period of the Action Plan
Mid-term review time-line (2018-2019)

- **Inception** (preliminary meetings, document review)
  - Jul-Aug

- **Data collection**
  - Detailed document review
  - Online survey
  - Semi-structured interviews
  - Field visits to 3 SIDS
  - Sep-Oct

- **Analysis** (stakeholder workshop)
  - Oct-Nov

- **Reporting and follow-up**
  - Dec-Feb
Relevance

Key findings

SIDS AP is highly relevant to the needs of SIDS Member States as its broad scope includes a range of offers useful in diverse contexts.

SIDS AP is relevant to objectives of the 2030 Agenda and echoes objectives of Paris Climate Agreement, Sendai Framework for DRR, but its alignment to UNESCO’s global priorities not explicit.

SIDS Member States have high expectations with regard to intersectoral synergies, yet internal coherence a challenge for UNESCO.
Perceived relevance of priority areas

- **Priority 1 - ED**: 11% Not relevant at all, 28% Somewhat relevant but not sufficiently, 56% Sufficiently relevant, 6% Highly relevant, 6% No opinion
- **Priority 2 - SC**: 6% Not relevant at all, 39% Somewhat relevant but not sufficiently, 44% Sufficiently relevant, 11% Highly relevant, 6% No opinion
- **Priority 3 - SHS**: 6% Not relevant at all, 6% Somewhat relevant but not sufficiently, 50% Sufficiently relevant, 28% Highly relevant, 11% No opinion
- **Priority 4 - CLT**: 11% Not relevant at all, 17% Somewhat relevant but not sufficiently, 67% Sufficiently relevant, 6% Highly relevant, 6% No opinion
- **Priority 5 - C&I**: 6% Not relevant at all, 50% Somewhat relevant but not sufficiently, 33% Sufficiently relevant, 11% Highly relevant, 6% No opinion
- **Gender equality and women in SIDS**: 11% Not relevant at all, 28% Somewhat relevant but not sufficiently, 50% Sufficiently relevant, 11% Highly relevant, 6% No opinion

Source: On-line survey results among SIDS National Commissions
Allocation of 38 C/5 XB and RP funds by AP Priority (2016-2017)

- Priority 1 ED: 424,500
- Priority 4 CLT: 225,000
- Priority 2 SC (including IOC): 302,000
- Priority 5 CI: 277,700
- Priority 3 SHS: 115,000
Efficiency: Many projects, little funding (39 C/5)
Effectiveness & Value-Added

Key findings

Good progress towards defined objectives is achieved on projects under the SIDS Action Plan

While stakeholders recognize the value of projects under the SIDS AP, the added value of the AP in achieving these successes seems limited

The measurement of the effectiveness of the AP is hampered by the absence of a designated M&E framework
## SIDS AP key achievements (Year 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Plan priority area</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Key achievement (example)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Enhancing island capacities to achieve <strong>sustainable development through education</strong></td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>SIDS capacities strengthened to develop and implement policies and plans within a lifelong learning framework, with policy reviews completed in Saint Kitts and Nevis and a policy review for Bahamas launched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Enhancing SIDS’ resilience towards environmental, ocean, freshwater and natural resources sustainability</td>
<td>SC / IOC</td>
<td>16 SIDS in the Caribbean, 12 in the Pacific and 5 in the Indian Ocean have Tsunami Warning Focal Points and 1 SIDS in the Caribbean and 5 in the Indian Ocean have established National Tsunami Warning Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Supporting SIDS in the management of social transformations and the promotion of social inclusion and social justice</td>
<td>SHS</td>
<td>Supported the formulation, review and implementation of youth-related policies and legislation, with the participation of youth at different levels in Cabo Verde, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: Preserving Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage and Promoting Culture for Island Sustainable Development</td>
<td>CLT</td>
<td>3 SIDS ratified the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and two SIDS adapted their national law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: Increasing connectivity, <strong>information management and knowledge sharing</strong></td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>Local actors in Member States fostered media development through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key findings

Sustainability of the benefits of activities implemented under the SIDS AP is challenged by many factors, including weak institutional memory.

Communication efforts on SIDS Action Plan have been insufficient (despite efforts: SIDS website, advocacy at UN and international levels, a brochure on the SIDS AP, etc.), including at the Field level, weakening prospects for scaling activities up.

Improved communication could support resource mobilization efforts to maintain activity benefits.
Interlocking challenges

- Lack of human resources
- Limited investment in SIDS AP
- No explicit RM and comm’s strategies
Conclusions & the way forward

- AP is a step in the right direction for supporting SIDS sustainable development
- However, insufficient resources limit its delivery and so it has not gained sufficient momentum to demonstrate its benefits
- The SIDS Unit and focal point network are a good start to overcome barriers to intersectoral cooperation,
- Need to think at larger scale: flagship intersectoral projects are needed, anchored in strategic transformation process
- UNESCO needs further support from its SIDS Member States to raise awareness on SIDS challenges and the need to address their vulnerability
Conclusions and the way forward

• Making the AP a success will require joint effort between UNESCO, its Member States and non-governmental actors to ensure necessary resources and adequate operational mechanisms

• With these combined efforts, a virtuous cycle for the AP can be induced, where data generation and success stories support communication strategies that improve visibility, which in turn support fund-raising

• As SIDS represent the frontline of global sustainable development, investment in the UNESCO’s SIDS AP is of critical importance
Thank you for your attention