



## Besluit Raad van Ministers

Datum: 01 november 2017

*De Ministers van Algemene Zaken en Bestuur, Planning en Dienstverlening (BPD) zullen gezamenlijk nagaan hoe invulling wordt gegeven aan de ministerie-overstijgende coördinatie van de uitvoering van UNESCO's action plan voor Small Island Developing States (SIDS), waarbij input wordt vergaard van de vakinhoudelijke Ministeries. Aan de Minister van Algemene Zaken voor het nodige.*

*Cc. Alle Ministers.*

Zaaknummer:

2017/41771

De Minister-president,



MINISTERIE VAN  
**Onderwijs, Wetenschap, Cultuur & Sport**  
*Kabinet van de Minister*

Aan: de Raad van Ministers  
Fort Amsterdam  
Alhier

Datum: 30 oktober 2017

Contactpersoon

Uw brief d.d.

Uw kenmerk

Ons nummer

Zaaknummer  
2017/41771

Onderwerp: UNESCO's Action Plan voor  
de SIDS, geadopteerd in 2016.

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Aantal Bijlagen

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Geachte Ministers,

Hierbij bied ik u "the UNESCO's Action Plan" voor de SIDS, geadopteerd in 2016 aan.

Dit plan bevat de prioriteiten van de SIDS en het ondersteunt de UNESCO in haar inspanningen om capaciteit op te bouwen door middel van trainingen, door wetenschappelijk onderzoek en het behoud van het milieu, in het bijzonder oceanen, maar ook de bescherming en het behoud van cultureel erfgoed en diversiteit van de SIDS, zijnde een motor voor innovatie en duurzame ontwikkeling.

Verder wordt gewerkt aan informatie management en kennisverspreiding en uiteraard ook om meer en betere jongerenparticipatie en inclusie te bevorderen.

De bedoeling van dit actieplan bevat tevens UNESCO's acties in het licht van klimaatverandering door capaciteit te versterken in de SIDS om de landen beter te leren omgaan met ontstane situaties bij natuurlijke rampen.

Bij het vaststellen van de Koninkrijksinstructie 39ste Algemene Conferentie UNESCO 2017, is de Raad van Ministers in haar vergadering van woensdag 25 oktober akkoord gegaan met o.a. de "vaststelling van het Actieplan voor versterking van de positie van de SIDS" als één van de voor het Koninkrijk belangrijkste agendapunten. Het had echter geen "vaststelling" moeten zijn, maar "uitvoering".

Deze uitvoering geldt dus ook voor Curaçao.

Hoogachtend

  
Mevr./Drs. Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé

Minister van Onderwijs, Wetenschap, Cultuur en Sport

# Small Island Developing States

## *UNESCO'S ACTION PLAN*



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Sustainable  
Development  
Goals

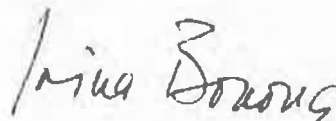
# Foreword

20 years after the first global conference in Barbados and 10 years after the Mauritius Strategy, the international conference in Samoa in 2014 set new goals for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

UNESCO's Action Plan for SIDS, adopted in 2016, embraces the "Samoa Pathway" and integrates its priorities across all of our programmes. This Action Plan embodies and guides UNESCO in its efforts to build capacities through education and training; to promote scientific research and conservation of the environment, in particular the oceans; to safeguard cultural heritage; to uphold the cultural diversity of SIDS as a motor for innovation and sustainable development; to improve information management and knowledge sharing; and to ensure the fullest participation of youth and social inclusion. This Plan also encompasses UNESCO's response to combatting climate change through the strengthening of capacities in SIDS to deal with emergencies triggered by natural disasters.

Small Island Developing States are in actual fact vast oceanic States. The future of the planet depends, to a large extent, on their future. They are on the frontlines of observations and actions to alleviate poverty, and to build more harmonious relationships between nature and culture. Indigenous knowledge offers a wellspring of understandings for the future. We need to learn to listen and share the benefits that it can bring to all humanity. By mobilizing this potential, the SIDS have effectively guided the discussions and decisions of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They have also proven themselves to be essential partners for an efficient and effective implementation.

Here is UNESCO's road map to achieve these global objectives.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Irina Bokova', is positioned above the printed name.

**Irina Bokova**



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The SIDS Action Plan consists of five priority areas within UNESCO's mandate. These areas echo the articles of the SAMOA Pathway related to:

- Education (paragraphs 87–88),
- Capacity Building (paragraphs 108–109),
- Technology (paragraphs 110–111),
- Water and Sanitation (paragraphs 64–65),
- Biodiversity (paragraphs 89–91),
- Climate Change (paragraphs 31–46),
- Sustainable Energy (paragraphs 47–50),
- Disaster Risk Reduction (paragraphs 51–52),
- Oceans and Seas (paragraphs 53–58),
- Promoting Peaceful Societies and Safe Communities (paragraphs 83–86),
- Culture and Sport (paragraphs 80–82),
- Sustainable Tourism (paragraph 30),
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (paragraphs 76–77),
- Partnerships (paragraphs 97–101),
- And to some extent Data and Statistics (paragraphs 112–115).

## The SIDS Action Plan reflects some SAMOA Pathway articles



SIDS Action Platform, Division for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA/ <http://sids2014.org>

The issue of climate change is addressed in the SIDS Action Plan through various actions, taking into account the scale of climate change impacts on island residents and ecosystems: rising sea levels resulting in increased beach erosion and coastal inundation; rising sea surface temperatures and increasing ocean acidification heightening stress on coral reefs and leading to an increased frequency of coral bleaching and intrusion and contamination of water supply. Therefore, the Action Plan addresses also articles of the Paris Agreement, the outcome of the *twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, in particular:

- Article 7 on adaptation;
- Article 8 on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
- Article 10 on technology development and transfer;
- Article 11 on capacity building;
- Article 12 on climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information.



# *UNESCO SIDS Action Plan*

## *2016–2021*

The Action Plan addresses the following five priority areas within UNESCO's mandate:

1. Enhancing island capacities to achieve sustainable development through education and the reinforcement of human and institutional capacities;
2. Enhancing SIDS resilience and the sustainability of human interactions with ecological, freshwater and ocean systems;
3. Supporting SIDS in the management of social transformations and the promotion of social inclusion and social justice;
4. Preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promoting culture for island sustainable development;
5. Increasing connectivity, information management and knowledge-sharing



# *Priority 1*

## **Enhancing island capacities to achieve sustainable development through education and the reinforcement of human and institutional capacities**

As highlighted in the SAMOA Pathway, the focus on quality education is essential to achieve sustainable development in SIDS. Reflection and action that is innovative and transformative requires a better understanding, in contexts specific to SIDS, of the complex interplay between the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Four priority areas in education are particularly relevant to address sustainable development in SIDS:

- 1. policy development, including equity measures;**
- 2. integrate education for sustainable development (ESD) in formal and non-formal education;**
- 3. teacher education and professional development;**
- 4. transforming and marketing of technical and vocational education and training (TVET).**

## Objective 3

**Support human and institutional capacity development to ensure equitable, quality education and lifelong learning opportunities in SIDS**

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| Action 3.1 | Provide technical support to SIDS to reinforce teacher education and professional development to promote equity, inclusion and enabling learning environments. |
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## Objective 4

**Promote TVET and lifelong learning opportunities for all women and men, aligned with labour market needs and to facilitate mobility**

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| Action 4.1 | Support the transformation of TVET in SIDS, through promoting TVET policy review and development, inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral policy dialogue, capacity-building, networking and partnerships based on the principles of inclusion, gender equality and sustainability, to support youth transitions and an integrated approach to lifelong learning.  |
| Action 4.2 | Encourage the promotion of TVET to key stakeholders, including through marketing, as a means of supporting youth transitions and enhancing socio-economic mobility in the context of the increasingly service-oriented economies of SIDS, and as a central vehicle for sustainable development.   |
| Action 4.3 | Promote regional and international recognition and accreditation of local TVET qualifications and facilitate knowledge-sharing through enhanced regional and inter-agency cooperation, including through the Third Conference on TVET in the Caribbean and its follow-up and by mobilizing the SIDS Partnership on 'Improving transitions from school to work through engaging youth in policy dialogue'. |

## *Priority 2*

### **Enhancing SIDS resilience and the sustainability of human interactions with ecological, freshwater and ocean systems**

SIDS are big ocean sustainable States (BOSS). Protecting their terrestrial, aquatic and marine biodiversity, as well as their heritage, and securing equitable access to land and ocean resources are essential for their sustainable development. In terms of natural resources, SIDS face numerous challenges due to their biophysical settings, which leave them vulnerable not only to extreme climatological and seismic events but also other adverse environmental impacts, including pollution of groundwater and surface water resources, sustainable energy access, saline intrusion, soil and coastal erosion, biodiversity loss and coral bleaching, among others. For instance, in many SIDS groundwater quality and quantity are threatened by population growth, urbanization and climate change. Supporting SIDS to overcome these challenges is a priority which can be advanced through capacity enhancement of biodiversity, marine, natural and social sciences, engineering education, as well as through research and technology transfer and the application of traditional and non-traditional knowledge, tools and approaches.

Action 2.3	Study and disseminate island and coastal strategies to preserve biodiversity and heritage, promote sustainable development, and adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, in particular through the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves.
Action 2.4	Encourage the development of biosphere reserves across SIDS regions as learning sites for promoting and disseminating new socio-economic activities based on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.
Action 2.5	Support SIDS efforts to create an enabling environment for sustainable use and application of locally available renewable energy resources and energy efficient technologies by promoting related capacity development, knowledge management, as well as the development of related strategies and targeted measures.
Action 2.6	Strengthening SIDS capacities through promotion of the participation of SIDS in the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and ensure access to data and information for supporting climate change adaptation and local decision measures.
Action 2.7	Broaden awareness of ocean acidification and its impacts on SIDS and increase cooperation and collaboration in order to detect local impacts on SIDS of ocean acidification via the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON).
Action 2.8	Assist in broadening the knowledge and creating capacity to protect and to manage coastal carbon ecosystems sustainably, such as mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrasses, through the Blue Carbon Initiative.
Action 2.9	Increase support to SIDS through the programmes and activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).



## Objective 4

**Increase access to technical assistance, training and institutional and human capacity-building on the natural environment and sustainable development**

Action 4.1	Promote science education and its role in development, enhance public interest (especially for youth) in science, and strengthen scientific capacity through science teachers' training, e-learning and updated science education curriculum material, in cooperation with partners well-established in open and distance learning.
Action 4.2	Strengthen and update SIDS water education and awareness at all levels, including a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to advance scientific knowledge through the training of scientists, as well as to strengthen and enhance the water sector through the training of water professionals and decision-makers.
Action 4.3	Support SIDS capacities to manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their marine resources through marine spatial planning, integrated coastal management and other decision support tools.
Action 4.4	Assist SIDS in developing a global network of training centres to increase national capacity in coastal and marine knowledge and management and to facilitate transfer of marine technology, based on local needs, in particular through the IOC Ocean Teacher Global Academy programme.
Action 4.5	Assisting SIDS in identifying the most vulnerable species and habitats in need of protection through the collection of marine biodiversity data, building on global databases such as the IOC's Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS).
Action 4.6	Develop engineering education teaching methods for SIDS that directly address the effective application of engineering and innovation to poverty reduction, sustainable development, addressing the adverse effects of climate change and the elaboration of green technologies.

## *Priority 3*

### **Supporting SIDS in the management of social transformations and the promotion of social inclusion and social justice**

The SAMOA Pathway identifies the continuing challenges that SIDS face in achieving sustainable development. Their unique geographical, biological and historical legacies, as well as their social and economic characteristics, including their limited size, high levels of population displacement, vulnerability to natural and human-made disasters and high exposure to economic fluctuations and geopolitical circumstances results in severe capacity and resource constraints to implement national development goals. Providing support for the collective action of young people, women, civil society and vulnerable groups are critical to the attainment of productive and healthy livelihood outcomes for SIDS communities. Promoting social justice, empowerment and strengthening the capacity of all segments of society in SIDS to increase their level of participation in developing and implementing national social and other related policies is, thus, crucial in achieving sustainability and improved quality of life of SIDS communities.

## Action 2.3

Engage youth directly in implementing the SAMOA Pathway through a range of youth-friendly face-to-face, web and app-based technologies that provide opportunities to increase awareness of sustainability issues, build capacity to participate in sustainable development dialogues, and establish sustainable networks of youth organizations across SIDS.

### Objective 3

**Enhance the capabilities of SIDS Member States to address the social, cultural, legal and ethical implications of the progress of life sciences under the framework of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights, as well as to design and implement ethically-informed policies**

## Action 3.1

Encourage the ratification and the promotion of the International Convention against Doping in Sport.

## Action 3.2

Provide support to SIDS countries to enhance intercultural competencies and respond to cultural barriers to gender equality in appropriate ways.

### Objective 4

**Enhance the role of cultural institutions and intercultural dialogue in the context of public policy debates and as a vehicle to facilitate the contribution of SIDS to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures and in accordance to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

## Action 4.1

Organize bioethics training activities in the three SIDS groupings.

## *Priority 4*

### **Preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promoting culture for island sustainable development**

The SAMOA Pathway outcome document calls upon the international community to support SIDS in designing and implementing their own innovative cultural policies to strengthen heritage and creativity and leverage the economic, social and natural benefits of culture. It further reaffirmed that “indigenous bio-cultural heritage recognizes the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, and can meaningfully advance sustainable development”. In this context, protecting tangible cultural heritage, safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, promoting responsible sustainable tourism, boosting creative industries and transmitting traditional knowledge are crucial. This also implies adopting a holistic approach to the cultural heritage of SIDS in the specific context of the relationship of these human settlements to the land and the sea that takes into account their especially rich marine and underwater cultural heritage, which requires high levels of protection and whose potential for driving sustainable development is as yet relatively underexplored. The Action Plan aims to support SIDS in addressing these challenges.



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| Action 2.5 | Support SIDS in the preservation, management and promotion of moveable heritage and museum collections and associated knowledge, promote the use of legal and practical tools to fight against the commercial exploitation, illicit removal and trafficking of land and underwater cultural heritage and encourage restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural objects. |
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### Objective 3

#### **Promote living heritage, creative and cultural industries and harness their potential for sustainable development**

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| Action 3.1 | Strengthen the capacities of SIDS to safeguard and transmit their intangible cultural heritage and traditional knowledge through capacity-building and policy advice.   |
| Action 3.2 | Support the development of cultural and creative industries and foster enhanced access to international markets for creative industry professionals, local artists and creators, cultural goods and services from SIDS through capacity development and policy support. |

### Objective 4

#### **Encourage the development and management of culturally sensitive and responsible sustainable tourism**

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| Action 4.1 | Facilitate the development and management of sustainable tourism at heritage sites, and support the design and implementation of participatory measures harnessing the potential of SIDS cultures, cultural and natural heritage, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions to generate employment opportunities and revenues, in particular for youth. |
| Action 4.2 | Support the adoption of appropriate policies and measures to ensure that communities, groups and individuals concerned are the primary beneficiaries of tourism associated with their culture while promoting their lead role in developing and managing such tourism.   |

# *Priority 5*

## **Increasing connectivity, information management and knowledge-sharing**

Freedom of expression and democracy have been recognized in the SAMOA Pathway outcome document as fundamental conditions in reducing inequalities and the development of just democratic societies. As the United Nations agency with a specific mandate to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image” UNESCO will work to foster free, independent and pluralistic media off and online in the SIDS. As a means to induce the transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges that SIDS are encountering to access information and greater knowledge-sharing, UNESCO will work to promote policies for media development, press freedom and the safety of journalists through its International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). IPDC will not only provide support for media projects – it will also work to secure healthy environments for the growth of free and pluralistic media in SIDS.

The free sharing of knowledge and information plays a pivotal role in the lives of SIDS inhabitants. The rapidly accelerating development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has the power to positively transform SIDS to create inclusive knowledge societies and empower communities to access, create, share, and preserve knowledge and information for sustainable development. As a key to building peace and sustainable economic development in the SIDS, the Organization, with the support

Action 2.3	Use ICTs as a tool of empowerment, namely for strengthening capacity-building opportunities, improving accessibility to information, preserving as well as for promoting local content, freedom of expression, multilingualism and the ethical dimension in the knowledge societies.
Action 2.4	Assist SIDS with the integration of ICT in education, to ensure that education remains relevant, responsive and effective for all and ensure greater access to ICTs platforms to enable higher education opportunities for those living in remote places and build the capacity of teachers through ICT-CFT.
Action 2.5	Develop comprehensive localized training programmes for effective skills transfer in mobile apps development, to build a vibrant, inclusive community of practice to ensure young people from all communities and all abilities are fully involved.
Action 2.6	Enhance inter-regional and international collaboration between academic research institutions (universities, centres, ...) particularly relevant in the context of SIDS, including the potential for establishment of new research chairs.

### Objective 3

#### **Preserve documentary heritage in SIDS, including through the Memory of the World Programme**

Action 3.1	Undertake measures for the protection of, and access to, documentary heritage in SIDS through the Memory of the World Programme, while fostering capacities and the contribution of heritage institutions and professionals to knowledge societies to constantly meet evolving trends and developments in this field.
Action 3.2	Use ICTs as a tool of empowerment, namely for strengthening capacity-building opportunities, improving accessibility, preserving and protecting documentary heritage.
Action 3.3	Develop documentary heritage education and its importance for memory and identity.