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**Sustainable development: 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**

**Pakistan:\* draft resolution**

### **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**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>1</sup> is a stand-alone, overarching framework setting out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States that builds on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>2</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>3</sup> and recognizing that the Samoa Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>5</sup> and is in line with the

\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> *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* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.



Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>6</sup> the New Urban Agenda<sup>7</sup> and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming also* that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, renewing thus our solidarity with them, as they continue to face the combined challenges arising, in particular, from their geographical remoteness, the small scale of their economies, high costs and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and remaining particularly concerned that many small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*Acknowledging* the severe consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the sustainable development of small island developing States envisioned in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including the far-reaching and enduring consequences for poverty eradication, employment, growth and social welfare as a result of the unprecedented contraction of their economies, and noting with concern that the external debt stocks of small island developing States have increased by 70 percentage points since 2009, resulting in the average rate of external debt to gross domestic product in those States rising by 11 percentage points to 61.7 per cent in 2019, while the ability of those States to self-insure against exogenous shocks continues to deteriorate further, highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks,

*Recognizing with grave concern* that small island developing States saw their external debt position deteriorate further in 2021, reaching new record levels of 66.1 billion dollars and raising the ratio of debt service costs to export revenues from 37 per cent in 2019 to 41.1 per cent in 2021,

*Acknowledging* the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

*Taking note with concern* of the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the Sixth Assessment

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>8</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

*Noting* the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, acknowledging their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”<sup>9</sup> and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,<sup>10</sup> and noting also further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on the targets that matured in 2020,<sup>11</sup>

*Noting with concern* the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, recalling the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020 and the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by China from 11 to 15 October 2021, and looking forward to the second part, to be held in Canada from 7 to 9 December 2022, at which a post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted,

*Underscoring* the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and noting that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for small island developing States and other developing countries,

*Recognizing* the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation, and paragraph 22 of the Samoa Pathway, which underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to address the major challenges facing small island developing States,

*Reaffirming* the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>12</sup>
2. *Recalls* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration,<sup>13</sup> and looks forward to the full and urgent implementation of the calls made in the political declaration;
3. *Reiterates* the call to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Declaration of Barbados<sup>14</sup> and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 71/312, annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 76/296, annex.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> A/77/218.

<sup>13</sup> Resolution 74/3.

<sup>14</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalls the discussion during the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;

4. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;

5. *Recalls with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizes the need for allocation of adequate resources commensurate with the mandates of these units, taking into account the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

6. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek new solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

7. *Calls for* immediate and substantial actions to facilitate the responses of small island developing States to recover from the crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and address the unprecedented health and economic crisis in these States, while preserving their sustainable development achievements and commitments, and reinforce their resilience to climate change in line with the Samoa Pathway and the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, notes with appreciation the recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the round-table process entitled “SIDS access to finance – identifying solutions for resilient COVID-19 recovery”, and welcomes the commitments made by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in the communiqué of its high-level meeting of 2020, to improve policies and programmes to address the particular needs of small island developing States;

8. *Recalls* the Secretary-General’s recommendations on the development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its finalization and use, also recalls the establishment of a representative high-level panel of experts co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, welcomes the progress of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States on its work and on its interim report, endorses the proposed definitions in the report for structural vulnerability and resilience and the two-level structure outlined in the report and recognizes that the definitions and proposed structure of the multidimensional vulnerability index satisfy the guiding principles for the development of an index, as outlined by the Secretary-General in paragraphs

80 to 83 of his report,<sup>15</sup> notes the request of the Panel for an extension of time to complete its work, decides to request the Panel to finalize its work on the index, in full consultations with all Member States in accordance with the proposed definitions, the two-level structure and the guiding principles, using them to guide the selection of appropriate indicators to inform vulnerability across all sectors of sustainable development, the proposed governance structure and the development of the country vulnerability-resilience profiles, and further decides to request the Panel to convene additional consultations with Member States, observer States and other stakeholders, as necessary, to address these and other relevant issues, taking into account the written submissions submitted to date, and to submit its final report no later than 30 June 2023;

9. *Reiterates* that small island developing States continue to face loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate and weather extremes and slow onset events, resulting in unprecedented social, economic and environmental threats, including unsustainable debt levels, and in this regard calls for urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, to address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

10. *Takes note of* the Secretary-General's findings regarding the limited capacity of small island developing States, including upper-middle-income and high-income small island developing States, to gain access to disaster-related funding owing to differing eligibility criteria and the quantum of resources required to gain access thereto, as well as the need for an enabling environment at all levels, invites international financial institutions to revise eligibility criteria and modalities that prevent access to resources, taking into consideration multidimensional vulnerabilities, and urges the international community to enhance the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for disaster risk reduction that matches the scale of existing and future disaster risks, while taking into account the barriers that have prevented the effective mobilization of critical financing to small island developing States, especially for implementation of associated plans and strategies devised by small island developing States;

11. *Reaffirms* that official development assistance, both technical and financial, can foster resilient societies and economies, and calls upon the international community to mobilize additional development finance from all sources and at all levels to support small island developing States' efforts;

12. *Recognizes with concern* the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, remains mindful that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multiannual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, inter alia, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macrofinancial stability;

13. *Reiterates* the call to relevant institutions to learn from one another's efforts to address the diverse circumstances of countries, to better manage transitions and graduation, recognizes that official development assistance should continue to focus on countries most in need, and takes note of a willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness;

<sup>15</sup> A/76/211 and A/76/211/Corr.1.

14. *Reiterates* the call to Member States to invite the World Bank to consider reviving the high-level working group among the development banks and its partners to review the rules governing access for small island developing States to concessional finance;

15. *Underlines* the need to take targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

16. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States is not possible without private investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be facilitated and attracted through the creation of an enabling environment and capacity support for small island developing States;

17. *Recalls* of the comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria by the Committee for Development Policy in 2020, and looks forward to the next review process;

18. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, consistent with the Samoa Pathway and in line with the Small Island Developing States Partnerships criteria and norms;

19. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. *Also reaffirms* the decision to convene in 2024, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>16</sup> recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, and building on the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the Samoa Pathway and chapter VII of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>17</sup> regarding small island developing States;

21. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2024, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development agenda

<sup>16</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

of the small island developing States and the forthcoming fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

23. *Reiterates* its call for the Secretary-General to continue to use his convening powers with the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to work on devising solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term and to the full implementation of the multidimensional vulnerability index, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to convene a high-level meeting during the Conference, with international financing institutions, development banks and major donors, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of resources for small island developing States;

24. *Decides* that the Conference should:

(a) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes, stressing the importance of continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and the previous programmes of action for small island developing States, and seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, inter alia, through the mobilization of targeted resources and assistance for small island developing States;

(b) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community, and further identify priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States for consideration, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

25. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

26. *Calls for* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States and for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States, in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States to achieving sustainable development;

27. *Decides* to convene in 2023, prior to the commencement of the seventy-eighth session, a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

28. *Also decides* that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad

participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

29. *Further decides* that the Conference will result in an intergovernmentally negotiated, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document;

30. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to launch, before the end of 2022, the work of the intergovernmental preparatory process with respect to considering the governance structure as well as other organizational matters related to the work of the preparatory committee, and to convene the first meeting of the preparatory committee early in 2023;

31. *Decides* to consider further at its seventy-eighth session, before the end of 2023, the additional modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

32. *Agrees* that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

34. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences;

35. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and major groups identified in Agenda 21,<sup>18</sup> to participate as observers in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee;

36. *Calls for* the participation of associate members<sup>19</sup> of the regional commissions in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994, 2005 and 2014;

<sup>18</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II. The major groups identified in Agenda 21 are women, children and youth, indigenous people and their communities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers.

<sup>19</sup> American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Guam, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.



37. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General for the Conference at the earliest possible date;

38. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

39. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, particularly from small island developing States, and invites voluntary contributions to support their participation, as appropriate, in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

40. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, in this regard recalls the adoption and finalization of the monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, further encourages small island developing States to utilize the framework for reporting ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, reiterates the call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist with strengthening their statistical offices and to provide enhanced support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis, including high-quality and disaggregated data, welcomes the launch of the Data Platform for the Small Island Developing States by the United Nations Development Programme at the Wadadli Action Platform convened in Saint John's on 8 and 9 August 2022, and further calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to update the General Assembly on this matter;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-eighth session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes of the national, regional and interregional preparatory meetings, as well as the preparatory process for convening the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index;

42. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "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".