International Support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway (print and electronic)

1. Background

In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries with specific social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. This recognition was made in the context of Agenda 21 (Chapter 17 G). While there is a long-standing tradition of support for sustainable development in SIDS from the international community, the challenges that SIDS face are increasing, from the effects of climate change to external shocks such as extreme weather events and economic shocks which are beyond their control. It is clear that the SDGs and the goal of “leaving no one behind” will not be met unless measures are taken to reduce the vulnerabilities of SIDS and build their resilience. This will require scaling-up existing support and identifying current gaps where more resources will be needed to address challenges that SIDS face.

Despite the multitude of global climate funds and post-shock concessional finance, which could represent a significant source of financing for SIDS, a complex array of accreditation procedures, application processes and fiduciary requirements are required to access these funding sources, and often exceed SIDS’ limited administrative and technical capacities. These funds include the Adaptation Fund, GCF, GEF, Least Developed Countries Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, and Climate Investment Funds, among others. Moreover, direct access via national institutions often requires applicants to undergo extensive accreditation processes and to develop technical capacities in order to fulfil fiduciary standards to demonstrate financial integrity, institutional capacity, transparency and self-investigative powers, which most SIDS lack.

The overall objective of this consultancy is to conduct a study on international support to SIDS to achieve globally agreed development targets, including those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway, with a focus on climate-change funds and post-shocks concessional finance. The study will conduct a stock-taking exercise on climate and post-shock concessional finance available to SIDS, assess opportunities and challenges pertaining to access to and use of these financing instruments, identify potential gaps and shortcomings in the current landscape of concessional finance for crisis mitigation and resilience building, and identify a set of recommendations aimed at enabling SIDS to get the most out of existing climate and post-shock concessional finance and addressing gaps and shortcomings in the current landscape.
2. **Work Assignment**

The consultant will perform the following tasks:

(i) Survey sources of, and eligibility and exceptions to climate and post-shock concessional finance. In undertaking this, the consultant will draw from a wide range of resources including official documents and reports from regional and international organizations, including international financial institutions and regional banks, as well as research papers and articles from academia. The survey should also include summary tables as appropriate.

(ii) Drawing from (i) analyse recent trends in financial flows to support shock mitigation and resilience building in SIDS. This review will provide scope and evolution of climate and post-shock concessional finance to SIDS as a whole and for sub-groups of SIDS.

(iii) Analyse opportunities and challenges related to access to and use of climate and post-shock concessional finance. The consultant will discuss some of the difficulties that SIDS face in accessing and using the above resources flows, including complex international eligibility systems, an array of accreditation procedures, and application processes, among others.

(iv) Evaluate/Analyse technical support to SIDS from the UN system and development partner in the area of absorptive capacity and identify unmet needs.

(v) Assess the gaps and shortcomings in the current landscape of concessional finance for crisis mitigation and resilience building, particularly as they relate to responding to the particular needs and challenges of SIDS.

(vi) Identify a set of recommendations for: i) increased access and use of existing climate and post-shock concessional finance by SIDS; and ii) improved climate and post-shock finance landscape so as to make it more responsive to the specific needs and challenges of SIDS.

3. **Duration of Contract and remuneration**

The contract will run for 20 days, from 15 November 2017 to 31 December 2017. The remuneration will consist of a lump-sum, which will be paid upon receipt of a satisfactory report.

4. **Location of assignment**

The consultant will work from his/her place of residence.

5. **Travel**

Travel is not required for this assignment.

6. **Expected outputs and delivery dates**

The consultant will submit in word format, via email three deliverables:
a) An annotated outline of the report as specified under section 2, above, approximately 2 pages, 1,500 words (To be delivered by 25 November 2017).

b) A first draft of the paper containing the specifications under section 2, approximately 45 pages, 13,000 words (To be delivered by 15 December 2017)

c) A final draft taking on board comments and suggestions provided by OHRLLS, approximately 50 pages, 14,000 words (To be delivered by 31 December 2017)

7. Performance Indicators
The review and analysis are expected to be concise, of high quality and well-written in English requiring only minimal typographical editing. Disaggregation of data by SIDS sub-regions and per-capita income as appropriate is encouraged.

The three deliverables shall be implemented in the timelines as specified in section 6, above.

8. Qualifications
- Advanced degree in Economics, International Finance, Development Studies, or related field;
- Ten or more years of experience in international finance, including in the area of development finance;
- Strong research, analytical and drafting skills;
- Strong quantitative skills preferred;
- Good publication track record;
- Excellent oral, written and editing skills in English.

9. Supervision
The recruited consultant will work under the general guidance of the Director of OHRLLS and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer (for Sub-programme 3, SIDS).

10. Application Deadline
Interested individual consultants should submit an updated Curriculum Vitae and expression of interest, which indicates their daily consultancy fee, as soon as possible. At the latest, the documents should be submitted by Wednesday, 08 November 2017. These documents should be sent to flores14@un.org with copy to phakathi@un.org.