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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Performance of the programme of work and budget,
including implementation of the resolutions of the
Environment Assembly**

Progress made pursuant to resolution 2/4

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report provides, as requested in paragraph 7 of resolution 2/4, an update on progress made in implementing the action requested of the United Nations Environment Programme to incorporate the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway into its programme of work for 2016–2017. Action by the Environment Programme in support of the SAMOA Pathway will be implemented through the partnerships that it convenes or supports, allowing the small island developing States to gain access to the South-South and North-South cooperation frameworks and capacity-building activities included in such partnerships. Subregional offices for the Caribbean and for the Pacific have been established and are fully operational.

* UNEP/EA.3/1.

I. Background

1. In May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted resolution 2/4 on the role, functions and modalities for the implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway as a means of facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The present report provides an update on progress made in the implementation of the resolution, as requested in paragraph 7 thereof.

II. Progress on the implementation of resolution 2/4

2. Subregional offices for the Caribbean and for the Pacific were established during the reporting period and coordinators in those offices were recruited in accordance with decision 27/2 of the Governing Council on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, on strengthening the regional presence of UNEP. Those offices are now fully operational and have been engaged in devising strategies for the implementation of the programme of work of the Environment Programme for the two regions.

3. In order to incorporate the SAMOA Pathway into its programme of work, the Environment Programme, on the basis of the Pathway and the needs expressed therein, carried out consultations with other United Nations agencies to ensure synergetic implementation. That approach was pursued through the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus and is expressed in an implementation matrix.¹

4. In application of the implementation matrix, the Environment Programme has adopted an approach whereby it bases the implementation of the Pathway on existing and planned global and regional multi-stakeholder partnerships in such a way that the needs expressed in the Pathway are incorporated into such partnerships. In addition, by utilizing global and regional partnerships, it has facilitated access for the small island developing States to South-South and North-South cooperation, as well as to the triangular cooperation frameworks within the partnerships. That approach is consistent with the Pathway itself and with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The partnerships that the Environment Programme convenes or supports are already registered in the small island developing States partnership registries.² Three typical examples are set out below.

5. The Environment Programme contributes to the development of data/information management capacity focused on environmental data through, among other things, the Sustainable Development Goals and multilateral environmental agreement indicators,³ natural capital accounting, ecosystem functions and air, water and land quality. A designated portal has been established as part of Environment Live,⁴ the web-based knowledge and data management platform, to facilitate the sharing of data and knowledge. The Environment Programme has designed and developed an indicator reporting information system within the portal to facilitate data sharing and reporting at the national level in respect of multilateral environmental agreements and other global processes on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Goals.

6. The Environment Programme firmly supports efforts by small island developing States to develop their own sustainable development models. The Green Economy Initiative is one instrument that is available to such States to enhance policymaking in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Direct advisory assistance is provided through, inter alia, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy to, for example, selected Caribbean countries. UNEP has developed and begun a project on transforming tourism value chains in developing countries and small island developing States to accelerate more resilient, resource-efficient and low-carbon development. The project will map tourism value chains and assist businesses in reducing carbon emissions and in improving resource efficiency under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

7. Under the Regional Seas Programme, information exchange and coordinated action between the four regional seas conventions that concern small island developing States – the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the

¹ Available from www.sids2014.org/unmatrix.

² See www.sids2014.org/partnerships/.

³ The term “indicator” has been agreed upon under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals by the Inter-agency Task Force.

⁴ See <http://environmentlive.unep.org/>.

South Pacific Region (Noumea Convention), the Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Amended Nairobi Convention) and the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention) – are sought. An initial focus was placed on sustainable ocean-based economic development and marine litter. The Environment Programme launched the multi-stakeholder Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and the Global Wastewater Initiative, which, over the years, have expanded their geographical coverage to include small island developing States. The Global Coral Reef Partnership provides data and tools for the sustainable management and use of coral reef ecosystem services, including projections of climate change impact. Many projects funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by the Environment Programme have also contributed to achieving the objectives of those partnerships in the regions of small island developing States.

III. Recommendations and suggested action

8. The United Nations Environment Assembly may wish to recognize the work carried out to incorporate the SAMOA Pathway into the activities of UNEP.
 9. As called for in paragraph 6 of resolution 2/4, the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies may wish to undertake to continue to serve as a forum for sharing information on the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SAMOA Pathway by highlighting areas that need further action and directing attention and resources thereto, and contributing to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The forum of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies should be used to monitor the action of the Environment Programme in relation to the SAMOA Pathway and to identify areas for further action needed for its implementation within the programme of work of the Environment Programme.
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