

Annex

2018 ECOSOC Integration Segment: “Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies” 1 – 3 May 2018, UN Headquarters, New York

Note: This survey is also available online:

[\[surveymonkey.com/r/TYNZPW8\]](https://surveymonkey.com/r/TYNZPW8)

Guiding questions for Member States’ input to the 2018 Integration Segment

1. What do you consider to be the main risks your country faces currently and will encounter in the next 10 years?

Nauru’s economic growth has improved substantially in recent years, however we still face challenges in sustaining economic growth due to characteristics common to small island developing States including small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters. The risks associated with climate change impacts exacerbate our vulnerability, for instance nearly all our population and vital infrastructure are concentrated in the coastal areas, any change in sea level rise will have drastic consequences. Prolonged drought periods, significantly impact our health, food, water and economic security.

On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is extremely resilient and 5 is extremely vulnerable, how would you rate the level of resilience of your country in respect to:

<i>Factor</i>	<i>Risk (1-5)</i>	<i>Factor</i>	<i>Risk (1-5)</i>
Extreme weather events and natural disasters	5	Large-scale migration	2
External trade or economic shocks	5	Water crises	5
Food crises	5	Environmental disasters, including biodiversity loss	4
Unemployment or underemployment	4	Data fraud or theft	3
Cyberattacks	3	Social unrest or conflict	2
Governance	3	Infrastructure	5

2. What specific measures have been put in place by your country to reduce disaster risk, including through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030?

Nauru faces many challenges and remains vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Building our resilience to environmental challenges remains a national priority. We have incorporated climate change in our National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-25 (NSDS). In 2014 the Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt) was developed. The framework sets out the Joint National Action plan on Climate Change and Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.

A study on climate change finance assessment was completed and the report highlighted the need to improve access and management of climate resources. While much has been done on the various frameworks and strategies, the need to integrate climate strategies into medium term planning and budgeting remains a priority. Such reforms will require strengthened coordination mechanisms and robust institutions to effectively mainstream climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies.

Strategic planning is relatively new for Nauru. The National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 was conceived following a period of financial crisis in the late 1990's. Since 2005, the government has established a planning office and the national development plan to promote effective planning and oversight by taking a whole-of-government approach. However, we continue to face many challenges common to small administrations with capacity issues, including a high rate of staff turn-over, loss of institutional memory within administrations, and weak institutions.

Coordination mechanisms have been created to foster more collaborative approaches. However given that the coordination committee itself maintains only a small administration, it faces similar challenges. For example, typically one person in that office will maintain an overwhelming number of tasks, portfolios and responsibilities to carry out. For a body like the National Planning and Development Committee this requires a full-time and dedicated post to ensure that the members of Committee meet regularly and work across Ministries and Departments. In order to ensure effective planning using a whole-of-government approach, institutional capacity development is needed whereby existing institutions are strengthened. It is also imperative to break down the siloed approach by having more cross-sectoral meetings, where mandates and responsibilities overlap and information is shared where necessary. This approach applies also vertically. Where line Ministries overlap, Ministers should have the opportunity to meet frequently and share information towards well-informed decision-making.

One of the government's commitments to strengthening resilience of Nauru is to integrate the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction and its Joint National Action Plan. The government recently reviewed its existing disaster management legislation with the support of regional humanitarian partners. The National Disaster Risk Management Act 2016 supports a more proactive approach to manage disasters. It prioritises preparedness and risk reduction measures, and also established a new disaster management architecture.

Furthermore a National Tsunami Plan, drafted with the assistance of the Pacific Community and stakeholders, is in its final draft ready for endorsement. The government is firmly committed to investing in an early warning system and improved climate prediction services. As such, it has established the Department of National Emergency Services (NES) which includes a Meteorology office. The current priorities of NES are: to establish itself as a new office, to develop institutions and build capacity. While NES has benefitted from trainings offered in the region, the staff still need more upskilling and require appropriate technology to assist them in their work. The Government is also investing to set up a new office for NES that can house all

the necessary technical equipment to ensure that NES is functional and is able to effectively coordinate all communication and emergency responses. This is being done with the assistance of our development partners.

The government, with the support of partners, are investing in the procurement of equipment and services for the use of renewable energy and non-diesel power generation, water, waste management, roads, sea and air transport services. For instance, we have made considerable improvements in the water sector through augmenting water storage and catchment systems, enhancing access to brackish water and developing water production infrastructure such as solar powered reverse osmosis units. Ongoing challenges remain, including inadequate water storage capacity, water delivery standards and the lack of specialised capacity in modern technologies.

In the energy sector, various initiatives are being pursued to enhance energy efficiency and renewable energy and to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuel, including the construction of Nauru's solar energy farm.

We rely on our port for almost all exports and imports including food, energy supplies and other essential needs. Therefore, it is critical that we develop a port that is resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change. That project is underway. We have faced many challenges with an antiquated port, especially when ships need to keep with a schedule. During "bad" weather and rough seas, ships cannot offload cargoes given the lack of infrastructure. We pay for the extra days the ships wait in open sea for "good" weather to prevail and offload the goods. Having a port will help a speedy turnaround of ships and reduce the costs accruing from "wait" losses and limit risks of food shortages on the island.

Currently almost all of Nauru's population lives within coastal areas, making Nauru highly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change such as sea-level rise and disasters. Climate impacts will eventually force people to relocate to higher ground. Unfortunately, non-coastal areas of Nauru are currently not suitable for habitation or agriculture, as a result of previous phosphate mining. Therefore, land rehabilitation is a priority.

3. What has been the experience of your country in using technology and innovation to strengthen resilience and inclusion in an integrated manner?

The introduction of mobile phones has empowered individuals to report problems more easily improving responsiveness of national authorities to disasters or accidents. Information is now being transmitted at a faster rate, assisting evacuation from natural hazards. For instance, official alert messages are sent via text messages which have increased public response.

The use of technology and the internet have provided many advantages including access to information, social networks, e-commerce platforms, emailing, and weather forecasts among others. However, it is also important to note disadvantages associated with technology. In our experience, such disadvantages include the proliferation and exposure of illicit materials to children and youth, increased cyberbullying and the spread of propaganda. These have negative social impacts and have adverse effects on our values. To counter the negative use of technology and associated risks, legislation such as the cybercrime act was passed to regulate the misuse of technology.

Investing in our early warning and climate prediction systems will assist us in making informed decisions about water resource management so we can plan better and avoid the risks of drought. Establishing our meteorology services will enable the government to use appropriate tools and technology to work with relevant stakeholders including agriculturists, civil society, private sector and public entities.

As mentioned above technological advances such as solar technology and climate resilient infrastructure play an important role in enhancing our resilience to external factors.

4. Do other stakeholders, such as civil society organizations, the private sector, the UN system or academia, engage in coordinated actions to enhance resilience in your country? What approaches have proven effective in this respect?

Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the national private sector are involved in formal multi-stakeholder consultations in development planning and implementation, including the National Sustainable and Development Strategy. Both players are organized through the Nauru Island Association of NGOs (NIANGO) and the Nauru Private Business Sector Organization (NPBSO). However, more structured forms of engagement will be beneficial, presently engagement is generally through state led approaches.

5. What can the ECOSOC system do to better support countries to pursue integrated policies and apply technology and innovative solutions at the national, regional and global levels, to effectively enhance resilience and manage risks in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

On regional frameworks, we have a multi-country office with a Resident Coordinator that covers 10 countries under her purview, so we would recommend more resources to ensure that the UN delivers as one and is targeted at national needs.

It is also a priority to align regional frameworks with Agenda 2030.

ECOSOC can also assist in ensuring that policy advice and normative support are given towards building national capacity in integrating and mainstreaming climate change into national frameworks, ensuring tailored solutions for our small island developing state.

South-south learning opportunities for exchange of views and sharing of best practices are also a priority which ECOSOC system can help enable, as well as through providing a platform for exchange of ideas, peer learning and best international practices, including through strengthening SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

We could further benefit from training programmes for SIDS officers through ECOSOC and the UN Development System. Specific training programmes related to VNRs, SDG indicators, and their implementation at the national level would be particularly helpful in this regard.

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