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## Web Annex 3:

### Processes related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

#### I. Background

1. FAO continues to support SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs through, among others, the Hand-in-Hand, One Country One Priority Product and Digital Villages Initiatives, and the SIDS Solutions Platform - which includes the SIDS Solutions Fora, an online platform, and the SIDS Solutions Dialogue series.
2. Through its Office of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, FAO has enhanced its participation in international processes such as the Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in 2023<sup>1</sup>, which was attended by the FAO Director-General, and focused on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA). This new programme of action was adopted by LDC5 on 17 March 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on 1 April 2022 in Resolution [A/RES/76/258](#).
3. More recently, FAO has engaged in the preparations for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, both to take place in 2024. Similarly, FAO maintains a high level of engagement with regional actors like the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
4. On 29 June 2023, FAO also convened a High-Level Ministerial Event for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs where Ministers from SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs discussed concrete solutions to accelerate the transformation of their agrifood systems and collectively build resilience to climate change, build resilience to food insecurity and scale up investments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### II. International Processes related to SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs

##### *Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries*

5. In line with paragraph 78 of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024, and through Resolution 77/246, the United Nations General Assembly decided to assess the implementation of the VPoA and convene the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in the first half of 2024.
6. This Resolution outlines the preparatory process for this Conference, including the establishment of a preparatory committee, which will hold two sessions in the last quarter of 2023 or the first quarter of 2024. Prior to the sessions of the preparatory committee, the United Nations General Assembly called for the convening of three regional review meetings of the VPoA<sup>2</sup> as a key contribution to the preparatory process.
7. FAO participated in all three regional reviews: in Botswana for the African LLDCs, Paraguay for the Latin American LLDCs and Thailand for the Asian and European LLDCs, where the role of agrifood systems transformation was highlighted as a means to achieve the SDGs. Moreover, FAO will continue to support LLDCs in the process leading up to the Conference in Rwanda, as well as in the implementation of its outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> LDC5 was held in two parts: 1) the adoption of the DPoA on 17 March 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York; and 2) the main Conference in Doha, Qatar, held from 5-9 March 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Africa, Latin America, and Asia and Europe

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### ***Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States***

8. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/245 reaffirms the call for convening the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States to review progress made and the challenges in the implementation of the preceding programmes of action: the SIDS Accelerated Modalities Programme of Action or SAMOA Pathway (2014); the Mauritius Strategy (2004); and the Barbados Programme of Action (1994). Furthermore, the Fourth International Conference provides an opportunity to reflect on current challenges faced by SIDS and opportunities to address them, by developing an action-oriented blueprint for coordinated action to support SIDS in achieving sustainable development.

9. The aforementioned resolution also outlines the preparatory process, which consists of regional preparatory meetings in each of the three SIDS regions:<sup>3</sup> an interregional preparatory meeting in 2023 and the establishment of a preparatory committee, which will hold a one-day organizational session in the first half of 2023 and two sessions, of no more than five days each, in the first half of 2024.

10. FAO was actively engaged in the regional preparatory meetings in Mauritius for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) region; in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the Caribbean; in Tonga for the Pacific; and in the Interregional Preparatory Meeting in Cabo Verde which brought together the three SIDS regions to discuss a common blueprint for the next decade. During the regional preparatory meetings, FAO underscored the role that agrifood systems transformation can play towards the attainment of the SDGs. FAO will continue to provide its support to SIDS in order to ensure a successful Conference, to be held from 27 to 30 May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda.

### **III. Regional Processes related to SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs: CARICOM**

11. FAO strengthened its political dialogue with Heads of State and/or Government and High-Level Government Representatives of Caribbean countries on food security at the Seventeenth Special Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), held in the Bahamas in February 2023.

12. FAO also joined the CARICOM Secretariat to host the Seventeenth Caribbean Week of Agriculture in the Bahamas in October 2023. The theme for the week of activities was *Accelerating Vision 25 by 2025*. It was the first face-to-face meeting of Ministers and senior technicians in the agriculture sector since 2018. The week of activities featured several technical sessions on various topics including digitization in agriculture, investment opportunities in agrifood systems and value chains, agricultural health and food safety, and the potential of the blue economy. FAO led three technical sessions – *Achieving Resilience and Sustainable Natural Resource Management* roundtable discussion, *Developing Efficient and Inclusive Value Chains* roundtable discussion, and the *Cost and Affordability of a Healthy Diet* Workshop in the Caribbean. Throughout the week, Ministerial meetings were convened, including the Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development for Agriculture, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Ministerial Meeting, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Ministerial meeting. An estimated 275 participants from across the region participated in the week of activities, some of which were also streamed online.

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<sup>3</sup> Caribbean; Pacific; and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS)